Q4 2020 Summary:

- **Partnership support**: Continued to support sub-grantees. Introducing partners to each other and linked them to new/existing initiatives. This has been done through close collaboration with Wits Journalism, Africa Check, Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), Africa Women in Media (AWiM), Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya) and Magamba (Zimbabwe).

- During this quarter we have launched the Africa Educators Network together with Wits. The aim is to support the creation of a new network for journalism schools across the African continent. A mapping study was successfully launched in December and we have received a lot of good responses (including from UNESCO). Distribution will continue in early 2021. [https://fojo.se/mapping-journalism-training-centres-in-sub-saharan-africa-study-launched-by-fojo-and-wits](https://fojo.se/mapping-journalism-training-centres-in-sub-saharan-africa-study-launched-by-fojo-and-wits) The study is also translated to French. We have had round table discussions and organised webinars and will shortly launch a newsletter. There is big local engagement from different universities and centres in SSA for this collaboration.

- Fojo has taken the initiative to the CHARMAfrica think tank in order to find “good practices and innovative approaches” for how media and civil society can build coalitions. All the consortium partners are part of this including some selected experts. We have had some planning meetings/webinars and are now in full swing to produce a CHARM-anthology (printed and circulated in Q1 2021).

- We have together with AWiM done a regional gender study where we looked into what types of barriers there are for female journalists to enter into journalism (and to progress) [https://fojo.se/new-study-reveals-barriers-on-entry-for-women-journalists-in-sub-saharan-africa](https://fojo.se/new-study-reveals-barriers-on-entry-for-women-journalists-in-sub-saharan-africa) something that never has been done on a regional level in sub-Sahara Africa before. 125 respondents from 17 countries participated and shared their very personal experiences. The study was launched during a live session at AWiM’s virtual conference in December 2020.

- **Supporting fact-checking**: Fojo has together with Africa Check, Africa’s leading fact-check organisation conducted 10 online trainings since the project was initiated. In total, so far 215 journalists and activists have received training in fact checking so they better can deal with disinformation and hate and harassment. As part of the work with Africa check we have also initiated new methods for gender fact checking and Investigative journalism fact checking. Fojo has connected Africa check with other partners including GIJN, AWiM, Pax Press and Ti-Kenya.

- We have supported Zimbabwe-based Magamba to work regionally to be able to organise regional hackathons. (ex creations of covid-plugs). This collaboration also has involved support to Transparency International Kenya with their work on their media tech hub – focusing on corruption, tech and investigative journalism. Magamba and Ti-Kenya will also collaborate on the hackathons.

- We have supported investigative journalism. Together with Wits Journalism and Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN). Through sub-grants we have supported GIJN’s Africa editors. This includes support to the Africa editors to produce material and resources about investigative journalism in local languages. We also have done a mapping of Investigative Hubs currently operating in sub-Sahara Africa. We will do an interactive map to show where the hubs are located. Fojo also supported the AIJC20, in close collaboration with Wits.
Support to Africa Check training: Fact checking training with GIJN and CENOZO: the online training focused on Investigative Journalism and fact-checking. Dates for the training: 17, 24, 31 October and 7 November 2020 (Each session took 3 hours, bringing the entire training to a total of 12 hours). Participation ranged from 16-20 participants from the following Francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Central African Republic, Guinea, Mali, Madagascar, Senegal and Togo. All training was conducted in French.

Participants for the workshops were selected by GIJN-Afrique and CENOZO (Nobert Zongo, Cell for Investigative journalism). The training was split into four sessions of online workshops via Zoom (for more information see the training report attached (1)).

In total, since the CHARM: project started Africa Check has, with the support (and input from Fojo and other Fojo partners such as Pax Press in Rwanda, MCI in Uganda, TIK in Kenya, AWIM and GIJN conducted 10 online trainings – total trained people 215 people (118 males and 97 women) in practical fact checking methods/tools. See statistics sheet attached (2).

Fojo and Africa Check has together developed the programme and the content to fit the participants.

AIJC20 (Wits lead)
Fojo supported Information for Development Trust (IDT) from Zimbabwe to participate from Harare (Face-to-face) in the AIJC20 sessions, IDT organised events for their members so they could participate/join the discussions online (see report attached (3)).

Prof. Anton Harber (Wits) and Victor Bwire also presented their initial findings from a study on investigative hubs in sub-Saharan Africa at a

Journalists are crucial in increasing the quality of information available to people. Good journalism is one of the most obvious defences against misinformation as the media is a major provider of information to a wide audience. Many journalists, who already have to constantly adapt to changes and new challenges within the industry and the online environment, however, do not have the skills to conduct fact-checking to ensure they report accurately. The trainings conducted by Africa Check and with the support from Fojo are equipping journalist across Sub-Sahara to take the fight on disinformation and ultimately improving conditions for democracy.

After the training the evaluations shows that the participants are better equipped to dismantle false information and are in a better position of holding decision makers into account. Feedback from participants:

- A clear understanding of how false information spreads, what fact-checking is and why reporting accurately is important, have the skills to distinguish between facts and false information, be able to verify the origin of images and video, using fact-checking skills and online verification tools, and use credible information sources when publishing.
- A real enthusiasm was noted among the participants as evidenced by the number of questions delegates asked the facilitator and shared in the Zoom chat. The chat function on the training platform enabled participants to comment on the training as the days progressed and give feedback during the workshop.
- The participants unanimously praised the relevance of the training content and expressed their willingness to create fact-checking sections (for those who have not yet done so). The facilitator is willing to mentor participants who want to get into fact-checking and thus implement the knowledge acquired.
session during AICJ20. For more statics and impact see Wits reporting.

For more information see below.

**Data mining training (Nairobi)**
Fojo partner TI-Kenya and Hub Afrique conducted joint training: data mining and Covid 19, 26-27 October in Nairobi. Note that Hub Afrique will have participation lists. See attached poster (4).

Fojo introduced TI-Kenya and Hub Afrique. Good example of a new collaboration between two organisation thanks to CHARM-project. They have expressed that they would like to work closer in the future linking corruption, media, tech and civil society.

Good media coverage, for example from Citizen TV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IqIC44iZEMM&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR32J3C9um64WD8tQplB8W7z2zm7ymddbXOnVnmNWXTD27f2KjW-Vow

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**Gender study.**

The study was presented in a panel with representatives from AWiM and Fojo and women from the African media industry. The session included Q&A live sessions, presentations and discussions.

A web summary of the study has also been developed. https://africanwomeninmedia.com/research-barriers-to-women-journalists-in-sub-saharan-africa/

During January strategic dissemination and distribution of the study is planned (including media toolkit, promotion see attached [5] examples.

**Gender study:**
Many of the stories shared by women journalists in this report are shocking. Still they describe the everyday life of women who try to forge their way through the journalist profession in sub-Saharan Africa. This is not news, but this report shows that the patriarchal and sexist patterns in the news media industry are common across countries and regions. This is bad, of course, but the insights can be used to advocate and work for change.

On a more positive note, the study highlights that many women journalists possess a great passion for journalism as a force for good that keeps them going against all the odds. This study aims to give them a voice and act as a rallying call to those who can and should weigh in on their side.

125 female journalists from 17 countries from Sub Sahara Africa participated in this study. The main outcome from the study is a better regional understanding of what promotes and hampers progression, what the main barriers are for women within the field of journalism in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Key findings**
- gender policies can be an effective mechanism to addressing some of the barriers women journalists face, there is the danger of policy without implementation
- organisations need to look more closely at how they diversify opportunities for progression.
- There is a need for more education and awareness on what constitutes gender bias
- the culture of sexism and intimidation of women journalists still persists, and thus suggests a need for whole organisational reorientation and training of the male media management on gender consciousness

**IJ hubs mapping study**
Findings were presented at the AUCJ20 for prominent investigative journalists on the content. The main outcome of this study is that it will inform activity design (connecting centres) for a potential phase 2 ff the CHARM project. The findings will help Fojo/Wits to understand challenges and opportunities regarding IJ from a regional perspective – there is a gap today.
**Interactive digital map** and study summary to showcase where the IJ hubs are located. A web developer and designer has been chosen. The map will be ready during Q4.

**Sustainable journalism study** together with Wits (Fojo lead) we are developing the concept sustainable journalism in sub-Sahara Africa. ToR for sustainable journalism SSA has been developed and study is ongoing (to be finalised during Q1 2021). The objectives of the study is to:

1. Introduce to the concept of sustainable journalism
2. Define what the concept could entail in a Sub-Saharan context.
3. Investigate the implications for media development in Sub-Saharan Africa – how can this concept be used in practice in news production (give practical examples)

**Community Radio Mapping study** (Wits lead) Together with Wits. ToR has been developed; consultant chosen. Literature review took place during Q4 and the final report will be presented during Q1 2021.

**Sustainable journalism study**
Sustainable journalism is not a generally defined concept. The team of researchers will try to define this concept in an sub-Saharan Africa context. How can we work sustainable and build coalitions? The aim is that the findings will help us to design sustainable collaborations and activities going forward that has sustainable outcomes. A chapter about sustainable journalism will be included in the think tank anthology.

**Community Radio mapping study:**
The findings will help Wits/Fojo understand challenges and opportunities regarding from a regional perspective. This will be used for designing informed activities for the next phase.

**Fellowship Programme**
A call for application was advertised on Africa Check’s social media platform. They received 99 applications for the four fellowships places that indicates journalist’ interest in learning more about fact-checking. Applications were received from major media organisations and included journalists, investigative reporters, editors and sub-editors.

However, late during Q4 (end of December) Africa Check and Fojo decided to cancel the Fellowship Programme due to Covid. This was a CANCELLED
very big disappointment since a lot of planning and efforts have been used for this activity. Africa Check has submitted a new proposal (attached [6]) that Fojo has approved.

Other: Supporting Partnership

**Partnership with AWIM (sub-granting)**
Support to the AWIM learning platform [https://awimlearning.com](https://awimlearning.com) and their new website through subgrants. Fojo has also supported organisational development and supported staff (successful recruitment of Programme Officer and Editor-in-chief).

The new website that was launched in December 2020:
[https://africanwomeninmedia.com](https://africanwomeninmedia.com)
Support also included content (see articles below).

5 newsletters was circulated during this quarter (circulation list just under 1600 per issue).

During the next quarter AWIM will be ready with their 4 courses (10 modules each) focusing on gender and digital journalism.

**Partnership with Africa Check**
Via sub-granting
The Africa Facts network is a platform for fact-checkers from across Africa to learn from each other, and to share challenges and ideas. Africa Check also provides advice to other African fact-checkers on issues such as the process of fact-checking, obtaining funding, measuring impact, etc.

Activities including an annual in-person convening, regular newsletters and online meetings, organisational support based on the needs expressed by other fact-checking organisations, and a fellowship programme for African fact-checkers.

Online Fact checking meeting: 15 December 2020

**AWIM:**
Working with AWIM has been a very fruitful and close collaboration so far. Fojo and AWIM have worked closely on the gender study and now supporting the AWIM learning platform, AWIM virtual conference and the development of a new website: AWIM news.

AWIM has a great regional online reach and are very active on social media. By using social media they promote advocacy and research to promote female journalists in the region. They have a vast network and are mobilising many women journalists across the region. Due to their large network they contribute and inform the way media functions in relation to African women. They conduct trainings, provide network for best practice and tools/tips and offering mentoring support. They have been very creative coming up with online solutions due to Covid – for example using LinkedIn-learning programmes.

**Africa Check**
During the first period of the collaboration Fojo and Africa Check has had very tight communication. We have supported 10 trainings, discussed how to adjust training curricula, connect Africa Check with other interesting partners in the region and developed contingency plans for the fellowship programme. The collaboration has worked very well so far.

The overall objective is to strengthen and improve fact-checking initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa and improve the quality of information, public debate and enabling people to make better evidence-based decisions. Ultimately, the aim for both organisations is to strengthen democracy. The Africa Facts network has shown tremendous growth since the first in-person meeting in Johannesburg at the end of 2017. Africa Check’s efforts in reaching out to new fact-checkers across the continent over the past few months has led to four new fact-checking organisations joining our network. Going forward, Africa Check will continue these efforts as every new member brings new ideas to the table for fostering the practice of fact-checking across the continent.

**Feedback from members about the support and guidance offered by Africa Check**

**Ghana Fact:** “Africa Check has played the big brother role in guiding Fact Space West Africa (GhanaFact) through very key stages of the formation and operation of this
Starting FactCheckHub, a fact-checking organisation recently launched by the International Centre for Investigative Reporting in Nigeria – Opeyemi Okechine, FactCheckHub

Group discussion on fact-checking during Covid-19. This was an open discussion for all attendees to share the challenges they’ve experienced and lessons learnt while fact-checking information related to the pandemic. 18 representatives from different fact-checking organisations.

2 fact-checking newsletter was produced during this quarter - attached (7).

**Partnership with GIJN**

Via sub-granting

See their latest newsletter: https://mailchi.mp/gijn/top-stories-of-2020-african-4-in-21-new-resources?e=3fbb9832ae

We are very happy to report that GIJN, with the support from Fojo, since last December 2019 have added more than 30 new resources that can be accessed in the Africa section of their website. See links for useful investigative tips and tools in Kinyarwanda, Kiswahili and Amharic can be found.

For more information also see the article with the GIJN editors attached (8).

**CHARM - Think tank**

During this quarter a lot of focus has been put on the establishment of the CHARM Think tank and think tank related activities such as the CSO mapping study (by CHARM CT) and to the think tank anthology being produced.

On 10 December a partner and expert meeting was held. See detailed notes and participation list attached (9). The meeting was a working meeting and the participants were divided in group-rooms to discuss and share. Thereafter they presented the main discussions points.

organization. We were successful in becoming a verified member of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), less than a year since we launched, to a large extent because of the mentorship and guidance we received. And to appreciate the importance of this, it is worth knowing that there are currently less than ten verified IFCN signatories on the continent”.

**Congo Check:** “Africa Check strongly inspired me to set up Congo Check. Then, Africa Check through its former director/founder Peter Cunliffe-Jones helped us find our first funding (The Shuttleworth foundation’s flash grant). This allowed us to set up our first equipped with essential materials for our work”.

**GIJN**

Increased presence in Sub-Sahara Africa.

With bigger presence on the continent GIJN is reaching more journalists and are sharing best practice on investigative tips and tools, groundbreaking stories, grants and fellowships, data sets and more, in English, French and their targeted three languages – Kiswahili, Kinyarwanda and Amharic.

Note that I am still waiting to receive the latest stats from GIJN. They will be incorporated in this report.

**CHARM - Think tank**

Journalists and publishers alone cannot save journalism and civil society activists and human rights activists cannot alone defend civil space. To ensure that African media organisations develop to become viable players in the changing political, technical and economic landscape and that civil society (including human rights defenders) become more resilient and defying the shrinking space - new coalitions need to be built and existing ones strengthened, therefore the Think tank has been set up.

The establishment of is activity is a first outcome for coalition building amongst the consortium partners. Efforts have been made to make this into a collaborative CHARM initiative – jointly owned by the consortium partners. Fojo strongly believes that this initiative is very important going forward (phase 2)– to jointly work together against the shrinking space
Shupi was the moderator. A second meeting is planned for late January/early February.

**Think tank anthology**

During Q4 a lot of work with the anthology took place. The editor is currently editing the contributions from CHARM-partners and experts. The anthology will be published and printed during Q1 2021.

Going forward – suggestion for next phase: to do a second anthology later on in the project also to see/assess progress on collaboration. What are the lessons learnt? The theory of change – what was our contribution?

**Media Tech Hub in Kenya (TI-Kenya)**

During Q2-Q4 Fojo supported Transparency International Kenya (TIK) to develop and build a digital platform to promote journalism, tech and civil society. The platform is now ready and TIK is currently populating it with content. [http://mediatechhub.ke/](http://mediatechhub.ke/) it will officially be launched on 3rd Feb 2021. Magamba is providing support on content.

For more information about the e-learning courses see the Production of explainer videos attached (10).

**Media tech hub in Kenya**

Bringing Journalism & Tech Together (Redesign activity due to Covid)

Innovative solutions and tools from the Media-Tech Hub will be used for knowledge management and analysis to provide ready content for use by Journalists on social accountability aspects of service delivery in Kenya in sectors such as Education and Health – connecting this to the A4T-project: [https://actionfortransparency.org](https://actionfortransparency.org)

We regard this as a very sustainable project that will live on after CHARM. This was also a very good initiative to support during Covid and was not first part of our workplan (part of redesign). The hub will provide journalists with reliable, updated tools and information as well as providing e-learning. It is also about improving CSO, media and tech working to find new methods and ways to collaborate. Interactions between Hub Afrique, Magamba, AWiM and Ti-Kenya is ongoing and exiting collaborations is being developed.

**TI-K & Magamba collaboration** (Kenya & Zimbabwe + regional impact)

Fojo is supporting collaboration between Magamba and Ti-Kenya. Activities include develop covid-19 plugs. Plan is that participants from Kenya, Zimbabwe and Nigeria will participate. Agreement is in place, planning is ongoing and the first hackathon is planned for end of January 2021. [See ToR attached (11).]

**TI-K & Magamba collaboration**

Regional collaboration and coalition building. Fojo has supported this collaboration to happened where the aim is to support collaborative efforts around civic technologies. Co-design is currently taking place.

**Africa Educators Network** (Fojo and Wits)

of democracy and to fight against the HR-violations we can see spreading on the continent. From Fojo’s perspective this is a key activity for the future of the CHARM-project.

Next phase, learning, challenges. Stories from the project – part of co-creation into next phase. Collaborative efforts – secretariat, Fojo and all partners.
This is a joint activity where the aim is to support the set-up of a regional educator’s network in Sub-Saharan Africa.

During this quarter a lot of planning between Fojo and Wits took place building of the good momentum from the first-round table in held in May. The IJ education mapping study (part of Africa Educators Network) was launched on 9th December. Wits will have statistics how many participated in the meeting. Several journalism academics from the continent attended.

The launch took the form of a panel discussion, which was chaired by Prof Franz Kruger and comprised Alan Finlay, Prof Monica Chibita from the Uganda Christian University, Roukaya Kasenally from the University of Mauritius and Adelej Adenkule from Nigeria’s Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism.

The purpose of the mapping was to identify trends in journalism education and training in sub-Saharan Africa, challenges and areas of creativity and teaching, and what we called ‘centres responding to a changing environment. See webinar poster attached (12),

- A WhatsApp group was created during Q4.
- A newsletter is being developed and the first one will be distributed early January 2021.
- Webinar will be held during Q1 2021,

In a 2nd phase of the CHARM-project, Fojo and Wits would like to expand this activity and explore how to connect to the NordMedia Network https://nordmedianetwork.org platform. Meeting have already taken place with Nordicom and Professor Terje Skjerdal (NLA University Norway).

Africa Educators Network
Both Wits and Fojo sees tremendous potential working further to develop and support this network. There is currently no such thing as a regional journalism educators’ network sharing best practice on practical journalism training or to promote Africa journalism research – including student research in SSA. We have identified a need/gap).

Fojo and Wits foresees that this activity could have a very big impact and could have real sustainability contribution. Adapting the NordMedia could be a very interesting track – but it is key that we know if we will get a 2nd phase of funding since we do not want to create expectations and not be able to see this through. In order for this to work it is key to have a person who is in charge of the monthly newsletter, compiles articles, opportunities etc as well as communicating with the participants.
STORIES FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS/CONSTITUENTS (Partners to input)

Africa Check
See attachments below (newsletters and training reports)

GIJN
https://gijn.org/gijn-africa-home/
GIJN article attached (will be part of Fojo’s Annual Year book (produced in Q1 2021)

AWiM
News articles commissioned through CHARM-support (see AWiMs website).

1. The Future is female

2. Much Ado about GPT-3

3. Why Newsrooms and journalism schools need Data Journalism

4. Covid-era uncertainty could exacerbate sexual harassment

5. Photo Essay: Taking control of our narrative starts with us

6. Photo Essay: Love Lockdown
https://africanwomeninmedia.com/photo-essay-love-lockdown

7. Founa K’s gift of positivity to late night listeners

8. Re-writing the narrative: Sophie Hakali (15 January)

9. Safer Spaces: Chadwick Boseman and his portrayal of a wholesome African Masculinity

10. Everyone is creating content online: https://africanwomeninmedia.com/everyone-is-creating-content-online/

11. Women championing the rights of marginalised communities (19 January)
LEARNING AND ADAPTION (Partners to input)
(What was your most significant learning and how have you adapted as a result of this learning?) (200 words max)

Fojo is continuing to focus efforts on strengthening and connecting good initiatives and to promote capacity building and sustainable relationships with and amongst partners. We believe that these activities and collaborations will lead to new synergies and networks being formed that will have big impact on the CHARM-objectives.

We see that there are a lot of good national initiatives out there – but few regional. CHARM can contribute here and support with coordination.

We believe that in a phase 2 of CHARM we can work to incorporate more collaboration amongst the consortium partners. The Think Tank and anthology may be a good starting point for this and something to build further on.

Design joint activities (workplan and budget) from the on-set.

COLLABORATION (Partners to input)

What has been your most significant outcomes related to collaboration with other CHARM partners? What made this collaboration so successful?

Fojo has worked very close with Wits Journalism from the start. Early on, during the first planning meeting in December 2019 in Addis Ababa we decided to do a joint work plan and budget. This has helped the collaboration and implementation immensely. Even though Fojo and Wits had not worked together before the CHARM project we have been able to work very closely. Fojo and Wits are both supporting media development and capacity development and we early identified the Africa Educators Network as a key activity. Clear roles and responsibilities have been important for successful implementation as well as close communication (email, zoom, teams – often several times every week).

During this quarter interactions have increased much due to Think Tank initiative. At the same time partners have been very busy during this quarter implementing a lot of activities so it has at time been challenging to receive partner in-put.

Very important to develop joint activities from the beginning – but make sure to plan and allocate enough time/recourses from the beginning.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI) (Partners to input)

Fojo work to go beyond the numbers and look at the narrative and context!
- All support to Africa Women in Media: ex support to their Website, AWiM learning, AWiM conference, Gender study, webinars.
- All trainings include gender indicators (ex Africa check and Magamba/Ti-Kenya) – participation but also content.
- Specific gender fact-checking (also looking at the context/narrative)
- Fact checking for journalism students (youth)
SUSTAINING CHARM-AFRICA OUTCOMES (Partners and Coordination team)

See answers above. Example of redesign:

1. Redesign of original support to AWiM’s annual conference, instead support to AWiM learning: a digital platform supporting female journalists in the region with e-learning, training and other resources, as well as their new website: AWiM News and their virtual conference (December 2020).

2. Think tank collaboration: Physical meetings were not possible, instead online meetings and decision to do a Think tank anthology where each consortium partner (and experts) contribute was made during Q4.


4. TIK – media tech hub - Supporting tech and journalism

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Partners and Coordination team)

Highlight three main challenges you faced during the past year of CHARM and ways in which they have been or will be addressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>How it has been/will be addressed</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not meeting IRL – difficult in the beginning of a project, especially a consortium projects where most of the partners had not worked together before.</td>
<td>Digitally. It works but it takes longer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom fatigue</td>
<td>Shorter meetings/trainings sessions needed/divide the training – see last training with Africa Check and GIJN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>Covid has led to new collaborations/concepts being developed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attachments:

- 1. Africa Check training report
- 2. Africa check training stats document
- 3. IDT report AUC20
- 4. Media poster Hub Afrique and Ti-Kenya
- 5. Gender report (AWiM) – toolkit + promotions (examples) + testimonials from virtual conference
- 6. Approved proposal from Africa Check (due to cancelled Fellowship programme)
- 7. Africa check newsletter x 2
- 8. GIJN article by Fojo
- 9. Think tank notes + participation list
- 10. Media tech hub video explainers
- 11. TOR Magamba & Ti-Kenya
- 12. Journalism Education Mapping study poster + PDF + article