

**REPORT ON ONLINE FACT-CHECKING  
AND VERIFICATION TRAINING  
WORKSHOP FOR KENYA UNION OF  
JOURNALISTS (KUJ)**

**25 & 28 FEBRUARY 2022**



**Kenya Union of Journalists**



## Summary

The Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) in partnership with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) ASIA-PACIFIC conducted a two-day virtual training workshop, held on February 25 and 28 2022, for journalists to strengthen their capacity on fact-checking China news in Africa, as well as their utilisation of digital tools for verifying information – including photos, videos, and text - to help journalists report effectively on China-Africa relations. The Kenya Union of Journalists engaged trainers from Africa Check, a non-profit fact-checking organisation that promote accuracy in public debate and the media in Africa.

## Objectives of the workshop

1. To boost the capacity of journalists to verify the credibility of information circulating in digital media, especially on China's engagement in Africa.
2. To help journalists learn how to use tools in order to apply basic rules of profession in the digital world – therefore, checking up on credibility of sources and checking multiple sources to report effectively on China-Africa relations without misleading the public.

The workshop attracted 40 journalists from 12 counties in Kenya - Busia, Meru, Mombasa, Migori, Bungoma, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kilifi, Vihiga, and Murang'a. The sessions were facilitated by Camilla Bath, an Editor and Media Trainer from Africa Check.

The sessions adopted an interactive lecture format and included a question and answer section and practical assignments to help gauge the participants' understanding of the sessions.

Participants learned the methods and digital tools used for the verification and monitoring of the origin of media content.

Lectures, presentations, and case studies on Chinese stories regarding

infrastructure projects and practical tasks focused on several themes: the detection of disinformation networks in a local media environment; detection of fake accounts on social networks; identifying the original sources of claims, quotations or journalists' stories; and trends in disinformation campaigns with foreign influence.

Participants were curious to know how they could flag out misinformation on Chinese infrastructure projects in Africa. The trainers used the Standard Gauge Railway project contract, that has been shrouded with secrecy regarding its actual costs and the duration of the concession period, as a case study to explore this. Participants were given assignments on their engagement with Chinese media and sources of information.

## **Conclusion**

It was concluded that adherence to 'Accuracy and Fairness' by journalists is key in abiding by the Code of Conduct for the Practice of Journalism Article as it helps to eliminate false information, especially when covering China- Africa relations.

The trainers and participants acknowledged that Chinese media and news content was becoming an inevitable part of news packaging, and that there was a need to remain professional and maintain fidelity to the Code of Conduct. This was in response to the revelation that - prior to Covid-19 - the Chinese government, and other organisations, were funding trips for journalists to write positive stories about China-Africa relations. Subsequently, participants were able to understand the negative effects of unverified information as it devalues and delegitimises the voices of experts and puts the reputation of themselves and their media outlets at risk.

Going forward, it was agreed to that participants will continue to practice using the various tools and methods shared in the workshop to perfect their knowledge and skills on verifying different forms of information.