

#CHECKCOVID

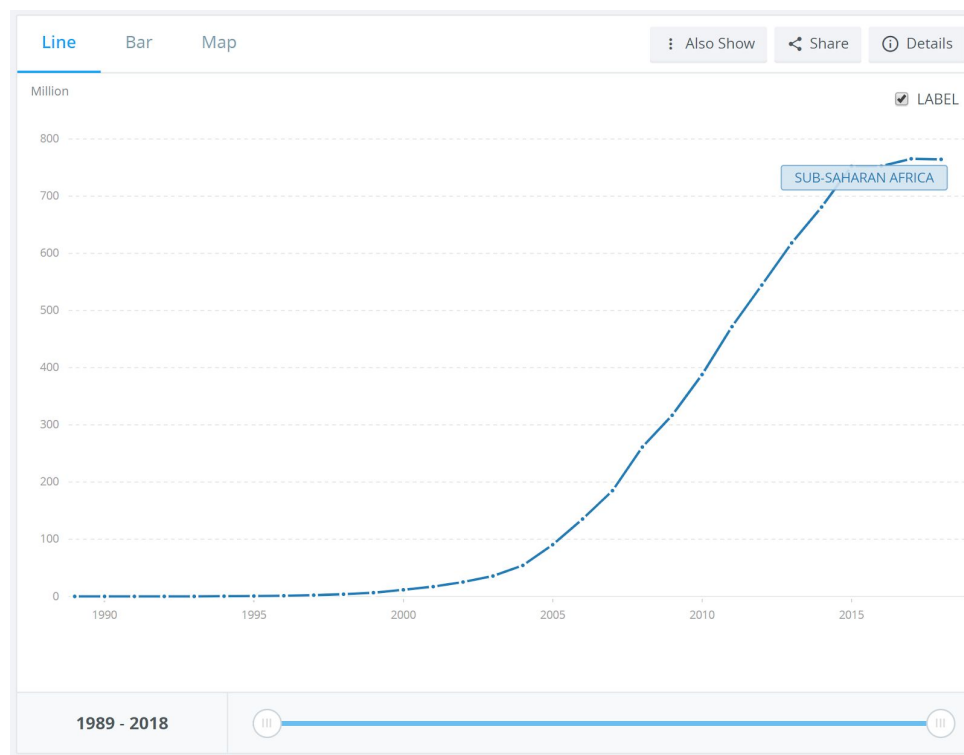
- Utilizing technology in the battle against COVID-19 in Africa -

Background: “COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. ‘CO’ stands for corona, ‘VI’ for virus, and ‘D’ for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as ‘2019 novel coronavirus’ or ‘2019-nCoV.’ The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.”

(Source : WHO link [here](#))

Information flow and information sharing at a time of social distancing

The current crisis of COVID-19 needs both a public health response and an information-sharing response. Providing accurate information to the public about COVID-19 is a challenge to the world as a whole, and the African continent in particular as governments and various actors work on containing the spread of the virus mainly through social distancing measures. The delivery and exchange of critical information on a mass scale continue to be a huge challenge since most citizens are restricted to staying at their homes the whole day. Mobile technology might be the best method to provide actionable information to the public on a mass scale at this time, Africa has seen massive growth in the use of mobile technology over the past few years; with Subsaharan Africa having 764,213,747 mobile subscribers as of 2018.



Mobile cellular subscriptions - Sub-Saharan Africa: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report and database. Link [here](#)

About #CheckCOVID

#CheckCOVID is a rapid information response platform that utilizes technology to create awareness, dispel misinformation and provide practical advice on how to prevent COVID-19 in Africa. It has emerged out of #211Check which is a pilot currently being rolled out in South Sudan that is using the same framework.

The Plan:

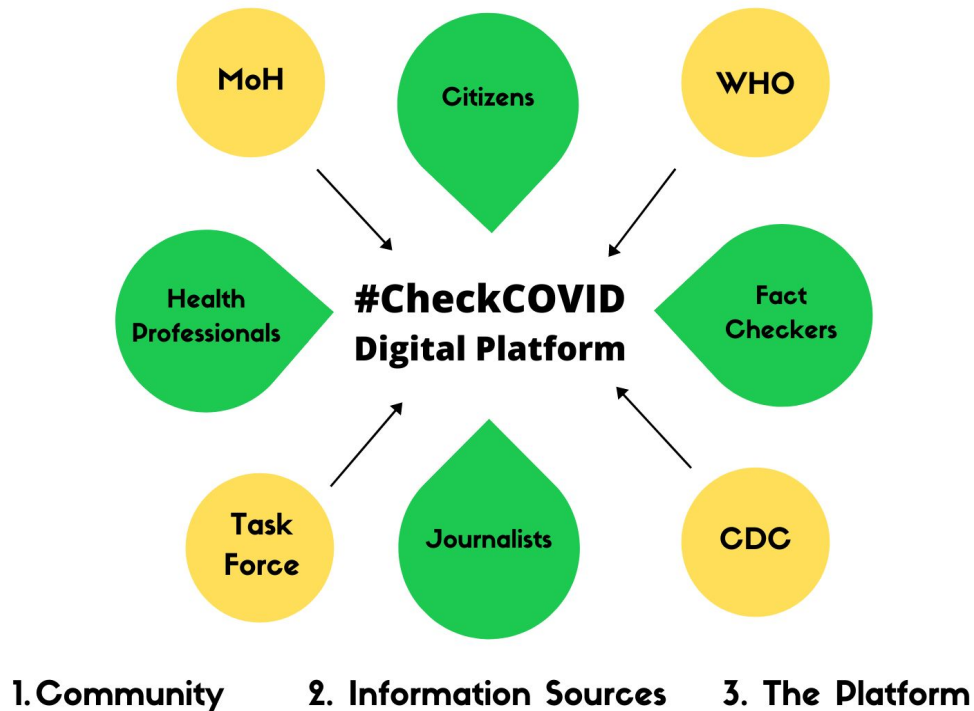
By utilizing technology in the battle against COVID-19 in Africa #CheckCOVID aims to tackle the 3 main problems related to information faced by countries in the continent as they work on tackling the spread of COVID-19.

These problems can be classified into three main thematic areas:

- **Awareness** on COVID-19 – basic information on the virus. Giving citizens the correct information they need.
- **Misinformation** about COVID-19 – correcting and fact-checking wrong and misleading information that if left unchecked might make citizens take decisions that will endanger their health.
- **Prevention** of COVID-19 – providing clear recommendations on actions that citizens can take to prevent or mitigate the risks of COVID-19

#CheckCovid plans to work with 3 elements that we will link together to work on as we tackle the three main problems and create solutions through the features and information shared.

1. Community – *a group of fact checkers, health experts, journalists, citizens, civil society members*
2. Body/Sources of information (*MoH, Taskforce, WHO, CDC*)
3. The #CheckCovid Digital Platform – medium (*whatsapp, website, social media FB/Twitter - the App*)



#CheckCOVID will establish a feedback loop to allow for information to be shared to the community as well as channels for the community to provide timely feedback to policy makers and healthcare providers.

How it works:

Awareness on COVID-19

- Users who sign up to the app will be able to receive basic info about the COVID-19 presented in a simple format that can be easily shared across various mediums.
- Users can also ask questions about COVID-19 through a chat window that pulls the data and presents it to a digital information response center for reply.

Misinformation about COVID-19

Users will be able to to fact-check various unverified information they receive about COVID-19 including:

- General myths and misconceptions about COCOVID-19
- List of facts about COVID-19
- Recent fact-checked information related to COVID-19
- A feedback from where users can submit information that needs to fact-checked

Prevention of COVID-19

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 various government agencies have taken action to give clear directives to their citizens about COVID-19 prevention measures. This feature allows users to get practical and locally relevant information on their phone. This includes but not limited to:

- Map with locations and contacts of tests center.
- Latest government directives on lockdown and measures taken to restrict movements etc.
- Information about the number of cases in your area and country
- Updates on what do do when you feel symptoms
- News on the type of services the government is offering to citizens, loans etc.

#CHECKCOVID is currently being piloted in South Sudan with a flagship project named 211CHECK. 211CHECK is a fact-checking and information verification platform (www.211check.org) and a community (#211CHECK & #COVID19SS) that consist of people from various disciplines working on providing accurate information on COVID-19 preventing measures in South Sudan. 211CHECK works on countering misinformation and disinformation in South Sudan; their recent #COVID19SS campaign focuses on providing awareness on the COVID-19 virus in South Sudan and preventing the spread of misinformation related to COVID-19.

What is #211CHECK (www.211check.org)



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#211CHECK www.211check.org