

Fact-checking networks in the Global South

Analysis of the results of the survey

How many organizations are members of your network

AFCN: 35

AFRICA CHECK: 37

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: 51

LATAM CHEQUEA: 38

How many IFCN signatories?

AFCN: 0 / 35

AFRICA CHECK: 9 / 37

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: 1 / 51

LATAM CHEQUEA: 20 / 38

Local codes:

AFCN: yes, <https://arabfcn.net/wp-content/code-of-principles-en/>

AFRICA CHECK: no

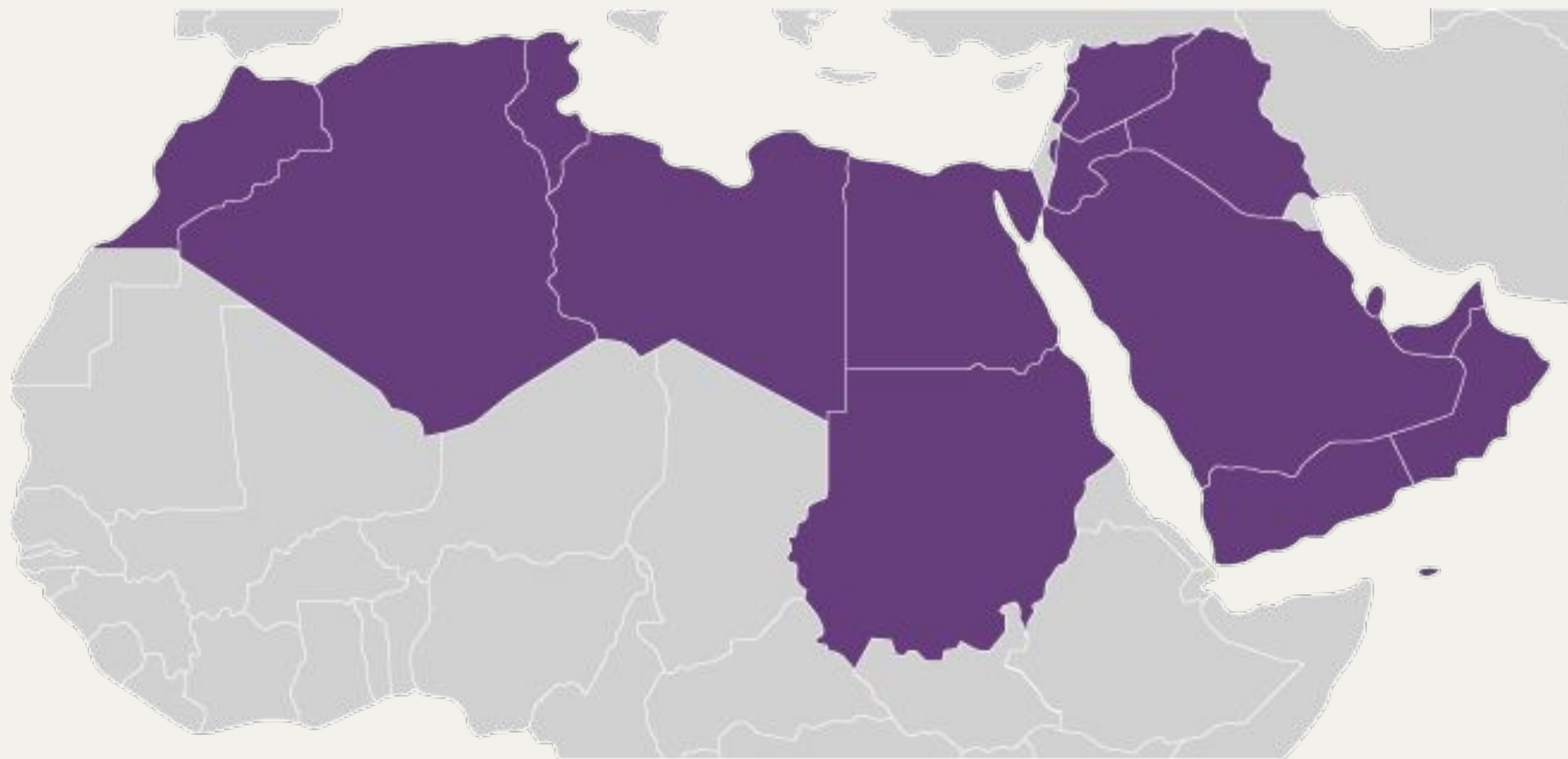
FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: no

LATAM CHEQUEA: yes, <https://chequeado.com/latamchequea/#/preguntas-frecuentes>

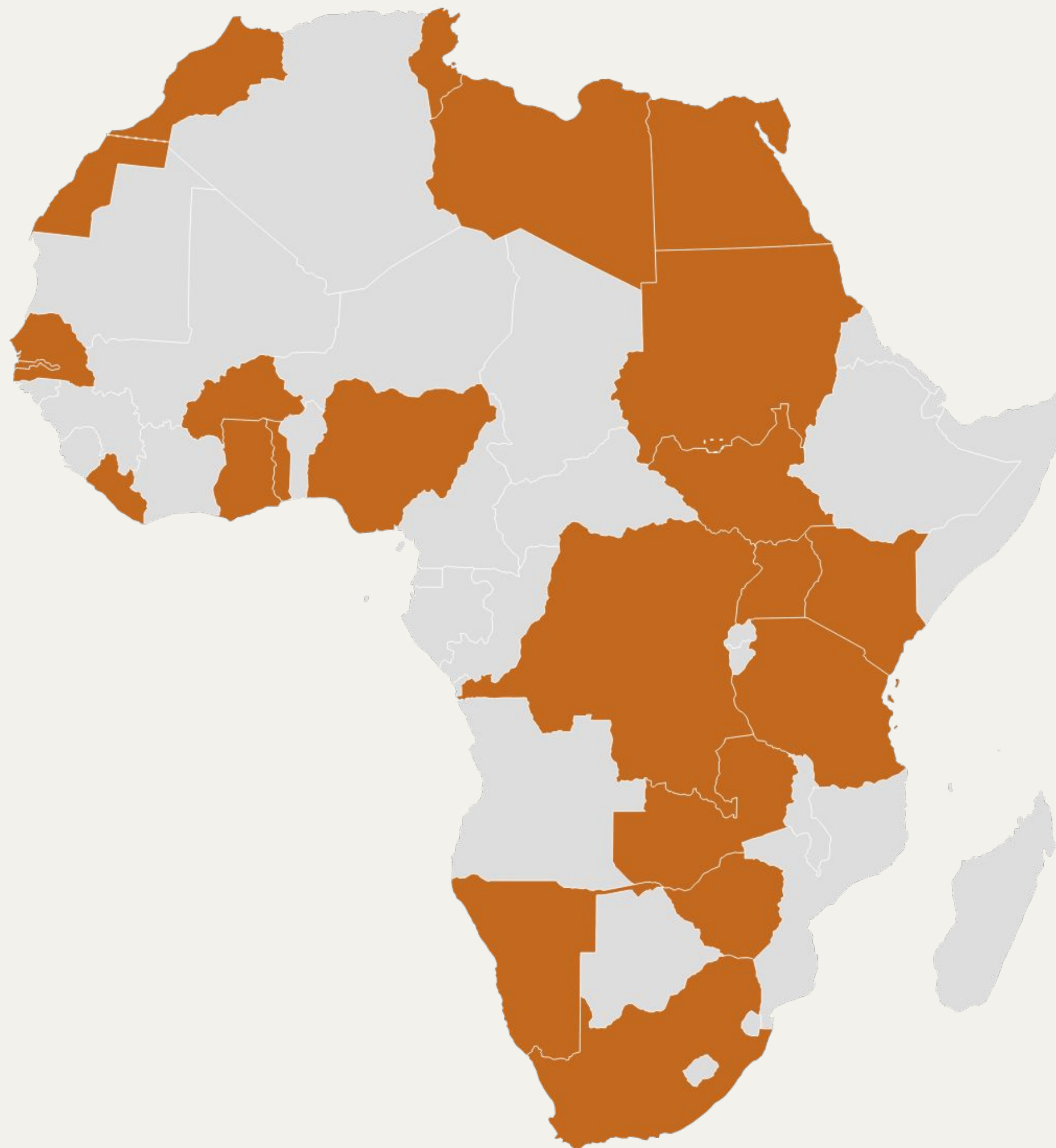
To be a part of Latam Chequea, the organizations must comply with certain standards. Among these criteria, in order to participate in the network, the media must comply with a minimum of 20 checks published in the last year and these checks must follow good methodological practices established by the Code of Principles of the International Fact Checking Network (IFCN), especially regarding the transparency of sources and corrections. In addition, media outlets must publish their method and policy for corrections. Also, media consortia that come together for collaborative fact checking can join on a temporary basis. The leaders of these alliances, in case they are not already part of the network, are invited to participate as observers. Both the consortiums and the media must fill out an annual form confirming that they want to maintain their participation in the network and that they still meet the requirements. The LatamChequea network actively collaborates with IFCN to work in a complementary way and many of the LatamChequea organizations are also part of IFCN.

Countries covered:

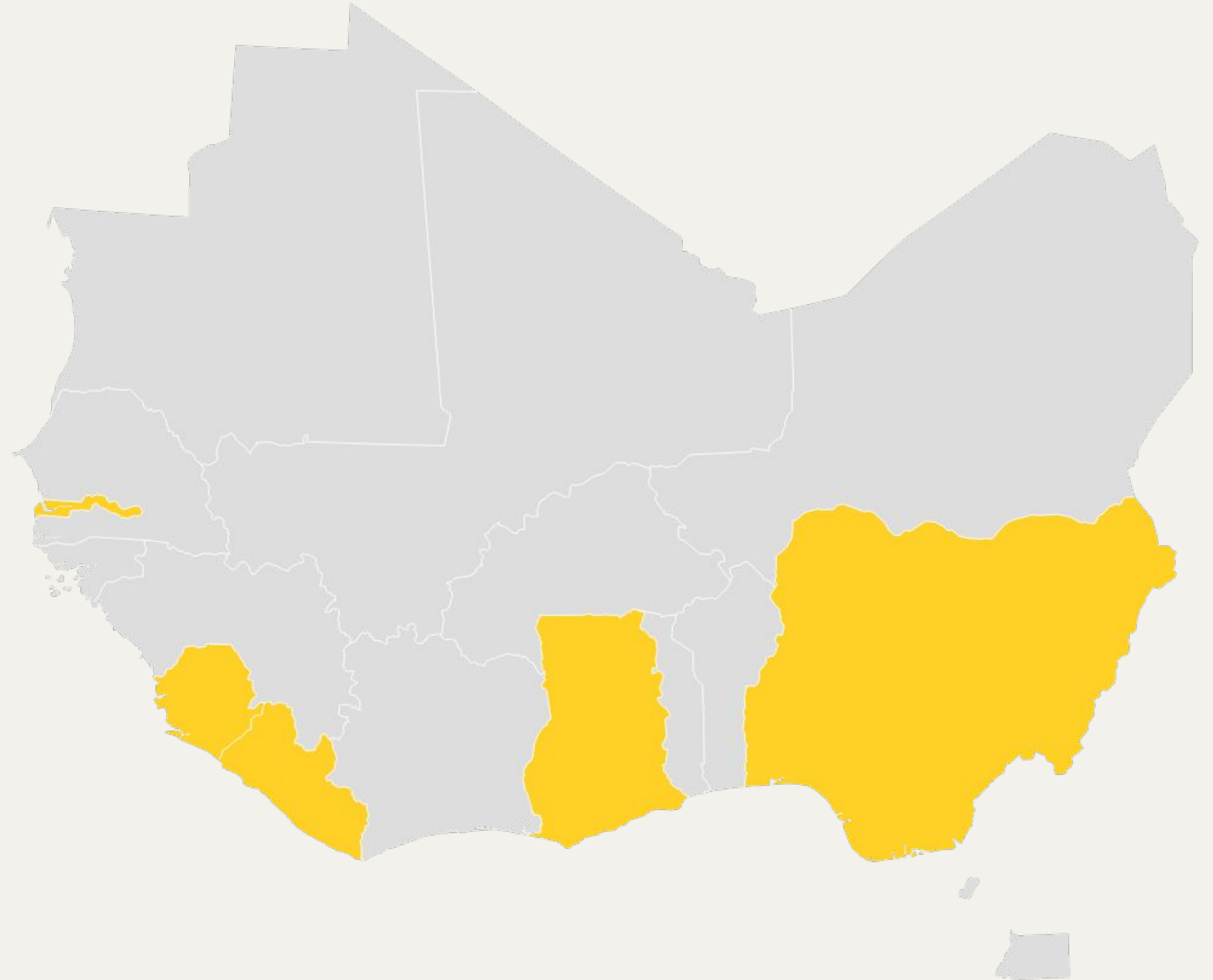
AFCN: 16 countries - Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman.



AFRICA CHECK: 23 countries - Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: 5
countries - Ghana, The Gambia,
Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria.

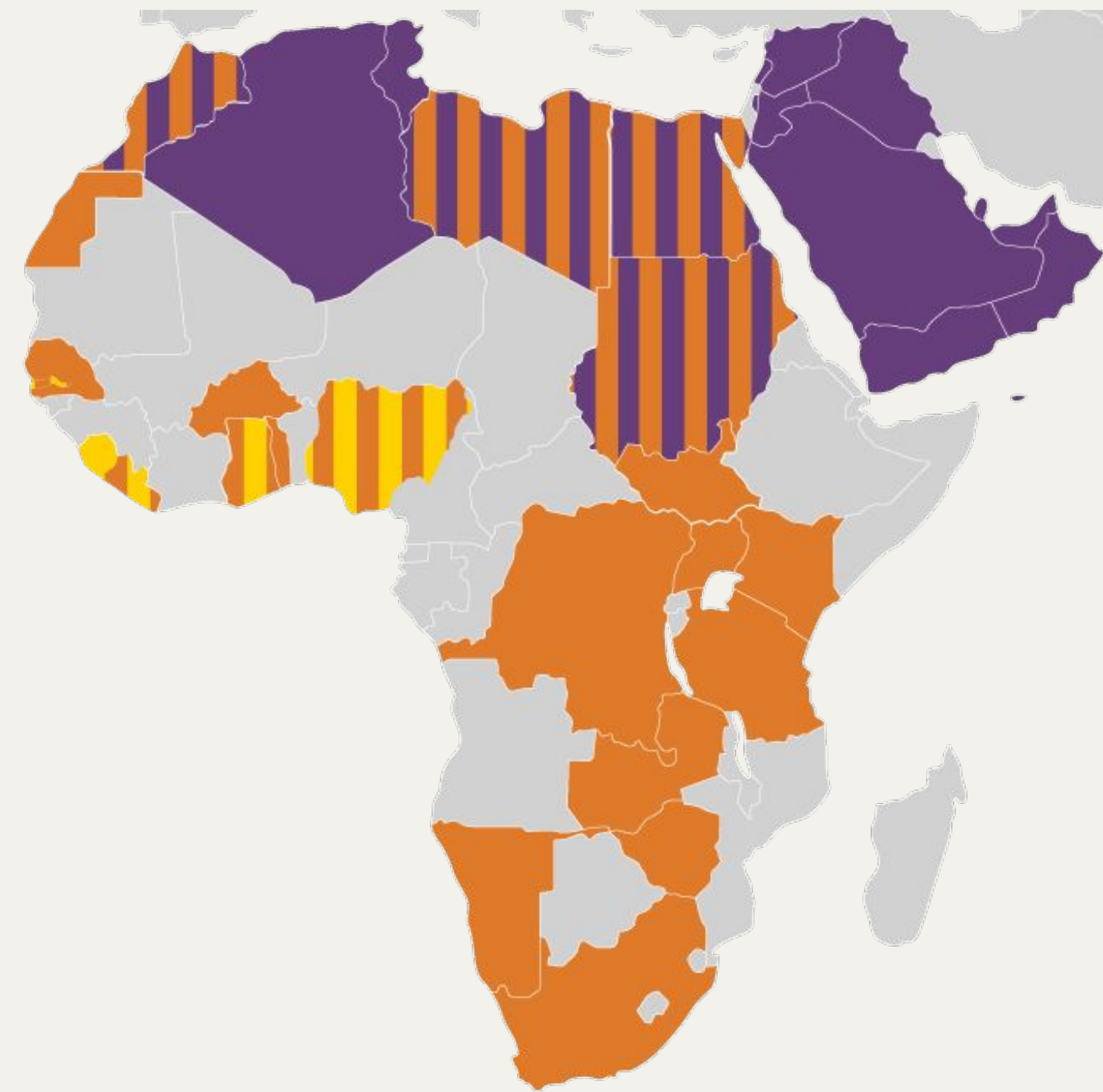


LATAM CHEQUEA: 18 countries (15 in Center/South America) - Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba + United States, Spain, Portugal (and two regional media).





TOTAL: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Sierra Leone, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba



Languages covered:

AFCN: Arabic

AFRICA CHECK: English, French, Arabic, Hausa, Wolof, Kiswahili

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: Hausa, Dagbanli, Sissali, Wali, Dagaare, Twi, Gonja, Brifor, Bagala, Wale, Frafra, Kassim, Mampruli, Bimoba, Mampruli, Moosi, Kokomba, Ewe, Fula, Mandinka, Jola, Wolof, Mende, Kru, Loma, Krio

LATAM CHEQUEA: Spanish, Portuguese, English

How many organizations in your network are: small (0-5 ppl), medium (6-14 ppl) big (15 or more ppl)

AFCN: 10 (small), 19 (medium), 6 (big)

AFRICA CHECK: Actual data not available, but most organizations have less than 15 people

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: 32 (small), 19 (medium)

LATAM CHEQUEA: 1 (small), 9 (medium), 15 (big)

Do you have the ability to gather information (quantitative and qualitative) from your network about detected disinformation/ misinformation? If yes, which are the main challenges?

AFCN: yes / Access to information, legal/physical/digital threats (safety), time, resources, translations, lack of tools in Arabic language.

AFRICA CHECK: yes / Time to contact all of them and analyze data including translation, resources to do this, official obstruction, lack of data for various historical reasons.

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: yes / Translation, time, funding and a proper understanding of the emerging threats vis-à-vis local dynamics remain the big hurdles that need to be surmounted.

LATAM CHEQUEA: yes / We identified, in addition to the **translation** between our two main languages (Spanish and Portuguese), that **the way in which organizations keep records of information** (and what information they have) is our biggest difficulty in comparing and analyzing this data. This means that **resources and time are needed** to cooperate more closely.

Did you detect in the past 12 months cases of cross-continental disinformation/misinformation? About which topics? How many cases (link, if possible)

AFCN: Yes / Covid-19 pandemic; the war in Ukraine; climate change; migration; gender + Earthquakes / no data about the number of cases

AFRICA CHECK: Yes / Covid-19 pandemic; the war in Ukraine; climate change; migration + health in general / no data about the number of cases

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: Yes / Covid-19 pandemic; the war in Ukraine; migration / no data about the number of cases

LATAM CHEQUEA: Yes / Covid-19 pandemic; the war in Ukraine; climate change; migration; gender + electoral narratives (with local differences) /

There are many one-off misinformations that we identify as transcontinental cases, but some articles with examples within them could be:

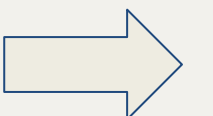
- COVID-19 false deaths due to vaccination

(<https://chequeado.com/investigaciones/como-la-desinformacion-sobre-covid-19-infecto-a-america-latina/>)

- or specific misinformation about vaccination in young people

(<https://chequeado.com/el-explicador/supuestas-muertes-por-la-vacunacion-contra-el-coronavirus-una-de-las-desinformaciones-mas-comunes-en-la-region/>)

(<https://chequeado.com/el-explicador/las-desinformaciones-mas-comunes-sobre-la-vacunacion-en-ninos-y-adolescentes-que-circulan-en-la-region/>);



- as well as the war in Ukraine
(<https://chequeado.com/el-explicador/conflicto-entre-rusia-y-ucrania-que-tipos-de-desinformaciones-circulan-en-america-latina/>)
- we have also identified disinformation about gender and sex education;
(<https://chequeado.com/verificacionfb/es-enganoso-que-chile-reemplazo-por-ley-la-palabra-mujer-por-persona-menstruante/>)
- and we have worked on the common types of electoral disinformation
(<https://electoralcheck.org/casos>)
- and investigated how some disinformation travels from the US to the region
(<https://chequeado.com/investigaciones/disinformation-for-export-how-false-content-generated-in-the-united-states-reaches-latin-america/>)

Which channels (e.g., social media platforms) are most often used to spread disinformation/misinformation in countries covered by your network

AFCN: WhatsApp, Facebook

AFRICA CHECK: WhatsApp and other messaging apps, Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, blogs

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok

LATAM CHEQUEA: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, TikTok and YouTube

- **Would you be interested in a structured cooperation with other networks of fact-checkers from different continents? If yes, what kind of cooperation?**

AFCN: yes / Sharing knowledge, skills, content documentation, in addition to collaboration in fact checking content in crises and/or hot times. Working on pushing innovation and AI into the field taking into consideration ethics and human rights.

AFRICA CHECK: yes / Joint monitoring and surveillance to identify areas of mutual concern, joint research on how to better fact-checking at internet scale and on other projects such as training, access to fact-checking tools, help with beneficial partnerships and funding, sharing of "newsroom" best practices, help with media literacy as a long term buffer against misinformation.

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: yes / FactSpace WA would be interested in a structured cooperation that would allow for **knowledge sharing** among members, learning of **best practices** in social listening and policy advocacy around internet governance and tackling of mis/disinformation and importantly, getting necessary **funding** for our activities.

LATAM CHEQUEA: yes / We believe that collaboration between continental networks can occur in many ways, from **cross-border investigations** that unmask disinformants operating in different regions, to studying the transfer of specific disinformation from one area to another. We would also be interested in conducting **joint academic studies**, **testing** together innovations in **formats**, investing in **new tools** for fact checkers (such as the inclusion of artificial intelligence) and having **joint trainings** (such as on specific tools, like network monitoring), among other possibilities.

Relations with the platforms

Do you have regular contacts, relationships or partnerships with social media platforms? If yes please describe them:

**AFCN: yes / Meta,
Google**

	Yes	No
Are you satisfied with them?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do social media platforms integrate your fact-checking work in their services?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Do social media platform respond promptly to your queries and inputs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Do social media platforms compensate your organisation for its work?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

AFRICA CHECK: yes /
Meta, TikTok, Google,
Twitter until recently,
YouTube via the IFCN

	Yes	No
Are you satisfied with them?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Do social media platforms integrate your fact-checking work in their services?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do social media platform respond promptly to your queries and inputs?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do social media platforms compensate your organisation for its work?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: no

LATAM CHEQUEA: yes / Google, Meta, Twitter and TikTok.

Meta and Twitter supported our face-to-face meeting in Bogota, Colombia in 2022 (<https://chequeado.com/latamchequea2022/#/>). And Google News Initiative supported some projects such as LatamChequea vacunas (<https://chequeado.com/chequeado-coordinara-la-alianza-latamchequea-para-contrarrestar-las-desinformaciones-sobre-vacunas-con-22-organizaciones-y-el-apoyo-de-google-news-initiative/>). We do not have another partnership with social networks as a network, but some organizations have partnerships with Meta in the Third-Party Fact-Checking program, and other platforms.

Please identify ways in which social media platforms could improve their cooperation with local fact-checkers

AFCN: Promote their content more, make them trusted partners, and don't suppress their content.

AFRICA CHECK: Better support during critical events, such as elections, when there's a flood of disinformation or fact-checkers are at risk. We see a lot of intention, but there's a big gap in terms of actual support or implementation. Some key platforms have little in the way of dedicated resources to flag and punish misinformation on their platforms. Media literacy - they have wide reach and well established distribution channels. Help with building organisations' capacity to tackle misinformation. Project funding for example say in AI adoption.

FACT SPACE WEST AFRICA: Internet companies need to establish a structured line of communication with credible fact-checking organizations based on mutual respect and consistent across various parts of the world. These companies must wake up to their responsibility of sanitizing their various platforms of mis/disinformation/hate speech by engaging fact-checkers in a B2B or trusted partner relationship and fairly compensate them regardless of which part of the world they find themselves. These companies must attach the same level of seriousness in fighting online harm regardless of which continent it is and the focus should be on fighting toxic online information wherever, whenever.

LATAM CHEQUEA: We believe we could have a bigger impact with more collaboration with platforms, such as better information on the reach and spread of disinformation and influence operations, and also better information on the impact of our work. We also think that financial support from certain platforms that use the content produced by fact-checkers but do not pay for it would be important.