

FAST-CHECKING

For an effective transformation of the fact-checking ecosystem in the MENA region

Policy Brief

April 2023

FAST-CHECKING

For an effective transformation of the fact-checking ecosystem in the MENA region



ABOUT SIREN ASSOCIATES

Siren Associates is a not-for-profit company headquartered in Beirut, Lebanon, specialising in public sector reform and empowering organisations to become more responsive to community needs since 2008. Siren Associates' multidisciplinary team leverages systems thinking to understand complex problems and tailor context-relevant solutions, specifically in low-resource and conflict-prone settings.

For more info:

<https://sirenassociates.com>



ABOUT SIREN ANALYTICS

Siren Analytics is a tech-with-purpose company that helps organisations accelerate their digital transformation by developing scalable and forward-thinking products and projects using cost-efficient technologies. Siren Analytics develops technology to leverage data insights and assist decision-makers in managing risk, comprehending root causes, and achieving their objectives. Working with likeminded partners from across various sectors, Siren Analytics is revolutionising the way leaders and organisations use information to make decisions.

For more info:

<https://sirenanalytics.com>



ABOUT DALIL

DALIL is a free-to-use online platform that aims to promote the use of locally-driven, fact-checked online news among the public and policy makers in the MENA region. Its mission is to provide local fact-checkers with a one-stop-shop of tools and methodologies in their fight against disinformation, enabling them to break free from outdated methods and secure their seat at the table. Additionally, DALIL ensures that fact-checkers can reach wider audiences, expanding their impact in the region.

For more info:

<https://dalilmena.com>



This brief is published as part of a project funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Siren Analytics and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

FAST-CHECKING

I. INTRODUCTION



TURNING THE TIDE AGAINST DISINFORMATION

In today's world, ensuring a common understanding of facts and preventing the spread of mis/disinformation is essential for cultivating civil discourse and building more cohesive communities. To do so, it is equally crucial to examine and address the root causes of this growing phenomenon.

The power to define what constitutes harmful or otherwise censorable content online is increasingly concentrated in the hands of ill-informed technology companies and at times, heavy-handed state actors. This concentration of power has left a clear democratic deficit in relation to if, when, how, why, and by whom online speech should be moderated.

Nowhere is this crisis more apparent than in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, where under-supported and undertrained fact-checking organisations face a rising tide of disinformation affecting populations that are increasingly looking to social media for news and information.

This brief makes the case for how technical innovation can and should be put at the service of a healthier digital media environment in the MENA region, from providing substantive support to fact-checking organizations – frontliners in the uphill battle against disinformation – to radically changing how people look for and find information online.

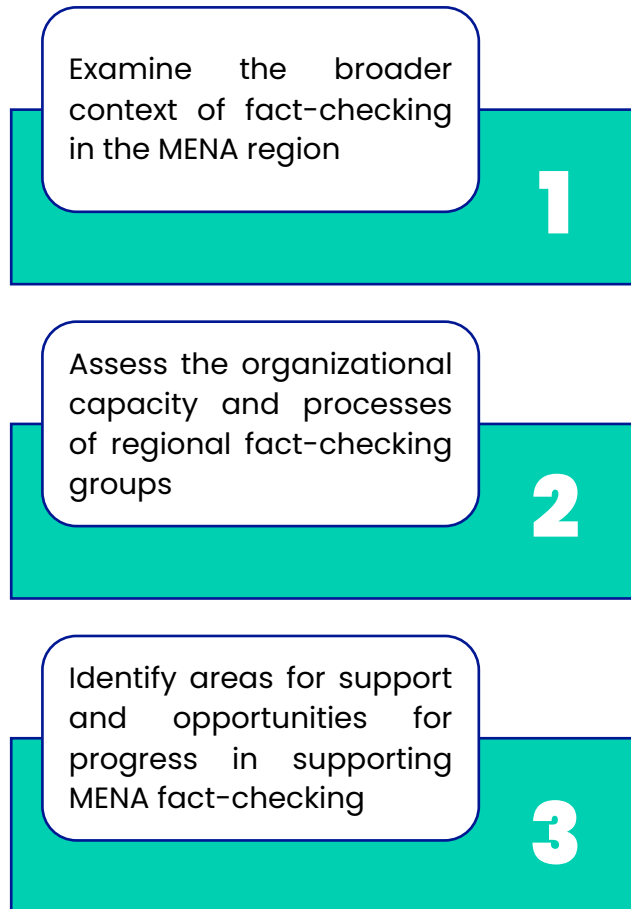
It encompasses research and observations from the Arab Fact-Checkers Network (AFCN) Innovation & Resilience project, an EU-funded innovation and technology initiative implemented by the Beirut-based consultancy firm [Siren](#), with Amman-based partners [ARIJ](#) and [JOSA](#), spanning seven MENA countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Yemen, and Iraq) and running from January 2022 until December 2023. Among other things, the project entails the development of a state-of-the-art digital platform dubbed [DALIL](#) (acronym for *Disinformation Assessment, Listening and Investigation Lab*, and Arabic for 'proof', 'evidence', or 'guide') that introduces AI-driven solutions across the fact-checking process.

It explores the challenges faced by MENA fact-checkers and offers recommendations for how these organisations can be meaningfully supported. While there are many bright spots, this assessment evidenced a need for these organisations to be better trained and more resilient to threats. Finally, it identifies a clear opportunity for digitally enabling technology that supports faster and more efficient work processes.

OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Research for this brief is based on a contextual analysis of the fact-checking field, observations from the first year of project implementation, and an organizational capacity assessment of selected regional fact-checking organizations, including a full mapping of their workflows and processes.

• RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



• RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Five categories were selected for the organizational capacity assessment, based on international best practices, and allowed for an overall in-depth understanding of each organization's capabilities

Assessment methods:

- Criteria-based assessment
- Semi-structured one-on-one in-depth interviews



FAST-CHECKING

II. FINDINGS



REGIONAL OUTLOOK: INFORMATION OVERLOAD

The global spread of mis/disinformation exploded with the rise of social media networks. Today, there are more than 4.7 billion users around the world, and only 517 fact-checking organizations*. This gap highlights the challenges that fact-checkers face, which in particular affects the MENA region.

In 2020, 65% of Arab youths obtained news through social media, up from merely 25% in 2015, with an average consumption time of 3.5 hours per day*.

Globally, more than 350 million Facebook posts, 500 million tweets, and 100 billion WhatsApp messages are exchanged on a daily basis around the world.

While encrypted messaging applications such as WhatsApp are a source of safety for people living under oppressive conditions, specifically in the region, they also create an enabling environment for mis/disinformation, making it spread faster and harder to detect.

Faced with this overwhelming volume of content, fact-checkers in the region lack the proper experience, protection, and resources to do their job properly.

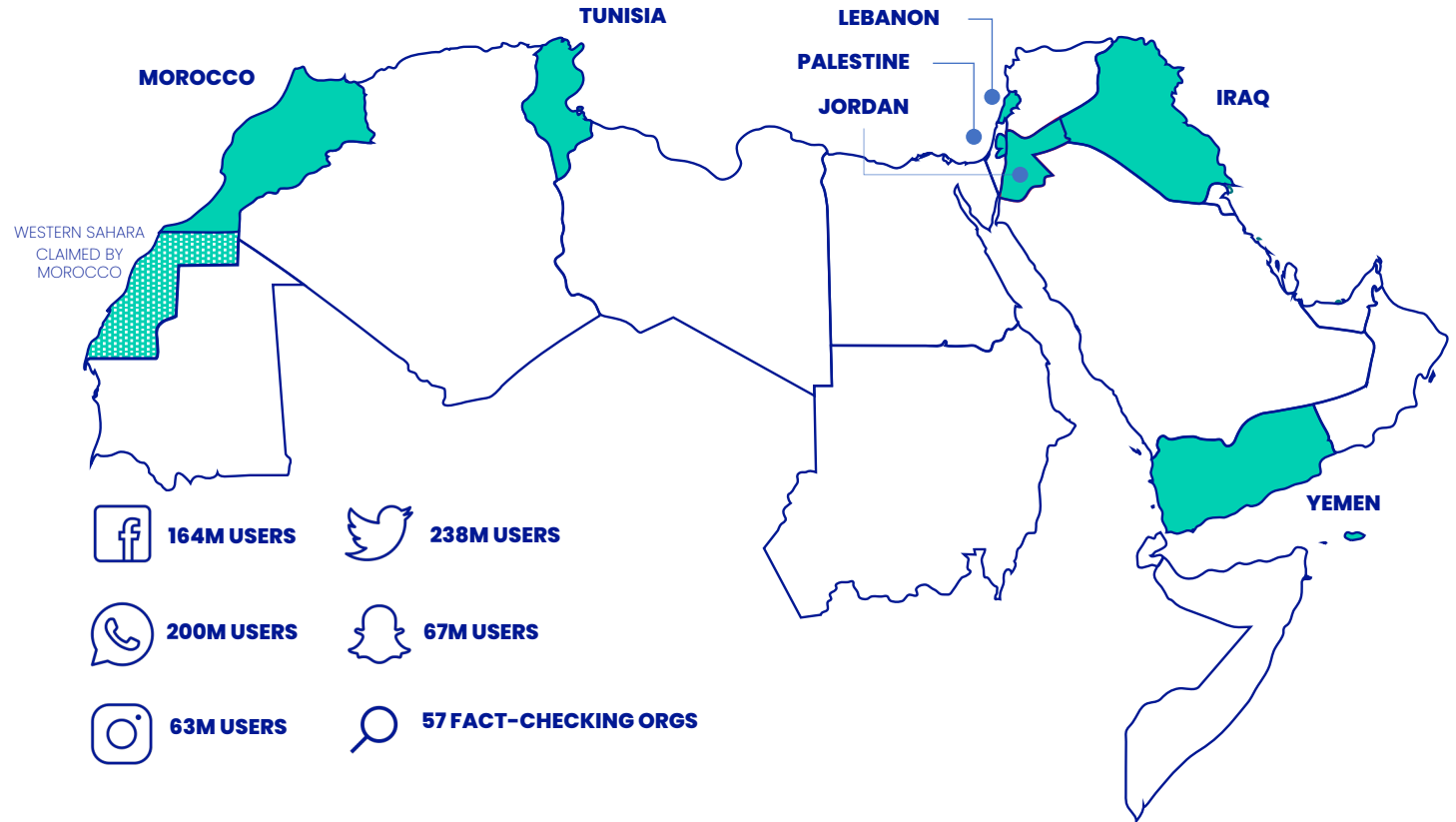


Fig. Map of the Arab World highlighting the target countries of the AFCN Innovation & Resilience project

* Data reportal. Digital 2023. Global overview report 2023

* Duke reporters' Lab. Global fact-checking sites 2022

* Arab Youth Survey 2022

REGIONAL OUTLOOK: A NEW AND EMERGING COMMUNITY

Fact-checking is an emerging field in the MENA region. While the first few organizations were founded in response to the 2011 Arab Spring protests, the majority originated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, there are an estimated 53 platforms, initiatives and organizations spread across 16 countries*.



• SMALL, VOLUNTEER-LED INITIATIVES

Most fact-checking platforms and initiatives surfaced through volunteer efforts by journalists and activists who were exposed to growing information disorder in the region.

• LIMITED CAPACITY AND ACTIVITY

Due to financial constraints and a reliance on volunteers, few organisations can fact-check more than ten news items per day*, severely limiting their ability to counter growing disinformation in the region.



• LOW PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Most organisations have mechanisms for the public to submit news to be fact-checked but engagement is generally low across the region*.



• INITIAL BASELINE ASSESSMENT

The illustrative baseline assessment below reveals strong disparities between organizations and a clear need for support on different fronts. Results were anonymized (name, location, and affiliation) to protect the privacy of organizations.

	Org. I	Org. II	Org. III	Org. IV	Org. V	Org. VI	Org. VII
Years of operation	4	5	7	4	1	2	1
Methodology available online	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Undeveloped
Web Application	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Facebook Followers	37,000+	817,000+	125,000+	1,090,000+	22,000+	216,000+	13,000+
Twitter Followers	100+	10,000+	500+	158,000+	198	3,400+	200+
Instagram Followers	N/A	72,000+	3,000+	574,000+	239	5,000+	72,000+
YouTube	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Total reach	37,000+	900,000+	125,480+	1,740,000+	20,000+	220,000+	85,000+
Total staff	7	15	5	10	7	7	16
Fact-checking staff	3	10	5	5	4	6	12
Staff with journalism training	5	5	5	2	2	1	2
Staff with fact-checking training	5	10	5	5	7	6	8
Access to legal support services	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Access to online support services	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Access to psychosocial support services	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Overall initial capacity assessment	Low	High	Medium	High	Low	Low	Low

Fig. Initial baseline capacity assessment of selected regional fact-checking organizations (January 2022)

* Mortada, S., Ashour, A., Nofal, A. (2022) "Middle East and North Africa" in Herman Wasserman, Meeting the challenges of information disorder, 2022

CARRY-OVER EFFECTS

One year into the implementation of the AFCN Innovation & Resilience Project, our team has gained valuable insights into the challenges that fact-checkers face in the region. These challenges have clear carry-over effects on the nature of the regional fact-checking sphere.

• THREATS TO SAFETY AND SECURITY



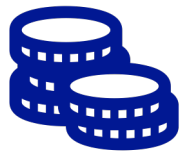
Compared to other contexts around the globe, MENA fact-checkers must contend with a uniquely challenging operating context. Regional fact-checking organizations suffer from operational challenges in the form of armed conflicts and restrictive governments, posing risks to their ability to conduct genuine and effective fact-checking process.



• DIMINISHED EFFECTIVENESS AND RISK OF CO-OPTATION

Operationally, local fact-checking organizations are either small grassroots-like operations that mostly involve post-publication fact-checking, essentially covering non-political content for fear of reprisals, or more well-established operations, which in turn fall into two main categories: activism driven (often operating among diasporas) or co-opted by political regimes (knowingly or unknowingly relieving local pressure when needed).

• LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING



Most organizations work with reduced budgets, mostly relying on small donor funds, paid requests for investigative pieces from media outlets, and volunteer work.



• DIFFICULTIES IN SCALING OPERATIONS

Few organizations have been able to grow beyond grassroots initiatives that rely mainly on volunteer work. As a result, their processes remain highly manual and time-consuming and they lack vital elements of professionalism. There is also a high degree of competition observed between organizations, possibly due to limited funding opportunities and the need to be “chosen” for support under donor-funded programs.

CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Extensive discussions with fact-checkers and other key actors provided insightful observations regarding the practical obstacles that are amplifying these challenges, particularly in relation to technology and the availability of automated tools.

Shedding light on the importance of fact-checking within the MENA region due to the propagation of mis/disinformation, which is rendering the work of Arab fact-checkers difficult at each of the four stages of the process [monitoring, identifying, verifying and publishing], the discussions also showcased a lack of proper automation, and thus a crucial need for it, in order to reduce delays and non-value added activities, especially when it comes to monitoring and identifying mis/disinformation.

Two key aspects were revealed:

1. A simple transfer of pre-existing tools is not enough, as the Arabic language is a main factor at play and, as such, tools should be tailored accordingly (Natural Language Processing, Optical Character Recognition, etc.).
2. The human factor in the fact-checking process is crucial to preserve and cannot be replaced completely by AI-driven mechanisms.

Additionally, through the interviews, the need for a collaborative approach between fact-checking groups within the region was highlighted, which would promote knowledge exchange, and in turn, guarantee better outcomes in terms of verification.

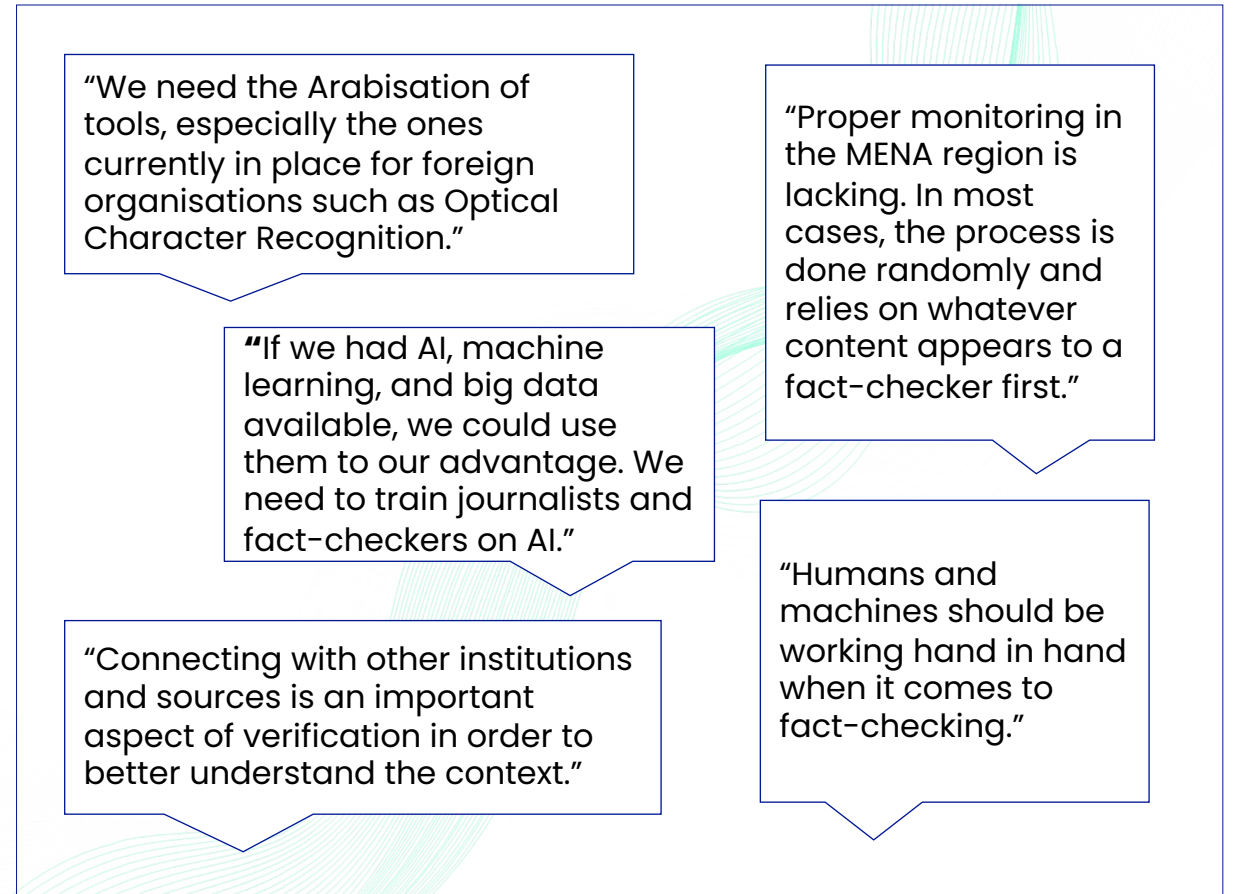


Fig. Quotes from key informants interviews (January – March 2022)

REACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE OPERATING MODELS

On average, fact-checkers demonstrated solid legal and administrative foundations. However, there were large gaps between organizations on some of the assessment criteria, demonstrating a need for tailored support on some basic organizational elements.

- While most assessed organizations were legally registered and had a documented mission and objectives, some failed to translate this to clear internal hierarchies and organisational structures. Fragile institutional foundations had ramifications across all other categories assessed, resulting in reactive and adaptive, rather than proactive operating models. **Groups would benefit from organisational management training and mentorship.**
- Most organisations lacked the capacity to develop and pursue funding strategies that would ensure sustainability and financial independence. This was paralleled by weak internal budgeting capacity, which raises concerns about an organisation's ability to properly manage future funding. **Groups should be trained on developing funding and outreach strategies to develop and diversify partnerships and income generating activities and attain awards or recognition.**
- Likewise, while most staff are generally well-trained, organisations lack the processes and procedures to proactively identify training needs and develop plans to address them. Volunteering and intern programs are similarly ad-hoc, causing organisations to lose out on important opportunities to develop human capital. **Organisations should be supported to develop processes and procedures for training needs identification and plans for continuous staff training. This includes institutionalising training and volunteer programs.**

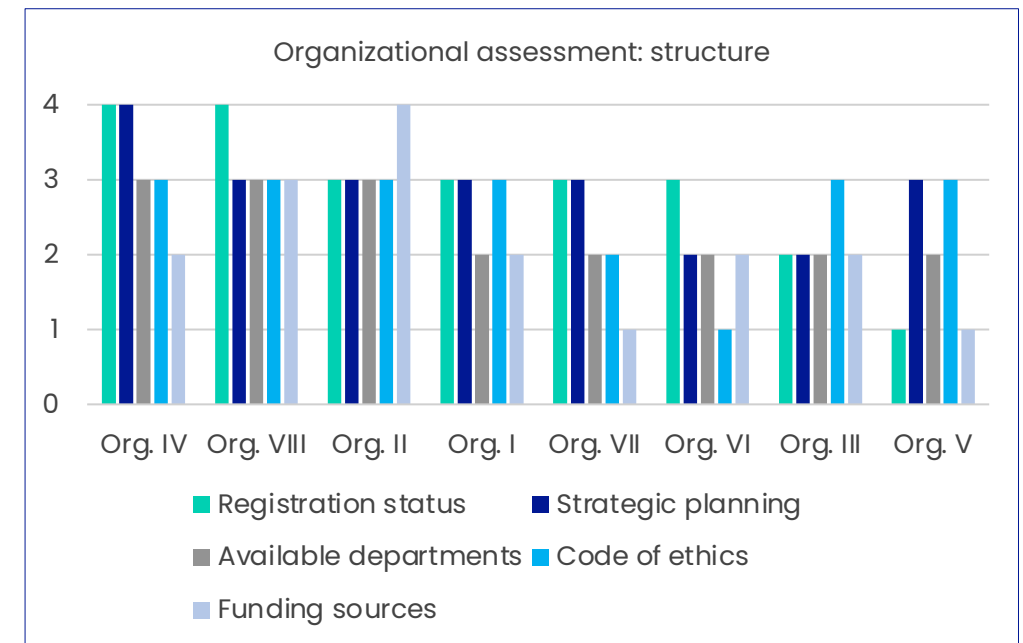


Fig. Organizational assessment: structure

Different indicators (each including a set of criteria) were established for each of the assessment categories, with a score from 1 to 4, 4 being the highest.

SHORTCOMINGS IN FACT-CHECKING KNOWLEDGE

With minimal exceptions, organizations showed a need to further develop their knowledge of key fact-checking processes and procedures. In particular, they demonstrated a need for improvement in pre-bunking and corrections policies.

Given the relative infancy of fact-checking in the MENA region, it is not surprising that most organizations have not yet fully mastered the tools of the trade.

- Overall, most organizations were lacking in their ability to present a detailed, structured and regularly updated fact-checking methodology aligned with international best practices. Given the crucial importance of an organisation's ability to fulfil their mandate, this finding is particularly concerning. **Training in fact-checking methodology should be ongoing and tailored to organisational needs.**
- There was a general weakness of corrections policies across most organizations, demonstrating a need for progress in building transparency and credibility. Pre-bunking initiatives, or pre-emptively debunking potential mis/disinformation before it spreads, was not common practice among most organisations surveyed. **Workshops that teach organisations the value of and methods for pre-bunking news and also supporting them towards a policy and practice of corrections can build credibility among audiences and demonstrate transparency. These are vital steps in spreading a culture of fact-checking.**
- Although there are training opportunities available for MENA fact-checking organisations through various outlets, including the AFCN, methodological weakness suggests that **more intensive support is needed** to raise the bar.



Fig. Organizational assessment: expertise

Different indicators (each including a set of criteria) were established for each of the assessment categories, with a score from 1 to 4, 4 being the highest.

LACK OF PREPAREDNESS TO FACE THREATS

The surveyed organizations displayed significant weaknesses in their capacities to face safety and security threats. Given the highly challenging operating context, with widespread repression of free speech and use of extrajudicial force, weaknesses in this area is concerning.

- MENA fact-checkers face some of the most challenging operating environments across the globe. Overall freedom and press freedom scores are among the lowest worldwide. Journalists commonly face threats or are victims of physical violence and homicide. **In this context, mental health resources need to be provided for all organizations, particularly those operating in dynamic conflict environments. Mental health awareness seminars should be held regularly and accompanied by mental health check-ups.**
- In part, due to the significant threats they face, groups reported avoiding fact-checking content that is overtly political or potentially risky, erring on the side of fact-checking trending news. Ultimately, this reduces the impact of these organizations in highly politicised information environments.
- However, organizations are woefully underprepared to face the challenge of taking on contentious topics. Physical and psychosocial safety measures are, in most cases, not reinforced or acknowledged. While most organisations had basic digital security protocols in place, they lacked procedures for regular updates or ongoing training. Concerningly, all but two organisations lacked adequate legal protection. **Expert trainers are needed to co-create physical and digital safety protocols tailored to each organization's country of operation. Organizations should be provided with accompanying training on cyberliteracy and physical and digital safety. Resources for legal aid should be offered through a central body such as the AFCN.**

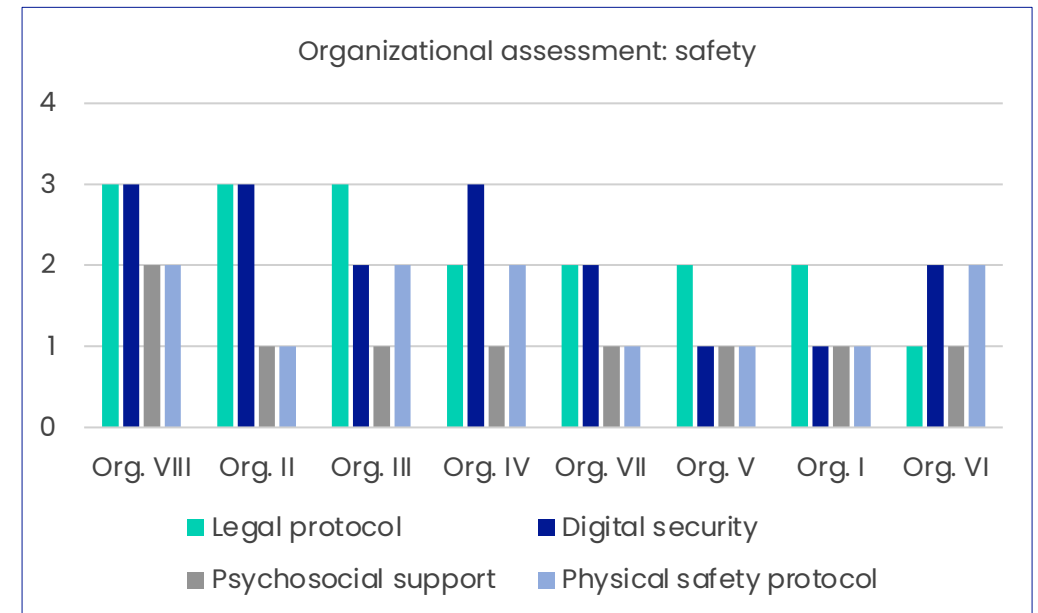


Fig. Organizational assessment: safety

Different indicators (each including a set of criteria) were established for each of the assessment categories, with a score from 1 to 4, 4 being the highest.

THE FACT-CHECKING PROCESS

For fact-checking organizations, digital tools that speed time-consuming manual processes can be a major force multiplier in facing the massive amount of mis/disinformation in today's media environment. Yet, most organizations lacked access to such tools.

- Across all categories, average organizational scores were the lowest when it came to process automation, indicating a significant lack of efficiency and highlighting a key area for further development. Process mapping of the workflow of each organization revealed heavy human intervention across all four stages of the fact-checking process. Processes cripplingly relied on dispersed portals (platforms and tools), requiring time-consuming back-and-forth navigation.
- All surveyed organizations (excluding one) lacked any process automation for monitoring mis/disinformation. Use of digital tools for identifying mis/disinformation and publishing fact-checked claims was low or non-existent across all organizations.
- Given that Arabic-language disinformation is likely to only grow in prevalence while remaining under-prioritised by tech giants, there is a pressing need for MENA fact-checkers to adopt digital solutions that enable greater efficiency and productivity.
- DALIL, a tailor-made digital platform mapped onto the existing processes of target organisations, provides the most promising automation option for MENA fact-checkers. **By iteratively digitising each stage of the fact-checking process with target groups, including integrating verification tools currently used by fact-checkers, DALIL can become a one-stop-shop for MENA fact-checkers.**

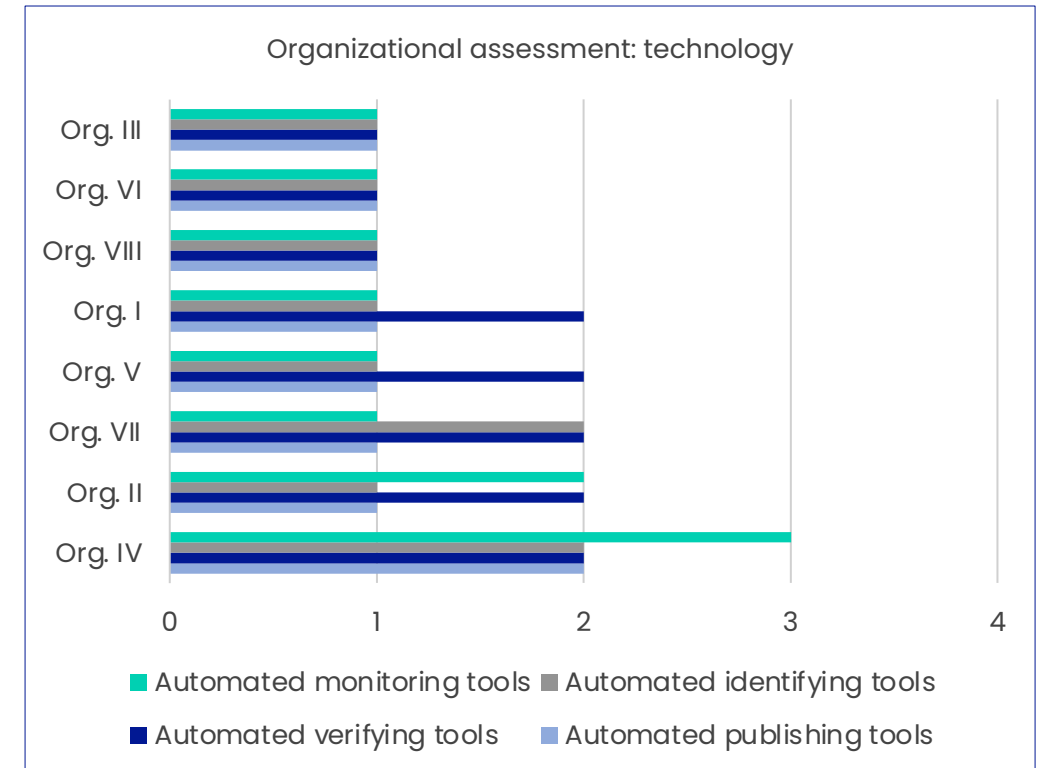


Fig. Organizational assessment: technology

Different indicators (each including a set of criteria) were established for each of the assessment categories, with a score from 1 to 4, 4 being the highest.

OVERRELIANCE ON MANUAL PROCESSES

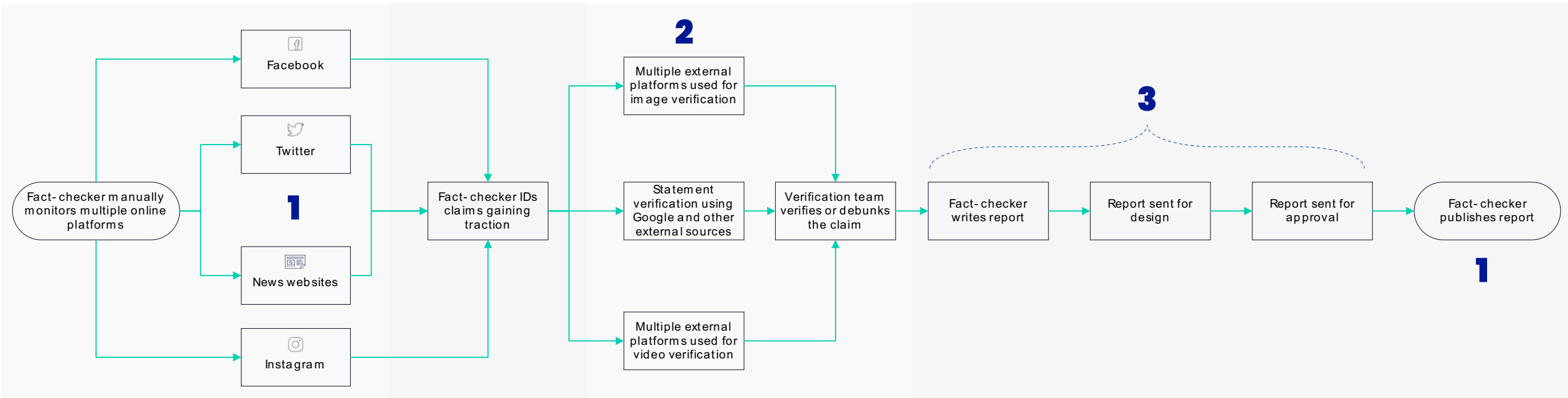
Mapping the workflows of organizations across the four stages of the fact-checking process revealed a lack of automation, time consuming processes and a high incidence of non-value-added activity. These are major limiting factors on the amount of news that organizations can fact-check.

MONITORING

IDENTIFYING

VERIFYING

PUBLISHING



1

LACK OF AUTOMATION

- Fact-checker goes in and out of each individual platform to monitor social media platforms (no claim automation)
- Fact-checker is required to manually publish reports on platforms (no report automation)



2

MANUAL PROCESS

- Fact-checker manually accesses each verification tool to detect clues and signs as well as manually accesses translation engines



3

NON-VALUE-ADDED ACTIVITY

- Fact-checker manually archives non-traction claims on an offline Excel sheet
- Back-and-forth movement of reports from one department to another, mostly for approvals

FAST-CHECKING

III. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

We consulted partners and other key actors, and also spent time with and observed fact-checking organizations across five different categories. While we saw a few variations, there were clear trends within each of these groupings.

- **REACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE OPERATING MODELS: PROVIDE ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT**

While most regional fact-checking organizations were legally registered and had a documented mission and objectives, some failed to translate this to clear internal hierarchies and organizational structures. Weak institutional foundations had ramifications across all other categories assessed, resulting in reactive and adaptive, rather than proactive operating models. Organizations must be supported to develop the internal processes and procedures – from budgeting, to staffing and funding – that would enable a transition to a proactive operational model, and thus greater independence.

- **DEFICITS IN FACT-CHECKING KNOWLEDGE: DELIVER METHODOLOGY TRAININGS**

With few exceptions, organizations revealed a desire to further develop their knowledge of key fact-checking processes and procedures. In particular, organizations demonstrated a need for improvement in pre-bunking and corrections policies. Training in fact-checking methodology should be continual, in line with global best practice, and with regular opportunities for fact-checking organizations to take refresher courses. To address this need, DALIL is committed to providing accessible and region-specific trainings.

- **LACK OF PREPAREDNESS TO FACE THREATS: ENFORCE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

The surveyed organizations displayed significant weaknesses in their capacities to face safety and security threats. Given the highly challenging operating context, weaknesses in this area is concerning. There is an urgent need to co-create physical and digital safety protocols tailored to each organization's context. In addition, there is a blanket need to help organisations improve understanding of their legal rights and provide legal aid.

- **STRONG RELIANCE ON MANUAL PROCESSES: EMPOWER THROUGH DIGITISATION**

For fact-checking organizations, digital tools that expedite time-consuming manual processes can be a major force multiplier in facing the massive amount of mis-disinformation in today's media environment. Most organisations surveyed lacked access to digital tools that could facilitate the fact-checking process. Providing organisations with automated tools tailored to the Arabic language would hugely reduce delays and non-value added activities in the work process.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKING

These consultations and observations also allowed us to identify the external challenges and threats that fact-checkers face and the risks they run, specifically when it comes to co-optation, competition and partisanship.

Operationally, most local fact-checking organizations are either small grassroots-like operations that mainly conduct post-publication fact-checking, essentially covering non-political content for fear of reprisals, or more well-established operations, which in turn fall into two main categories: activism driven (often operating among diasporas) or co-opted by political establishments. These risks are exacerbated by a natural competition for resources, space and notoriety.

- **CO-OPTATION RISK: ANONYMISE AND BROADEN**

Fact-checkers and investigative journalists in the region operate in a particularly charged political environment which often puts them at odds with authorities. By sometimes choosing to steer away from hot topics, official and “overt” organizations could, knowingly or unknowingly, sometimes help regimes play the apparent freedom of the press card and relieve local pressure. On the other hand, more anonymous and “covert” fact-checking operations can afford to be more vocal and confrontational when it comes to denouncing disinformation which comes with another set of dangers. By anonymizing the process of fact-checking and making it more inclusive, the DALIL platform helps mitigate these risks.

- **COMPETITION CHALLENGE: DECENTRALIZE AND DEMOCRATIZE**

Coordination among regional fact-checking organizations has started but could be enhanced. According to some fact-checkers, there seems to be more competition than cooperation at times, possibly due to limited funding opportunities and the need to be “chosen” for support under donor-funded programs. To counter this competition for resources and space, there is a need to foster exchange, synergies and complementarity among the different fact-checking organizations, and to promote sharing of tools and technical economies of scale. By decentralizing and democratizing the process of fact-checking, the DALIL platform helps address these challenges.

- **PARTISANSHIP DRIVE: CROWDSOURCE AND BALANCE-OUT**

Non-partisanship is a driving principle of fact-checking. However, this is easier said than done given the aforementioned operating environment and over-reliance on funds. By introducing checks and balances in the process of fact-checking, both within and among organisations, the DALIL platform helps address this issue.

BEYOND FACT-CHECKING: FROM FIREFIGHTING TO FIRE PREVENTION

With the widespread propagation of mis/disinformation in the MENA region, fact-checking organizations are an essential frontline defense. This brief has made the case for a stronger support to fact-checkers, identifying the most pressing needs. But this is only part of the story.

Reinforcing this frontline defense is the first critical challenge in the longer war that is waged in the information space. This area is flooded with manipulation, and supporting fact-checkers by providing them with the right tools, and building their organizational capacities and ability to cooperate is a vital first step. Yet it is not nearly enough - tackling the sheer volume of mis/disinformation, and capturing audience attention are uphill battles on a good day.

In fact, mis/disinformation is more powerful, has a stronger pull and is easier to create and distribute than factual information and reporting. How does one recreate some balance in this uneven fight? Even fact-checking champions such as Glenn Kessler from the Washington Post's Fact-Checker do not have an easy answer for this dilemma - he considers that fighting mis/disinformation remains a long-term process where education and consumption behavior are key*.

It is important to equip fact-checkers with the currently available means, with tools such as image or video forensics, in order to help them identify and address mis/disinformation more quickly and efficiently. But in a context of global information disorder - especially in the MENA region, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate fact from fiction and to identify trustworthy sources of information - it is even more important to ensure that citizens themselves are also well-equipped.

Advancements in Artificial Intelligence can be helpful for journalists, fact-checkers and citizens alike: text analysis tools, such as topic modeling, sentiment analysis, and even language translation, can play a crucial role in addressing this challenge by helping individuals evaluate and understand the huge amounts of textual information available to them. Making these convenient and easy to understand tools accessible to everyone can help empower citizens in the MENA region and allow them to engage more critically with the information at hand. Ultimately, this can help foster a more informed citizen who is capable of navigating today's complex information landscape.

But innovation can be a double-edged sword. In fact, these same tools could also be used to increase and improve the quality and quantity of disinformation. Technology alone is not enough to address the problem of mis/disinformation, and streamlining fact-checking processes is just one of the many pieces of the puzzle. A multi-pronged approach is required, involving education, media literacy, regulation, and responsible journalism; and all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and ordinary citizens have a significant role to play.

*Glen Kessler, How does the Washington Post Fact-Checker Work?, ARIJ Annual Forum 2022

ANNEX: FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Saheh Khabarak	Jordan	Facebook	Active
		Twitter	
Kashif	Palestine	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Tayaqan	Palestine	Website	Active
		Instagram	
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Tech 4 Peace	Iraq	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
Saheeh Iraq (established by Saheeh Masr)	Iraq	Twitter	Active
		Facebook	
Sidq	Yemen	Facebook	Active
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
Fact Yemen	Yemen	Facebook	Active
		Twitter	

ANNEX : FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Akhbar Meter	Egypt	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Saheeh Masr	Egypt	Website	Active
		Twitter	
		Facebook	
Matsda2sh	Egypt	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Da Begad	Egypt	Instagram	Active
		Website	
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Annir	Libya	Instagram	Active
		Website	
		Twitter	
		Facebook	
The Truth Seekers Center	Libya	Instagram	Active
		Website	

ANNEX : FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Sabr	Libya	Facebook	Inactive
		Twitter	
Tahra	Libya	Website	Active
		Twitter	
		Facebook	
Falso	Libya	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Instagram	
Tahaqaq	Morocco	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
Mati9ch	Morocco	Instagram	Active
		Website	
		Instagram	
The Moroccan Laboratory for the Observation of Fake News	Morocco	Facebook	Inactive
Stop Rumors Algeria	Algeria	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
		Instagram	

ANNEX: FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Fake News DZ	Algeria	Facebook	Active
		Instagram	
Fake News Monitor	Algeria	Facebook	Inactive
Falso	Tunisia	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
ICheck	Tunisia	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
Nawaat Fact Check	Tunisia	Website	Active
BN Check	Tunisia	Facebook	Active
		Website	
		Twitter	
Alsaheeh Men Alghalet	Tunisia	Website	Active
		Facebook	

ANNEX : FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Tunisia Check News	Tunisia	Website	Active
		Facebook	
Tunifact	Tunisia	Facebook	Active
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
Trust News Tunisia	Tunisia	Website	Active
		Facebook	
		Twitter	
		Instagram	
Circulating Rumors	UAE	Twitter	Inactive
Eekad	Qatar	Facebook	Active
		Twitter	
No Rumors	Saudi Arabia	Website	Active
		Twitter	
		Facebook	
		Instagram	

ANNEX: FACT-CHECKING PLATFORMS IN THE MENA REGION

Organization	Country	Website and/or social media account	Status
Sanad (Al Jazeera)	Qatar	Internal fact-checking unit at Al Jazeera	Active
Oman Without Rumors	Oman	Twitter	Active
No Rumors Oman	Oman	Instagram	Inactive

FAST-CHECKING

For a transformation of the fact-checking ecosystem in the MENA region

REFERENCES

- [Data reportal, Digital 2023 Global overview report, 2023](#)
- [Duke reporters' Lab, Global fact-checking sites, 2022](#)
- [Arab Youth Survey, 2022](#)
- [International Journalist Network, Social Media in The Middle East, 2021](#)
- [BrandWatch, Incredible Facebook Statistics, 2019](#)
- [David Sayce, Number of tweets, 2022](#)
- [Tech Crunch, Whatsapp now delivering 100 billion messages, 2020](#)
- [Herman Wasserman, Meeting the challenges of information disorder, 2022](#)
- [The media line, Facebook remains dominant, 2019](#)
- [The National News, Whatsapp down, 2021](#)
- [Arabian Business, Instagram hits 63 million, 2017](#)
- [Gulf business, Twitter Mena reports, 2022](#)
- [World Association of news publisher, Social media trends in MENA, 2020](#)
- Glen Kessler, How does the Washington Post Fact-Checker Work?, ARIJ Annual Forum 2022
- Key informant interviews led by Siren, January – April 2022

FAST-CHECKING

For an effective transformation of the fact-checking ecosystem in the MENA region

Policy Brief

April 2023

Write to us

info@sirenanalytics.com