Series of Webinars

How can journalists join the efforts to stop the coronavirus pandemic in Eastern Africa?

Resources and best practices for covering COVID-19 in Eastern Africa

Organized by

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) - Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa

With the support of

- BBC Media Action
- Internews
- International Federation of the Red Cross

The series

Check here the overall information about the series.

How to attend

Participants are requested to register here. Registration will close 24 hours prior to the scheduled webinar and the first 500 participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the meeting.

We encourage all participants to send questions in advance to OCHA Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ocharosea@un.org) including Name, Media/Organization and Country and/or via Twitter (@UNOCHA_ROSEA) to facilitate the discussion. Questions via email should be sent before 17h Nairobi Time of the day before of the webinar. After this time, you can still send it via Twitter or you can also ask questions live during the meeting using the Q&A function in Zoom. Please specify your full name, your country and the media organization.

2nd WEBINAR

Emerging issues on COVID-19, including questions about the disease, stigma and misinformation

Date: 5 May 2020
Time: 10h – 12h30
Programme:

1 - 2. Emerging and common questions about COVID -19

This session will help us consolidate our understanding about the coronavirus and the pandemic with the latest information, including:

- what are the main recurrent questions about the pandemic and how to address them?
- what are the emerging issues on the pandemic and how WHO is responding?

With WHO speaking, moderated by OCHA

2- How to address community feedback and social stigma associated with COVID-19?

The novelty of the COVID-19 outbreak and the overabundance of information circulating in the media, social media and communities has contributed to fear, rumours, social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus. Rumours and misinformation travel fast and make it hard for people to know what information is reliable and trustworthy and can even lead people to adopt ineffective prevention measures, which can further increase their risk of infection. Media organizations have an important role to play in filling dangerous information vacuums, countering incorrect information and sharing vital life-saving health advice with their audience. They can help promote calm, reduce fear and stigma and save lives by reducing the number of people infected by the virus.

The session will include debates on:

- What are the main rumours, fears and questions communities have about COVID-19 in East Africa and what is the impact of these? (Based on community feedback collected by the Red Cross and other agencies)
- How can journalists help to counter the tide of misinformation and provide correct information to help people stay safe?
- What are the main examples of social stigma related to COVID-19 in Eastern Africa and how can journalists address it through the media?
- Words matter: examples of words and language that may have a negative meaning for people and fuel stigmatizing attitudes, and how to avoid them.

With Internews and International Federation of the Red Cross, moderated by OCHA

BBC Media Action will participate on the debate and answer questions from the audience.

For info, please contact:

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