

Digital Enquirer Kit for Children and Youth – DEK Y

Context: The Global Information Crisis

Misinformation and hate speech have spread rapidly and steadily in the digital space posing threats globally to citizens of every age. Particularly citizen journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders are increasingly exposed to false information and the spread of misinformation. They play a crucial role in maintaining ethical standards in journalism and media work and take a stand for the preservation and protection of basic democratic values. At the same time, their roles put them at risk: many report personal security concerns and attacks. [The Digital Enquirer Kit](#) (DEK) is a modular set of online trainings that offers these groups of people the opportunity to learn how to identify misinformation and create trustworthy information as well as protect themselves and their important work.

Why do children and youth need this training?

Children and youth are particularly affected by the information crisis. Without media literacy and the necessary digital skills, they can become victims of misinformation, hate speech and online abuse. At the same time, they can become agents of change. With the necessary skills, they can empower parents and peers and contribute to a safer information space.

UNICEF recently reflected in a first analysis of the situation: **“children can be targets and objects of mis/disinformation, spreaders or creators of it, and opponents of mis/disinformation in actively seeking to counter falsehoods.** (...) Approaches for ameliorating the harmful effects of mis/disinformation on children are emerging, but current efforts are falling short of protecting and empowering children” (UNICEF 2021).

Our approach

Following UNICEF’s recommendation on offering child-friendly learning opportunities to build up children’s/youth’s knowledge on how to detect, critically reflect on and respond to misinformation, the GIZ Sector Programme Human Rights works on an adapted DEK version that aims to provide children and youth worldwide with the means to become

empowered and active agents of change in the information space. The module follows a child-friendly design, bearing in mind the target group’s evolving capacities. The learning content will be developed by the association **Seitenstark e.V** in close collaboration with a **Sounding Board** - a network consisting of experts on misinformation and cyber security, global GIZ personnel working on projects with a focus on child and youth rights in the digital space and most importantly, **children and youth representatives** from partner countries. These local partners support the content development and localization of the online training, (i.e. ensuring that the content reflects country-specific challenges and examples).

Intended Results

The DEK Y aims to equip children and youth with the means and knowledge to safely navigate within the digital space while protecting themselves as well as their friends and families. The intended goals are:

- equipping children and youth with the necessary skills to evaluate information, detect misinformation and ultimately to disseminate verified information,
- empowering them to become agents of change, who empower their peers,
- providing teachers and caregivers with a guidebook on how to localize the existing module, create additional content and use it in schools and other educational institutions.

Target Group:

- Children and youth in BMZ partner countries who are early users of digital technologies (the approximate age group is 10 years and above)
- Teachers and caregivers

Languages

The Digital Enquirer Kit for children and youth - DEK Y - will be made available in the following languages:

Arabic (Al-Fusha)	Portuguese
English	Spanish
French	Swahili
German	

Module Content

- Protecting myself online
- Identifying and responding to misinformation
- My role in misinformation
- Verifying information
- Online dangers to children and youth
- What to do about cyber violence

Award-winning concept

The DEK Y is part of the Digital Enquirer Kit - one of the winning projects of the #SmartDevelopmentHack, initiated by the European Commission and BMZ as part of the German Council Presidency of the EU. The hackathon sought to develop innovative digital solutions tackling the challenges caused by the coronavirus outbreak in low- and middle-income countries.

Commissioning Parties



Implementing Partners



Further information

You will find further information here:

[#SmartDevelopmentHack](#)

Project Managers

Daniela Divjak/ Laura Hartmann

Responsible

Peter Drahn - GIZ Sector Programme Human Rights

Contact Persons:

Daniela Divjak: daniela.divjak@giz.de

Peter Drahn: peter.drahn@giz.de

Laura Hartmann: laura.hartmann@giz.de

Authors of the DEK Youth Script:

Dagmar Nolden/Michael Schulte

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn
Germany

T +49 61 96 79-0

E info@giz.de

I www.giz.de

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