



# **Resource Guide**

## WFUNA International Model United Nations New York City 2024

30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024 Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square

**World Health Assembly (2)** 

**Strengthening infodemic management** 





#### **Foreword**

Welcome to WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024.

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and subsections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!





### **Topic introduction**

According to WHO, "An infodemic is too much information including false or misleading information in digital and physical environments during a disease outbreak." In a disease outbreak, the influx of both genuine and misleading information could confuse the public and may lead to unwanted, unscientific, and wrong actions. This could lead to counterproductive results, negatively impact the battle against the disease, and endanger public health. Therefore, infodemic management is a vital part of the battle against a disease outbreak. Infodemic management aims to mitigate the threat of misleading information during a disease outbreak using scientific methods.

Given the increasing penetration of the Internet in more and more countries and regions, the digital space is replacing traditional media as the central arena for the spread of information. The easy accessibility and speed of digital communications is helping to facilitate the growing dominance of the digital space and making it a critical component of managing the present-day infodemic. This does not mean the Internet has equally spread to every country alike. Still, there are countries and regions where radio remains the predominant source of information. Nonetheless, in the case of more than half of the global nations, internet and digital facilities are fast emerging.

The Covid-19 outbreak has showcased the significance of infodemic management and the disastrous impact of using digital space for spreading misinformation. As a result of the infodemic following the Covid-19 outbreak, hundreds of people lost lives, major countries faced resistance against Covid vaccination drives, and governments worldwide faced obstacles in their battle against the virus. To effectively resist the infodemic, governments and international agencies should step up their presence in the digital space, ensure the collaboration and cooperation of tech firms, and use traditional and digital media more effectively to spread genuine information.





#### **UN Resources**

#### Official documents

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• A74/A/CONF./2: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

Published: 2021

• WHA73.1: COVID-19 response

Published: 2020

• A/75/L.68: Global Media and Information Literacy Week

Published: 2021

Summary: WHA and UNGA resolutions that highlight the consequences of disinformation and misinformation in health emergencies

#### Infodemic management

Infodemic

Summary: World Health Organization (WHO) web portal on the infodemic.

Infodemic Management

Summary: WHO's official definition of the keywords: "infodemic" and "infodemic management".

WHO course "Infodemic Management 101"

Summary: WHO courses on infodemic management.

Published: 2021

WHO public health research agenda for managing infodemics

Summary: Public health research agenda for the management of infodemics created by the WHO, to serve as a framework for building a global capacity to better manage health emergencies.

Published: 2021

#### Finding the Signal Through the Noise

Summary: Report produced by Health Enable with technical guidance and support from a Global Partnership formed by WHO, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF and Vaccination Demand Hub.





This report presents an overview of the current digital approaches to social listening for immunization, which is very important to understand and correctly respond to the needs and concerns that arise during the pandemic.

Published: 2021

 Infodemic Signal Detection During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Development of a Methodology for Identifying Potential Information Voids in Online Conversations

Summary: This WHO paper published by the new journal JMIR Infodemiology and written by Purnat TD et al, describes the development of a social listening public health structure for the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be used to navigate, identify and filter the information overload that can occur in an infodemic.

Published: 2021

#### • Countries urged to act against COVID-19 'infodemic'

Summary: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic as a communications emergency, which warranted the response of governments, media platforms, and "digital first responders" to promote science, offer solutions, and inspire solidarity *Published*: 2021

• Statement on the eighth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Summary: At this meeting, some advice to the WHO Secretariat and some temporary recommendations to States Parties were made, including the importance of strengthening the communication strategies and the relevance of addressing community engagement and communications gaps, both at national, regional and global levels, to reduce COVID-19 transmission and counter misinformation.

Published: 2021

### WHO Director-General and global faith leaders high-level dialogue on COVID-19

Summary: Dialogue about a multi-faith collaboration in the pandemic response between WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Religions for Peace (RfP) senior leaders. Strengthening partnerships with faith-based communities is a new area for combating the infodemic,





mainly because being well positioned to reach communities is a good opportunity to be a trusted source of support and information.

Published: 2021

• An ad hoc WHO technical consultation managing the COVID-19 infodemic: call for action

*Summary:* Report that highlights the public impacts of infodemic and presents the management structure for COVID-19 infodemic.

Published: 2020

Infodemic management: a key component of the COVID-19 global response

Summary: Brief article on infodemic in the COVID-19 pandemic and the work by WHO's Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN).

Published: 2020

• WHO public health research agenda for managing infodemics

Summary: WHO public health research agenda that aims to foster a coordinated and evidence-based approach to ensure universal access to reliable health information. The research agenda focuses on the evaluation of the infodemic impacts, how to study them, what drives them, approaches to better manage them, and considerations for operationalizing new tools for both the science and practice of infodemic management.

Published: 2021

 WHO third global infodemic management conference: whole-of-society challenges and approaches to respond to infodemics

Summary: Page cannot be found.

Published: 2020

• <u>Fifth virtual WHO infodemic management conference, 2, 4, 9 and 11 November 2021: meeting</u> report: steps towards measuring the burden of infodemics

Summary: A report of the WHO 5th virtual infodemic management conference. This report summarizes the themes emerging from wide-ranging discussions at the conference.





#### • 3rd WHO training on infodemic management

Summary: A training course on infodemic management. The trainees will learn about: the emerging topics in infodemic management, strategy development, and policy implications in infodemic management.

Published: 2021

An Overview of Infodemic Management during COVID-19 January 2020—May 2021 [Note: this
is being updated and will be published with additional information in early February 2023 so
check for a new URL before the conference.]

Summary:

Published: 2021

#### WHO policy brief: COVID-19 infodemic management, 14 September 2022

Summary: WHO policy brief on COVID-19 infodemic management focuses on training for health workers to better identify and address health information, tailor health information to specific populations to avoid misinformation on digital media and other channels, develop high-quality and accessible health information in digital formats, and establish an infodemic workforce for rapid infodemic insights generation and response.

Published: 2022

 Infodemic Management: FOR A STRONGER COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND BETTER PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGING HEALTH THREATS

Summary: WHO research on how to manage an infodemic, the misinformation and disinformation that cause real harm to health, public trust, and social cohesion. This research explains in detail the definition of infodemic, how people absorb information and how to manage an overabundance of information during a pandemic.





#### Other resources

Addressing health misinformation

Summary: - Comprehensive training

Published: 2022

• EPI-WIN: WHO Information Network for Epidemics

Summary: WHO's Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) seeks to provide resources and updates during epidemics to disseminate safe and specialized information.

Early Al-supported Response with Social Listening (EARS)

*Summary:* An Al tool created by WHO to help health authorities quickly identify the dissemination of information that could interfere in combating and containing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weekly epidemiological record, 8 July 2022, No 27, 2022, 97, 313–324: Delivering actionable infodemic insights and recommendations for the COVID-19 pandemic response. : Delivering actionable infodemic insights and recommendations for the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Summary:

Published: 2022

<u>Digital tools and strategies in COVID-19 infodemic response: Case studies and discussion</u>

Summary: Case studies and discussion on the role of digital technology during the pandemic.

Published: 2021

 Selection of data from online platforms that would enable better understanding of disinformation online and efforts to counter it (Discussion paper)

Summary: United Nations Interagency Dialogue on Disinformation and Data Transparency.

Published: 2021

 Shared UN considerations for online communications companies on the issues of countering disinformation and enhancing transparency (Discussion paper 2)

Summary: Video of Tina Purnat and Elisabeth Wilhelm addressing health misinformation. This video aims to teach participants on defining basic terms associated with infodemics, describe common approaches used to manipulate people with misinformation and how to address them, and finally learn about strategies and tools to rebut, prebunk, and debunk health misinformation.





#### **WHO Regions**

#### **EURO**

 Advancing infodemic management in risk communication and community engagement in the WHO European Region: implementation guidance

Summary: Provides a theoretical framework for infodemic management (IM); describes the information ecosystem and its three components (information, risk and response); and provides guidance on measuring infodemic response. The conclusion of the document briefly summarizes the importance of IM and adds areas for further contributions and development of this work.

Published: 2022

What are the historical roots of the COVID-19 infodemic? Lessons from the past [Internet]

*Summary:* This review explores the history of the term infodemic and its usefulness as a tool for public health policymaking.

Published: 2022

<u>Digital solutions to health risks raised by the COVID-19 infodemic: policy brief</u>

Summary: WHO policy brief highlighting the need for specific improvements and developments that call upon stakeholders in the European Region to cooperate in infodemic management.

Published: 2022

• What are the historical roots of the COVID-19 infodemic? Lessons from the past. Health Evidence Network (HEN) synthesis report 77

Summary: This scoping review explores the history of the term infodemic and its usefulness as a tool for public health policymaking. It presents the information-related problems the term has encompassed; historical research on these problems, which predate the term itself; and in-depth analyses of their iterations in three historical outbreaks with long-term significance for public health policy: the 1918 influenza pandemic, the beginning of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the 1980s, and the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Published: 2022

• Round table: Experiences on infodemic management in public health authorities in Europe and internationally





#### Summary: Page cannot be found

Published: 2022

#### **SEARO**

#### The Pandemic, Infodemic, and People's Resilience in India: Viewpoint

Summary: India's point of view on the pandemic, infodemic and its people's resilience. This article details the major challenge India has during the pandemic: the apparent lack of data access and availability for analysis or data modeling from the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Published: 2022

#### **AFRO**

#### The Africa Infodemic Response Alliance (AIRA)

*Summary:* The Africa Infodemic Response Alliance (AIRA) is Africa's network to share safe, proven facts on health and to counter dangerous health misinformation.

Published: 2022

#### AIRA Infodemic Trends Report - September 19 (Weekly Brief #39 of 2022)

Summary: This report seeks to communicate recommendations based on social media monitoring as well as relevant information on current mis/disinformation. Target countries include Angola (PT), Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa (EN), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea, Ivory Coast, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, and Senegal.

Published: 2022

### Misinformation About COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from a Cross-Sectional Survey

Summary: a detailed article on misinformation about COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa, a country with fragile healthcare systems, a catastrophic shortage of healthcare professionals, a drastic 75% reduction in medical commodities and supplies following border closures and restrictions on exports, and financial restrictions, this article details how the country navigates during the pandemic.

Published: 2021

#### **PAHO**

#### Understanding the Infodemic and Misinformation in the fight against COVID-19

Summary: Factsheet from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) that presents the concept of infodemic and misinformation in the current COVID-19 pandemic.





#### **EMRO**

Joining forces to manage the 'infodemic'

Summary: WHO's article to encourage everyone to join forces to manage the infodemic.

Published: 2022

#### **Non-UN resources**

The COVID-19 infodemic

Summary: Brief article from The Lancet that presents the consequences of the COVID-19 infodemic.

Published: 2020

#### The truth is out there, somewhere

Summary: Brief article from The Lancet that presents some insights about the generation and

spreading of misinformation.

Published: 2020

#### Fighting Health Infodemics: The Role of Citizen Empowerment

Summary: Brief article that seeks to present how citizen involvement is essential to help manage misinformation during health emergencies.

Published: 2020

## COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the World Health Organization Impact Report 1 July – 31 December 2021

*Summary:* WHO's impact report on the Covid-19 solidarity response fund. The fund has provided the first and only way for individuals, corporates, foundations, and other organizations to directly contribute to WHO and its partners' response efforts and get ressources to where they are critically needed.

Published: 2021

#### **Further reading**

 Managing the COVID-19 infodemic: Promoting healthy behaviours and mitigating the harm from misinformation and disinformation'

#### COVID-19 epidemiological and operational updates:

- COVID-19 situation report 100: Adapting social media listening to fight the COVID-19 infodemic
- COVID-19 situation report 128: Using social media listening to get ahead of the infodemic





- COVID-19 situation report 148: The WHO Information Network for epidemics listening to our stakeholders
- COVID-19 situation report 169: Developing trans-disciplinary science: infodemiology, the science behind infodemic management
- COVID-19 situation report 176: Infodemic Management: Communicating uncertainty in the context of re-opening societies
- COVID-19 situation report 183: The first global WHO infodemiology conference Building the science behind managing infodemics
- COVID-19: situation report, 197: WHO Regional Office for Africa leads regional collaboration to manage the COVID-19 infodemic
- WOU, 7 December 2020: UNGA side-event on Responding to the "Infodemic" Sharing Best Practice
- WOU, 14 December 2020: Landmark alliance launches in Africa to fight COVID-19 misinformation
- WEU, 15 December 2020: 3rd Global Infodemic Management Conference
- WEU, 11 January 2021: Infodemic response call to Action
- WER 96 special issue, 27 September 2021: Lessons learnt in managing the Infodemic in the WHO South-East Asia Region
- WOU 60, 22 June 2021: Infodemic management training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support COVID 19 vaccine rollout
- WOU 71, 6 September 2021: WHO Early Al Powered Social Listening Tool (EARS)
   Supports Global Infodemic Response
- WOU 78, 3 November 2021: Interagency social listening supports the scale-up of RCCE activities in Eastern and Southern Africa
- WOU 85, 21 December 2021: Supporting the global scale-up of infodemic management
- WOU 95, 15 March 2022
  - Nigeria holds its first infodemic management workshop
  - WHO Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN) co-developing solutions with networks
- WOU 96, 22 March 2022: Rallying to combat COVID-19 rumours in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- WOU 97, 30 March 2022: WHO holds its first infodemic management training of trainers in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- WOU 98, 31 May 2022: Nigeria holds first national Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on infodemic management





- Weekly epidemiological record, 8 July 2022, No 27, 2022, 97, 313–324. Delivering
  actionable infodemic insights and recommendations for the COVID-19 pandemic
  response. Weekly Epidemiological Record= Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire. 2022
  Jul 8;97(27):313-24.
- Monthly operational update on COVID-19 August 2022
  - Social listening leads to more impactful communication and a stronger COVID-19 response in Fiji
  - WHO develops a method to deliver actionable infodemic insights and recommendations as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response
- Monthly operational update on COVID-19 October 2022
  - Strengthening infodemic management across the world in response to COVID-19 and future health emergencies





#### Peer-reviewed articles with WHO authors

- Uttekar, Shraddha, et al. "Empowering Health Workers to Build Public Trust in Vaccination: Experience from the International Pediatric Association's Online Vaccine Trust Course, 2020–2021." Vaccine (2022). <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X22014852">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X22014852</a>
- 2. Rubinelli S\*; Purnat T\*; Wihelm E; Traicoff D; Namageyo-Funa A; Thomson A; Wardle C; Lamichhane J; Briand S; Nguyen T. 2022. WHO competency framework for health authorities and institutions to manage infodemics: its development and features. Human Resources for Health.

  20,35 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12960-022-00733-0
  - Purnat T, Vacca P, Czerniak C, Ball S, Burzo S, Zecchin T, Wright A, Bezbaruah S, Tanggol F, Dubé È, Labbé F, Dionne M, Lamichhane J, Mahajan A, Briand S, Nguyen T. Infodemic Signal Detection During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Development of a Methodology for Identifying Potential Information Voids in Online Conversations JMIR Infodemiology 2021;1(1):e30971; URL: https://infodemiology.jmir.org/2021/1/e30971, DOI: 10.2196/30971
- 2. Calleja N, AbdAllah A, Abad N, Ahmed N, Albarracin D, Altieri E, Anoko J, Arcos R, Azlan A, Bayer J, Bechmann A, Bezbaruah S, Briand S, Brooks I, Bucci L, Burzo S, Czerniak C, De Domenico M, Dunn A, Ecker U, Espinosa L, Francois C, Gradon K, Gruzd A, Gülgün B, Haydarov R, Hurley C, Astuti S, Ishizumi A, Johnson N, Johnson Restrepo D, Kajimoto M, Koyuncu A, Kulkarni S, Lamichhane J, Lewis R, Mahajan A, Mandil A, McAweeney E, Messer M, Moy W, Ndumbi Ngamala P, Nguyen T, Nunn M, Omer S, Pagliari C, Patel P, Phuong L, Prybylski D, Rashidian A, Rempel E, Rubinelli S, Sacco P, Schneider A, Shu K, Smith M, Sufehmi H, Tangcharoensathien V, Terry R, Thacker N, Trewinnard T, Turner S, Tworek H, Uakkas S, Vraga E, Wardle C, Wasserman H, Wilhelm E, Würz A, Yau B, Zhou L, Purnat T. A Public Health Research Agenda for Managing Infodemics: Methods and Results of the First WHO Infodemiology Conference; JMIR Infodemiology 2021;1(1):e30979; URL: https://infodemiology.jmir.org/2021/1/e30979; DOI: 10.2196/30979
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PMID: 34042821. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34042821/, https://ebooks.iospress.nl/volumearticle/57033

- 4. Purnat TD, Wilson H, Nguyen T, Briand S. **EARS A WHO Platform for Al-Supported Real-Time Online Social Listening of COVID-19 Conversations**. Stud Health Technol Inform. 2021 May 27;281:1009-1010. doi: 10.3233/SHTI210330. PMID: 34042825. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34042825/; https://ebooks.iospress.nl/volumearticle/57037
- 5. Sell TK, Hosangadi D, Trotochaud M, Purnat TD, Nguyen T, Briand S. Improving Understanding of and Response to Infodemics During Public Health Emergencies. Health Secur. 2021 Jan-Feb;19(1):1-2. doi: 10.1089/hs.2021.0044. PMID: 33606576; PMCID: PMC7910413. https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/epdf/10.1089/hs.2021.0044
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- 7. Briand SC, Cinelli M, Nguyen T, Lewis R, Prybylski D, Valensise CM, Colizza V, Tozzi AE, Perra N, Baronchelli A, Tizzoni M. **Infodemics: A new challenge for public health**. Cell. 2021 Dec 9;184(25):6010-4. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867421012861
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- 9. Luengo-Oroz, M., Hoffmann Pham, K., Bullock, J. et al. **Artificial intelligence** cooperation to support the global response to COVID-19. Nat Mach Intell 2, 295–297 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-020-0184-3

#### Conference and Symposium Abstracts with WHO infodemic management team coauthors:

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- 9. T. Purnat, A. Ishizumi, B. Yau, B. White, C. Bertrand-Ferrandis, S. Briand, T. Nguyen. Delivering Actionable Infodemic Insights and Recommendations for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. ICEID 2022, Atlanta, GA, USA.
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