

CDD NEWSLETTER

FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31, 2021

DO NIGERIANS BELIEVE IN VACCINES AND THEIR EFFICACY?

Nigeria is working towards acquiring its first batch of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. While Nigeria's domestic development agency for health, National Primary Health Care Development Agency and philanthropist Bill Gates argue over which is more important, investing in Primary Health Care or COVID-19 vaccines, Nigerians for whom the argument is taking place on their behalf are more concerned with how the latter is behind a scheme to depopulate Africa.



The conspiracy theory linking Bill Gates to a plot to depopulate Africa using dubious means has been around for a while, but it became popular at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. This conspiracy has been targeted at Africans especially Nigeria and South Africa.

But no one has been able to provide evidence to prove these claims. While fact-checkers battle these conspiracy theories around Africa, the spread of the new coronavirus variant has led to the rise of a fresh wave of dangerous conspiracy theories.

Along with the belief in other conspiracy theories – such as that the world is run by a secret cabal – the YouGov-Cambridge Globalism Project, a survey of about 26,000 people in 25 countries designed in collaboration with [the Guardian](#), found widespread and concerning skepticism about vaccine safety.

The report published by the Guardian late last year revealed that a “significant numbers

of people around the world believe Covid-19 was created deliberately, has killed far fewer people than reported, or is a hoax and does not exist, according to a global survey.”

The report says respondents in Nigeria and Greece were most likely to believe the Covid-19 fatality rate had been exaggerated.

ARE YOU AN EXPERT ON THE FAKE NEWS ECOSYSTEM IN ANY OF THE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH GOOD RESEARCH SKILLS? WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.



CALL FOR COUNTRY EXPERTS

RESEARCH INTO THE 'FAKE NEWS' ECO-SYSTEM IN WEST AFRICA

THE CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SEEKS TO RECRUIT FIFTEEN (15) RESEARCHERS TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES IN EACH OF THE 15 ECOWAS MEMBER STATES

INTERESTED APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:

- ✓ A university degree
- ✓ A minimum of five years experience conducting or supporting research in the country(ies) of interest.
- ✓ Specific experience working on issues of misinformation/disinformation; or socialmedia; or communications; or other relevant areas.
- ✓ Demonstratable contacts in the digital space in the country(ies) of expertise. Examples of published written analysis on the theme, or relevant themes.

PLEASE STATE IN YOUR EMAIL THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES THAT YOU WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR. WE WILL BE REVIEWING APPLICATIONS ON A ROLLING BASIS

TO APPLY

Please send a CV, a short (max one-page) cover letter detailing your relevant experience and an example of your published written work to

recruitment@cddwestafrica.org

Centre for Democracy & Development
Centre pour la démocratie et le développement

@CDDWestafrica www.cddwestafrica.org

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) is looking to recruit up to fifteen (15) researchers to undertake studies in each of the 15 ECOWAS member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) that will assess the misinformation and disinformation eco-system.

Those selected will work with CDD's research coordinator to produce a country report based on a review of relevant regional and country-specific literature and key informant interviews. They will also be expected to participate in two (virtual) workshops – one at the start of the project to support the development of the key themes to explore and one at the end to highlight key trends that can feed into a regional report.

Get more details on the opportunity [here](#)

CDD RANKED HIGH AMONG SUB-SAHARAN THINK TANKS



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A new ranking by the Global To Go Think Tank Index of the University of Pennsylvania has ranked the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) as the top-rank civil society think tank organisation in Nigeria.

The 2020 report released Thursday, January 28, 2021, also rated CDD as number 11 in Sub-Saharan, moving up from its 16th position in the institution's last report. CDD takes the lead after Ethiopia Policy Studies Institute (PSI) FNA Ethiopia Development Research Center and African Economic Research Consortium (AERC, Kenya) which ranked nine and 10 respectively.

Following CDD on the table of top 15 Sub-Saharan think tanks are the Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES) (Côte d'Ivoire), Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) (South Africa), Centre for Development and Enterprise (CDE) (South Africa) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (South Africa) on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th positions.

Referred to as the **"think tanks' think tank,"** TTCSP said it examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations and over the last 30 years, the program has developed and led a series of global initiatives.

In her reaction to the ranking, the Director of CDD, Idayat Hassan, said while this is a pat on the back for the work done by the Centre to strengthen democracy and improve good governance in Nigeria and the West African region, this is also a call to do more.

Hassan said: *"This means more and more work for us at the CDD, but the fact remains that we at the Centre will not relent in our effort to promote the values of democracy, peace and human rights in Africa, particularly in the West African sub-region."*

Read more [here](#)

HOW I LOST MY WIFE, 4 CHILDREN TO FLOOD – 50-YEAR-OLD MAN NARRATES IN NEW DOCUMENTARY



For 50-years-old butcher, Muhammadu Kabiru Zakari Y'au, the effect of corruption in Nigeria and embezzlement of the Ecological Fund translates to the loss of his entire household.

Y'au, also known as Usama narrating his life-wrenching ordeal in a documentary; Ecological Funds and the Cost of Corruption in Nigeria, virtually screened on Monday, January 25, by the CDD in collaboration with Action Aid Nigeria and Centre for Communication and Social Impact (CCSI), supported by Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), said he had gone to the mosque to preach when it started raining.

"They tried calling me to no avail, I went home from the mosque and on getting to my neighbourhood, I saw the mishap caused by the rain," Y'au said.

According to him, he had met a neighbour who told him that his wife and four kids had been washed away by the flood.

"On approaching my house, I noticed there was no house there anymore, just bare land. I was walking inside the water and the water was up to my chest level. I was going around looking for my family," Y'au said.

Y'au said upon arrival, some of his brothers came to meet him. They started crying and he joined them in crying, still confused as they walked the community in search of his loved ones.

"We walked to the river all the way to a place near the road that leads to Bauchi. It was there we found the corpse of my daughter, later I got a call that they've found my wife's body too somewhere behind the University of Jos," he said.

The following day, more bodies were found and Y'au was called to confirm if they were his children.

Continue to read [here](#)

CDD is urging Nigerians to always verify the authenticity of stories before sharing them.

You can forward suspicious messages for verification via +2349062910568 or contact us on twitter @CDDWestAfrica

#StopFakeNews #StopDisinformation

Center for Democracy and Development West Africa| CDD West Africa



The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) was established in the United Kingdom in 1997 as an independent, not-for-profit, research training, advocacy and capacity building organisation

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