

BULLETIN **27**

5th January, 2022

PAKISTAN CORONAVIRUS CIVACTS CAMPAIGN (CCC)



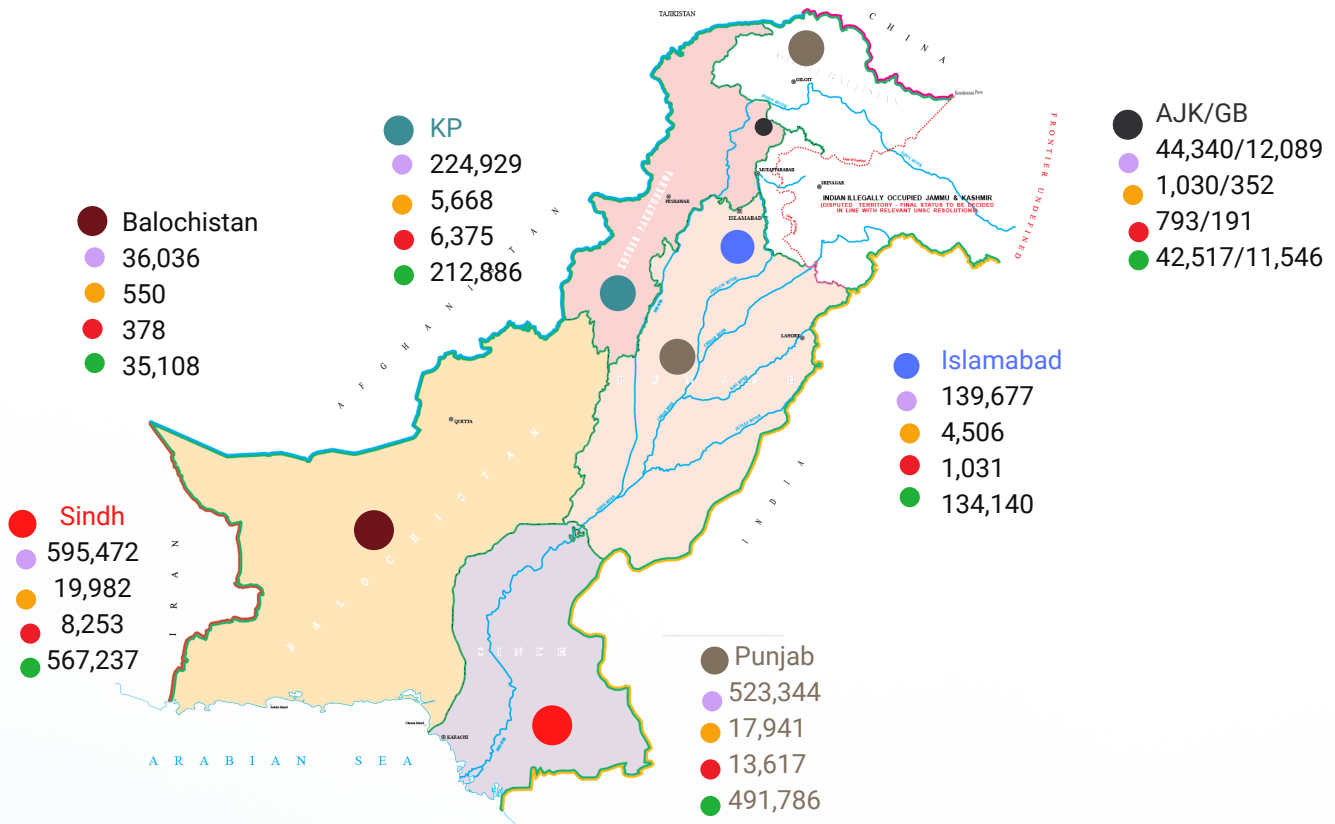
For over two years, Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC) supported by the Open Society Foundation (OSF) debunked fake news, misinformation, and myths around COVID19.

The campaign now focuses on building healthy information ecosystems where we will lead and support efforts to stop the spread of fake news and misinformation in Pakistan in a broader manner. The focus of our work might not necessarily be around Covid 19, unless, of course, we face a new wave. We plan to tackle fake news around health emergencies (remember, polio is still a challenge in Pakistan and fake news is responsible for creating perennial vaccine hesitation), politics, sociocultural taboos, and other similar phenomena.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- COVID UPDATES.
- A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF FAKE NEWS, MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION
- STEPS INVOLVED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD (Pakistan)



■ Confirmed Cases
 ■ critical cases
 ■ Recoveries
 ■ Deaths



Confirmed Cases
1,575,887

Last 24h : 33



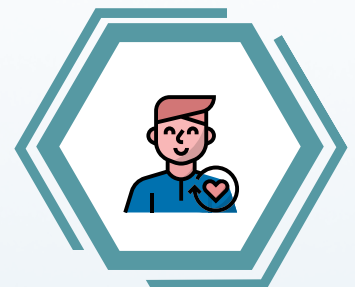
Critical Cases
741

Last 24h : 0



Deaths
30,638

Last 24h : 0



Recoveries
1,544,508

Last 24h : 18

Source : [Government of Pakistan](https://www.gov.pk)

It is the responsibility of the youth to help counter the misinformation that is having a devastating effect on the public.

“Media communication students, in particular, have a better understanding of misinformation and disinformation and can play a vital role in helping others navigate misinformation.”

— **Mr. Mateen Haider**
Senior Anchor Person/Analyst GTV



The problem of fake news is as old as journalism itself ; with the accessibility of social media, the spread of fake news has become very common.

“As responsible citizens, we should be able to understand and recognize search engines and verified sources. Only in this way, we will be able to access authentic information.”

— **Dr. Shazia Hashmat**
Assistant Prof. Communication and Media Studies FJWU



“Your every click pours money into the fake news industry.

It is important for academic institutions to provide students with a solid foundation and perspective on media and information literacy as part of the curriculum. Teachers must be well-trained in order to empower students with the necessary competencies to critically understand and assess information reported by all forms of media.”

— **Dr. Zafar Iqbal -**
Dean of the Social Sciences Department, International Islamic University



WAYS TO HIT UPON MISINFORMATION

To combat misinformation, one must first learn how to spot it. Following are some of the ways to determine credibility of a piece of information.

MAKE SURE IT'S NOT A JOKE

There are satire websites that share sensational content for laughs. If something seems outlandish, determine whether the content is meant to inform or entertain.

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Does the website have a "Contact Us" or "About Us" page? Does it have a trusted domain, like ".edu" or ".gov?" What are the author's credentials, have they written anything else? What is their motivation for writing the piece? Consider who shared the information with you. Are they a reputable source (i.e., work in healthcare)?

READ BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Oftentimes headlines are sensational, crafted to grab your attention. Dig into the content itself, does the information support the claims? Did the author cherry pick data, or use information out of context? If so, raise a red flag.

EXAMINE SUPPORTING SOURCES

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Review the date

REVIEW THE DATE

Sometimes people will share content that is several years old and may no longer be relevant. Ensure the information is recent and if it is not, think about how that may influence its credibility.

CHECK YOUR BIASES

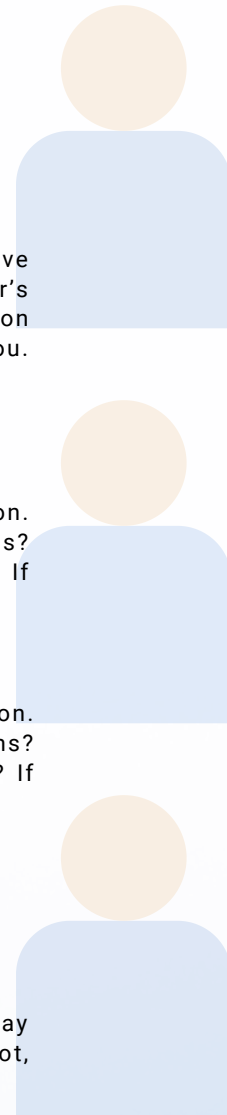
Consider if, and how, your own beliefs may be affecting your judgment. Are you viewing the information objectively, or looking for how the information aligns or conflicts with your own perspective on an issue?

SOCIAL MEDIA FUELS THE SPREAD OF MISINFORMATION

The sheer extent of content that people are bombarded everyday through social media, contributes to the dispersal of misinformation. Social media platforms allow users the possibility to say something they need with very confined moderation. Bots and algorithms on websites also extend facts, regardless of incredibility. Sifting through these facts, pollution can be overwhelming and time-consuming. People can also hit the "share" button quickly without preventing them from recollecting the accuracy of the information they may be sharing.

ASK AN EXPERT

If you can't tell if something is true, ask an expert in the field, such as a doctor, other healthcare professional or scientist, or find someone who can point you in the right direction, like a librarian. Fact-checker websites can also be useful for disentangling fact from fiction.



HOW TO STOP FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks, What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

DO a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story?



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to the current event.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too oldish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if you have your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

