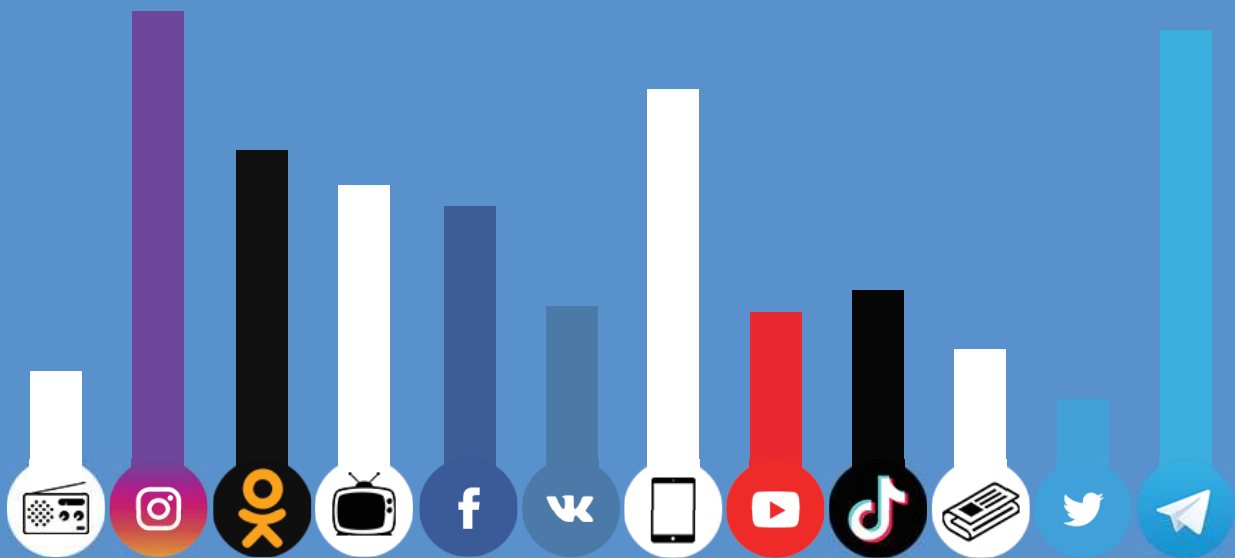


INFOGRAPHICS

Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 and Media Consumption among Vulnerable Communities in Central Asia

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Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 and Media Consumption among Vulnerable Communities in Central Asia



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MIXED METHODOLOGY



Quantitative & qualitative interviews and survey responses with vulnerable communities & content producers

120 semi-structured interviews with content producers (e.g. journalists & bloggers)

2000 survey responses and 500 in-depth interviews with refugees and stateless persons, ethnic minorities and labour migrants



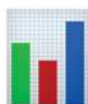
Cross-comparisons & contrasts

at the national & regional level

(inc. special attention to gender, age, income and urban-rural divide)



Quantitative inferences and Qualitative field observations



Findings & recommendations



FINDING: SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Gender-impact



Serious increase in domestic violence & gender inequality



20% more women reported unemployment compared to men



Impact on labour migrants and ethnic minorities?



Border closures and economic uncertainty dramatically increased



The socio-economic roots of the protests in Kyrgyzstan were clearly identified in the data



Impact on refugees and stateless persons?



Poorest, least educated & most vulnerable during COVID-19



1% have a university degree & 63% have a low income



FINDING: MEDIA TRENDS

Preferred information channels?

In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan between 50% and 63% of labour migrants and ethnic minorities report Instagram as their favorite information source



Who gets coverage?

Labour migrants are reported as receiving far more media coverage compared to other vulnerable communities like ethnic minorities or refugees and stateless persons



Are there Internet restrictions?

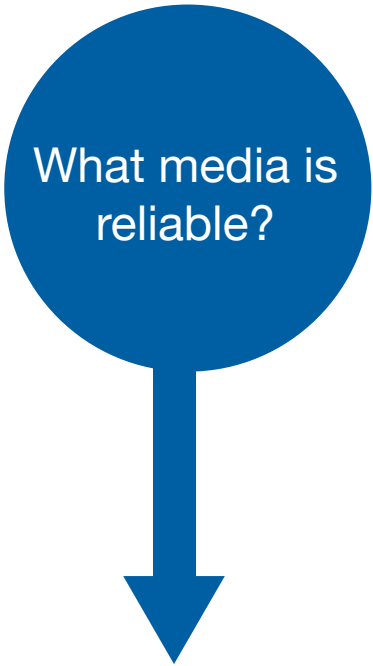
Across Central Asia, 36% of refugees and stateless persons report Internet restrictions

In Kazakhstan, 44% of ethnic minorities report Internet restrictions

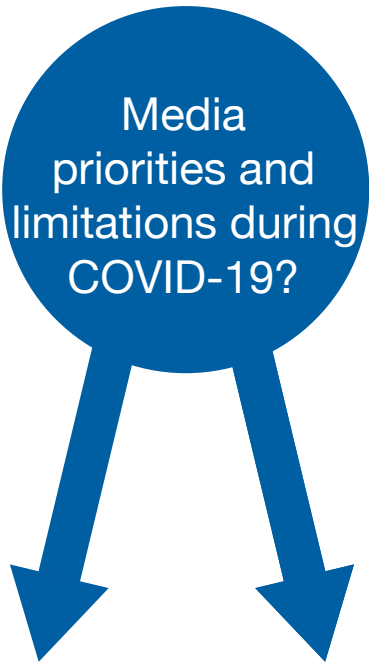
In Tajikistan, 50% of ethnic minorities report Internet restrictions



FINDING: COVID-19 IMPACT ON MEDIA CONSUMPTION AND COMBATING DISINFORMATION



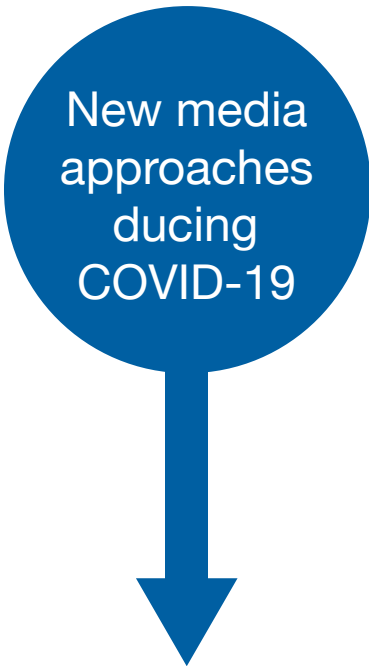
Vulnerable communities report that international news is more reliable on COVID-19



Debunking information became a top priority for journalists due to high "fake news" exposure rate



Little consensus exists surrounding the exact definitions of fake news and "what exactly fake news is?"



Journalists reached out to more experts and specialists to educate audiences and new interactive methods to engage with viewers/readers/listeners were developed



RECOMMENDATIONS

Civil Society
in Central
Asia should
consider...

Supporting
and working
on more
Internet
privacy-
projects



Increase their
partnerships
and exchange
with European
and international
civil society and
organisations



Participate and engage
in interdisciplinary and
Central Asian intra-
regional training projects
to cooperate and support
exchange of info on
COVID-19



Central
Asian content
producers
should
consider...

Reporting on and
covering more news
about vulnerable
communities with a
specific focus on refugees
and stateless persons



Consider providing
targeted news coverage
in more languages



Foster better cooperation
& coordination among
content producers to
minimize the risk of fake
news



RECOMMENDATION

International donors and the EU should consider...

Allocate targeted funding towards civil society and journalist capacity & exchange on fact-checking, fundraising and reporting on PVE



Support more research and data collection on vulnerable communities, emphasising on women, low income groups and refugees and stateless persons



Voice more concern about social and economic exclusion across Central Asia, including serious Internet restrictions among vulnerable communities



Increasing transparency and access to data and research across Central Asia (e.g. allowing companies, researchers & media to conduct interviews & surveys)



Governments across Central Asia should consider...

Design special communication strategies to inform the public about government measures to support households during the pandemic





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