While access to reliable and independent information is a prerequisite for a sound rule of law, mass dissemination of fake news can be a destabilising factor in democracies. Therefore, it is critical that the media and players within civil society avoid the pitfalls created by misinformation by promoting dialogue with stakeholders (political authorities, bloggers, citizens). Verifox Africa is a response to the need for African media to be better equipped to combat the spread of fake news, particularly when elections are being held.

AIM

Providing access to independent, reliable and objective news and thereby contribute towards balanced, democratic debate ahead of elections in Benin, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

WHEN?

From August 2019 to September 2020
FOR WHOM?

→ (general and/or political) journalists and community managers of traditional media and pure players, media managers.

→ National regulatory authority and ministry representatives tasked with communication and information.

→ Civil society representatives (CSOs actively promoting citizenship and/or election monitoring that are online and on social networks, journalists’ association, bloggers’ association).

→ Influencers, bloggers and activists.

HOW?

→ National concertation forums reflecting on fake news-related issues encountered during election periods.

→ Journalist training that addresses the fundamental principles of journalism during election season, fact-checking, creating an e-learning module on the topic of combating fake news.

EXPECTED RESULTS

→ More dynamic concertation between news sector stakeholders.

→ Media that are more capable of detecting and combating fake news and creating high-quality news during election season.

CFI, the French media development agency
CFI provides support to media organisations as development actors across several continents. A subsidiary of France Médias Monde and an operator of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the agency is currently working on around 30 projects that fall under three major programmes: Media and Governance, Media and Enterprise, Media and Development.

The “Media and Governance” programme tackles democratic governance issues, notably by strengthening the rule of law, media plurality, the ethical conduct of public debates and the search for pluralistic and high-quality information.

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