Participant name: Marcos Podé

Participant organization: DW/Elephant

**Notes**:

Marcos Podé journalist. Student researcher on disinformation in journalism media,

Master on disinformation in online press. DW.

CI differences. Context locally is different because of stability in the country and democracy. Info threats are anchored on international relations, anti-French and anti-western feelings, exacerbated by the military juntas.

China has different ambitions than Russia. Disinformation is about economics. But their presence is still very discreet. Some activities, China tries to be very present. In the last national Independence Day, China was the special guest and had a military parade. Elephant had received a solicitation from CGTV to highlight Chinese sports

Influence of USA in civil society is enormous via USAID. US is present in development aid. China has different ways to help and doesn’t really want to do civil society, unless having economic impacts.

Influencers like Kemi Seba claims to be pan Africanist. Kemi Seba had a lot of influence in the youth. But sovereignty in Cote D’Ivoire isn’t really put into question so his success is not as viral. Joni pacheko makes a lot of noise from abroad, based in Finland, he makes a lot of relevation, a bit like Kemi Seba but does not share the same objectives. But very few pan African influencers in CI. Lots of influencers in general, sometimes they share fake news by accident. Example, an influencer shared that Nigerians were trying to attack in CI, which led to riots against Nigerian community. Influencers are sharing fake news especially in health, HATA had to make statement to stop people buying stuff. Before Covid, information threats were especially in traditional media, meant to discredit a political adversary. Amplification of fake news since arrival of internet. 2 key events: Covid 19 spread a lot of fake news-people will not listen to actual authorities. 2nd event: elections of president in October 2020. Lots of deaths because of disinformation. Malinke community was rumored to be the death of a person, which led to chaos against Malinkes. Media literacy was very weak.

UNICEF launched program of young bloggers, 53 members to tackle disinformation for 2 years, train them to fact check. UNICEF restarted the program, 2nd or 3rd cohort. UNESCO initiative BENI 2021, but now is an independent initiative, to tackle irregular immigration. In CI there has not been big initiatives other than sensitivity trainings. NDI also organizes a similar program.

Are organizations better to train? Depends on impact and intention. NGOs give an image of independence and credibility. Foreign governments can give you a label. There’s an EU-AFD program for fact checking, February 2024, to train factcheckers and move them across cities, and see the impact.

The UNICEF Program Young bloggers was the best memory. It was great opportunity to exchange with research faculty. It would have been better if it had implemented by the government because it could have had more impact. With Journalists (especially young) would be better. Old journalists are less interested in fact checking.