

Amplifying Voices

part of the HCR network



Changing our Narratives

A review of Amplifying Voices' news reporting, both relating to, and within, displaced communities.

Introduction

Through course materials and opportunities to engage with professional journalists, the “Changing the Narrative” training event in Jan 2022 provided two key learning points from which this project aims to develop the work of Amplifying Voices

- Western news outlets propagate marginalisation and fear of migrants through a lack of nuanced reporting and poor representation for people who are migrants.
- Solutions Journalism aligns well with community-centred media as a tool to equip community members facing marginalisation to develop as news creators.

Amplifying Voices equips communities to make content, we do not create news content directly. Neither would we consider our [News blog](#) as “news” in the traditional journalism sense. We use the blog to build relational connections between our supporters, our partners, and the communities they serve, so we deliberately adopt tones of “approval” and “celebration” regarding our partners’ work, alongside a function of advocacy regarding the needs faced in their communities. However, we do hold ourselves accountable for responsible reporting about these needs, activities, and impact. We therefore aim to support partners’ reports with evidence from alternative sources, which may include our own eye-witness accounts.

This project reviews our blog content relating to migration contexts by applying the analysis framework outlined in the Refugees Reporting paper and makes recommendations based on the observed results.

The second element of this project is to develop our ability to equip others to make content for their communities.

Two further learning points from the “Refugees Reporting” paper resonate with what we understand about members of most communities where our partners work, including, but not limited to migration contexts:

- People who are migrants want meaningful participation in the telling of their stories – ideally that their own voices are heard in the telling of their own stories.
- People who are migrants want their stories to be heard without their characters in the story having to be defined primarily by their marginalized status.

We find that marginalisation means that people we work with are likely to be the negative subjects of news, if they are covered at all, and that the opportunity to be creators of news is welcomed. The second element of this project addresses how we equip partners and community members to create news content, developing new citizen journalism materials based on Solutions Journalism and advice from professional journalists.

Project Activities

1. Survey Amplifying Voices’ blog posts related to migration, using Refugees Reporting¹ as a guideline.
 - Identify good writing practice and writing practice we want to change.
2. Create participatory materials for use in partner training workshops
 - Provide insights from professional journalists working with migrants, to allow participants to reflect on the opportunities and challenges faced by volunteer journalists in a community-centred media project

¹ Pierigh F, 2017, Changing the narrative: Media representation of refugees and migrants in Europe, CCME and WACC, <http://www.refugeesreporting.eu/report/> accessed 12/05/2022

- Introduce Solutions Journalism as a tool for community-centred media projects.

Relevance to organisational goals:

Amplifying Voices vision is to see communities living life in all its fullness, free from poverty, injustice and violent conflict. The term “fullness of life” is defined using a model adapted from [United Mission to Nepal](#) (with permission). The model hypothesises six interconnected domains which all need to be addressed in order for people to experience fullness of life. Of the six domains in the fullness of life model, the following three are particularly relevant to this project:

- **Justice & Equity:** people live within and work towards just and equitable communities and systems at local, national and international levels
- **Peace & Reconciliation:** people experience and work towards peaceful and harmonious relationships within the household, community and nation that respect diversity
- **Dignity & Respect:** people are treated with dignity and show respect for themselves and others, acknowledging a common humanity

The following mechanisms contribute to these goals and will be outputs of applying this project to our work:

- Partners adopt/develop good journalism practices
- Self-representation of minority community in majority press
- Media airing of equitable discourse between host and refugee communities

Activity 1: Website Survey

Amplifying Voices engages with migration in the following projects

- Soot Semee/ Uganda/ South Sudan
- Adivasi communities (bonded labour)
- DRC (North Kivu)
- Pakistan (Afghan refugees)

Posts to analyse were selected by searching the News blog using content tags and by searching directly for content containing the words: *refugees*, *migration* or *displaced*

Posts tagged: Refugees – 14

Posts related to refugees by content search – 12

Posts tagged: migration – 11

Posts related to migration by content search – 1

Posts tagged: Displaced people – 7

Posts related to displaced by content search – 8

A list of the posts, and links to view them is in Appendix 1: Analysis of blog content by tag and by content.

Analysis method taken from Refugees Reporting²

Posts were analysed according to three main areas: story, people in the story, and analysis.

² Pierigh F, 2017, Changing the narrative.

Story, provides general information about the main topic of the article in question, its geographical scope and the reference to any piece of human rights or refugee law legislation.

- Topic: Politics, Economy, Social and Health, Displacement, and Crime.
- Scope: local, national, regional or international sphere.
- Legal background given.

People in the story provides detailed information about the characters in the stories,

Are there characters who are identified as refugees or migrants.

gender,

age – not analysed for this project

country of origin – not analysed for this project

occupation – not analysed for this project

function in the story - (subject, spokesperson, expert/ commentator, personal experience, eye witness)

terminology used - (refugee, migrant, illegal immigrant)

directly quoted or not

perpetrated or experienced any acts of violence, terrorism, or disaster

Tone and intent deals with:

overall tone (neutral, sympathetic³, empathetic, antagonistic)

whether content actively challenges or promotes stereotypes about migrants

Results and discussion

Full results are tabulated in Appendix 2: Analysis of blog content based on Refugees Reporting analysis. Of the 15 posts reviewed, 4 only mentioned displacement or refugees as a topic incidental to the main story. The remaining 11 are directly related to people who are displaced. All 15 are considered for most of the analysis points below unless stated otherwise. The sample size is much smaller than those used for the Refugees Reporting study so in this paper it is deemed more informative to refer to absolute numbers than percentages.

Story

Most of the News posts relate to Social and Health topics (11 of 15 stories), with a small number relating to politics or economics. This contrasts with the wider media study in Europe which found that most stories related to politics. The Amplifying Voices result is to be expected as the projects primarily have social and health goals.

Scope

A small majority of stories covered a local context. Although this is different to the Refugees Reporting study in which the majority of stories had a national scope, it is surprising given our community focus, that so many of our stories had a national scope. It

³ From Pierigh, 2017: “*Sympathetic* journalism, runs the risk of over-emphasizing the refugee as a “victim”. Thus rather than sympathy, journalists should strive for *empathy*, allowing the person to express her or himself and covering the issue from a perspective of understanding, based on facts”

is worth considering in future whether a national scope harms the localised nature of a community story, or whether this is helpful for setting the context.

Legal Context

The Refugees Reporting paper explores whether the legal context to the story is given, as this is important for countering misinformation around the topic of migration. As Amplifying Voices' blog is a means of reporting needs and impact to generally supportive audience, legal context is less important than other evidence bases to provide a contextual backdrop to the story. In this analysis, posts were reviewed for references to research or alternative sources. Only 4 out of the 15 stories met even this broader definition for independent evidence bases. Most sources were internal to the story. This is good for representation, but not so good for avoiding bias or building credibility.

Migrant Characters

However, on the flip side, most stories relating to migration did include characters who are migrants. Four stories did not have migrant characters, but these stories were primarily about other topics, and mentioned displacement as a factor that affected the story. Displaced people were not central to the story.

Gender

There is an imbalance in gender representation, with few female characters. Those stories that did include female characters generally included both male and female characters.

Function

The blog tells stories reported by our partners, and in most of the stories relating to migration, our partners are refugees, so the function of the characters in the stories tends to be relating personal experience, or providing quotes from a spokesperson or eye witness. However, we did note that in stories where our partner is from the host community, it is more likely that the migrant characters are the subject of the story. There is an opportunity to do more to include migrant characters more centrally in such posts.

Terminology

Another difference to the Refugees Reporting paper is in the terminology that we, and our partners use. In most cases the term refugee is used. However, there is also strong use of the term "displaced people". The terms migrant, asylum seeker and illegal immigrant are not used at all. This reflects the non-European context of the host communities, and proximity of the projects to the sources of displacement.

Quotes

Given the above proximity of our partners and projects to displaced people, it is surprising that only 6 of the 11 posts with migrant characters contain direct quotes from the migrant characters. This is an area that we can improve on, both to meet the goal of meaningful representation of migrants by migrants, and to meet the goal of fostering a more personal connection between supporters and community members.

Perpetrators or survivors of violence

Identifying whether stories portrayed migrants as perpetrators or survivors of violence was tricky. The majority of posts in this study talk about the Soot Semee project, which is implemented by South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda. Soot Semee is primarily a peacebuilding project and is influenced by the peace process in South Sudan, and a fact-based acknowledgement of intra-community violence is an essential element of the

project. The two references to violence caused by refugees are in the context of steps being taken by refugees to prevent or address violence.

The four posts without migrant characters, each convey that violence has caused the displacement but as they have no migrant characters, these posts have been included in the N/A category, along with five posts where the characters are neither survivors nor perpetrators of violence. These latter five posts could imply that we have not provided sufficient depth of context for the refugee characters, or that we are honouring community members desire not to have their identity limited to being a person fleeing violence. This would be a productive question to consider with our partners as we prepare blog posts in future.

Tone

It is always difficult to analyse one's own content for something as subjective as tone. Nine stories were considered neutral. However, it would probably be fairer to describe them as "pro-refugee". Although the author has tried to tell the stories from the perspective of the characters, they have done so with admiration for the characters. Some of these posts were labelled as empathetic rather than neutral. This reflects our intended aim to celebrate the efforts and successes of our partners and their community members, despite the difficulties they face – we call this the "regular hero" voice. We acknowledge that the credibility of this voice depends on how balanced we are in acknowledging limitations of the work, and whether the story uses alternative independent sources to supplement context descriptions and/or reporting outcomes.

Three posts were labelled with a sympathetic tone. These appeared to solicit pity for the characters or their situation with the author telling the story from the perspective of a concerned outsider. The sympathetic tone tends to appear in older posts prior to the editorial decision to use the "regular hero" voice.

Reinforcing or challenging stereotypes

This analysis question was also difficult to answer for one's own work. The following story threads were identified as challenging the stereotypes of refugees as people dependent on outside aid and coordination of aid.

- Local mobilisation to implement a local solution.
- Participation in development planning
- Participation in creating media content
- Participation in promoting political stability
- Participation in governance of a non-profit
- An artist releases an album
- Buying equipment for listening to media rather than relying on distribution
- Providers of message content

The following themes were raised by local community members during visits to projects, however, without context, they could promote stereotypes of refugees as violent, or as helpless victims.

- conflict with host community
- fighting and conflict among refugees
- refugees suffer from isolation
- refugees have been selling aid packages*



* The last item was mentioned by host community members as a negative reflection on refugees. The refugee community members mention the selling of aid packages to provide contextual information about bad living conditions.

Conclusions for Activity 1 – Amplifying Voices News Blog

The News blog does have an intentional purpose in evoking a supportive response from readers. We have moved from trying to evoke a sympathetic response to wanting to evoke an empathetic response. With the former, readers might feel they *have* to respond by giving support, whereas in the latter we hope that readers *want* to respond by giving support. We recognise that neither purpose is the same as the basis for neutral news reporting.

However, we also recognise that our audience still requires a high level of integrity in the factual content of the stories, which means similar commitments to evidence gathering as in neutral news reporting. Our “regular hero” voice should be balanced with acknowledging limitations or disappointments in the community work.

While we may stand behind our partners and their reports, wanting their story to be the focus of our readers’ attention, we would do well to refer to more independent sources, as was the case in our earlier blog writing.

As an organisation that has direct contact with the community partners, we could also do more to provide direct quotes from the characters about whom we write. This could also mean asking the partner to write some articles for us.

Our chains of information from the refugee communities are mainly male, which has affected the gender balance of our blog articles. We could ask female colleagues to gather content for future stories, and for partners to provide information through female community representatives.

Finally, when re-telling stories given to us by refugees or members of marginalised communities we should be careful to provide contextual support to our readers when the stories refer to ideas or events that could artificially propagate negative stereotypes.

Activity 2

Four participants of the WACC training course were interviewed about key principles that they have learned in training or on the field as professional journalists, and their opinions about citizen journalism.

A powerpoint material has been created for use in workshops (or to be used as an outline for workshops where no multimedia projector is available).

The workshop material uses snippets from the interview recordings to stimulate discussion about how volunteers in a media project should improve their news reporting skills and provide a better service for their communities. A summary of interview responses is in Appendix 3: Summary of interview questions and responses

During the interview process I realised the importance of recognising the interviewees not just as sources, but as people with whom I want to relate and understand the complexity of their personal interactions with the worlds of journalism, displacement and advocacy. The workshop material does not bring out this facet. However, in using the material in interactive workshops, I would hope that I could represent more of stories and personalities that I encountered of the 4 journalist, Aname, Seble, Teresa and Nelly.

The workshop material introduces the Solutions Journalism⁴, as recommended in Teresa's interview, and encourages participants to write a news story in a Solutions Journalism style.

The raw material introducing Solutions Journalism has been tested once in a workshop in Yei, South Sudan. This was before completion of the interviews and associated Powerpoint so the workshop segment was not very interactive. Only one of the 14 participants mentioned Solutions Journalism in their feedback sheet (although for that one participant, Solutions Journalism it was top of the three things learned).

The workshop material follows the principles of the Transitional Learning Model⁵, offering a progressive mix of projective activities, theory, practical exercises, synthesis, and group exercises.

The workshop material includes several interactive elements to improve engagement and help embed the principles and methods discussed. A video version of the audio with subtitles could be more effective, but many of our workshop locations do not have multimedia projector facilities and this material will be presented using a flipchart or white board, and an audio player.

The workshop Powerpoint is available as separate attachment to this document.

⁴ Eg: <https://www.journalism.co.uk/tip-of-the-day/tip-a-freelancer-s-guide-to-solutions-journalism/s419/a833264/> and https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OSnf3iOKOIsahsuoMkKhbDoxsLo0akCX/view?fbclid=IwAR2kMu7jougYRZpHybg_kgU6AKOY_U1zDcnLsp0ln4WUaOKIwkdW4JCUPyU

⁵ <https://amplifyingvoices.uk/transitional-learning-model>

Appendix 1: Analysis of blog content by tag and by content.

Date	Page/ Post	Category	Refugees	Migration	Displaced people
14 Apr 2022	Radio programme that dug a new borehole	Pakistan	tag		
22 Mar 2022	Soot Seme: 2 years of building peace	Uganda	tag & content	tag	tag & content
21 Feb 2022	Podcasts replace isolation in Uganda	Uganda	tag & content	tag	tag & content
17 Jan 2022	Promoting peace as election tension rises	Kenya			tag & content
19 Nov 2021	Soot Seme: bringing people together for elections	Uganda	tag & content	tag	
19 Oct 2021	Make your shoes dirty	Uganda	tag		
23 Sep 2021	Sambara: a source of joy	Uganda	tag		
21 May 2021	Refugees act to get vital information	Uganda	tag & content	tag	
22 Sep 2020	Building trust, saving lives	Uganda	tag		
10 Sep 2020	Closing the physical distancing gap	Uganda	tag & content	tag	tag
17 Jun 2020	Change made real through a neighbour's voice	Uganda	tag & content	tag	
4 Feb 2020	Rising voices in Omugo Zone	Uganda	tag & content	tag	
20 Dec 2019	Revitalising Audio ... smart speakers, podcasts and speakerboxes	Uganda	tag & content	tag	
26 Oct 2019	Soot Seme (Voice of Compassion) begins	Uganda	tag & content	tag	tag
3 Sep 2019	Soot Seme – Northern Uganda	Project	content		
20 May 2019	Radio station supports thousands fleeing attack	DRC	tag & content	tag	tag & content
27 Apr 2019	Buzi bounces back	Disaster Response			tag & content
3 Dec 2018	Protecting women – valuing girls in North Kivu	DRC			tag & content
13 Nov 2018	Welcome to the HCR team	UK	content	content	
27 May 2017	Voice for peace in troubled Mindanao	Philippines			tag & content
7 Oct 2015	Tana FM prepares communities for El Nino	Kenya		tag	tag & content
31 Oct 2014	First Response Radio needed in Pakistan	Pakistan		content	

Appendix 2: Analysis of blog content based on Refugees Reporting analysis.

Date	Page/ Post	Country	Story	People	Analysis
14 Apr 2022	Radio programme that dug a new borehole	Pakistan	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both Function: Spokespeople Terminology: none Quote: No Perpetrator/Victim/ Survivor	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? marginalised but mobilised.
22 Mar 2022	Soot Semee: 2 years of building peace	Uganda	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both – more male Function: Eye witness Terminology: Refugee Quote: Yes Perpetrator/Victim/ Perpetrator & Survivor	Tone: Empathy Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – proactive participants in development. Promote – fighting and conflict
21 Feb 2022	Podcasts replace isolation in Uganda	Uganda	Topic: Social and health Scope: National Legal/Research: Yes	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both – more male Function: Commentator/ personal experience Terminology: Refugee Quote: Yes Perpetrator/Victim/ Survivor, Victim	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – proactive participants in media Promote – isolation, selling aid.
17 Jan 2022	Promoting peace as election tension rises	Kenya	Topic: Politics Scope: National Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. no Gender: n/a Function: Terminology: displaced people Quote: no Perpetrator/Victim/	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ?
19 Nov 2021	Soot Semee: bringing people together for elections	Uganda	Topic: Politics Scope: National Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both – more male Function: Eye witness Terminology: Refugee Quote: Yes Perpetrator/Victim/ Survivor	Tone: Empathy Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – proactive participants in political stability
19 Oct 2021	Make your shoes dirty	Uganda	Topic: Social and Health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: male (images) Function: Spokesperson Terminology: Refugee Quote: Yes Perpetrator/Victim/ -	Tone: Pro Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – proactive participants in governance
23 Sep 2021	Sambara: a source of joy	Uganda	Topic: Displacement Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: male Function: Personal experience Terminology:	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – artist releasing an album

				Displacement Quote: Yes Perpetrator/Victim/ -	
21 May 2021	Refugees act to get vital information	Uganda	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: Yes	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: male Function: Personal experience Terminology: Refugee Quote: No Perpetrator/Victim/ -	Tone: Sympathy/ Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – buying own speaker
22 Sep 2020	Building trust, saving lives	Uganda	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both Function: Subject Terminology: Refugee Quote: No Perpetrator/Victim/ - Yes	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – source of messages
10 Sep 2020	Closing the physical distancing gap	Uganda	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both Function: Subject Terminology: Refugee Quote: No Perpetrator/Victim/ -	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge – source of content, promote –conflict with host
17 Jun 2020	Change made real through a neighbour's voice	Uganda	Not analysed ⁶		
4 Feb 2020	Rising voices in Omugo Zone	Uganda			
20 Dec 2019	Revitalising Audio ... smart speakers, podcasts and speakerboxes	Uganda			
26 Oct 2019	Soot Semee (Voice of Compassion) begins	Uganda			
3 Sep 2019	Soot Semee – Northern Uganda	Project			
20 May 2019	Radio station supports thousands fleeing attack	DRC	Topic: Social and health Scope: National Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: both Function: Subject Terminology: displaced people, refugees Quote: No Perpetrator/Victim/ victim	Tone: Sympathetic/neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ? challenge –
27 Apr 2019	Buzi bounces back	Disaster Response	Topic: Social and health Scope: National Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. Yes Gender: male Function: personal experience Terminology: displaced people, refugees Quote: yes (indirect) Perpetrator/Victim/	Tone: Empathetic/ sympathetic Challenge/ promote st'types: ?

⁶ Greyed out articles were omitted from analysis due to similarity with the articles already assessed.



3 Dec 2018	Protecting women – valuing girls in North Kivu	DRC	Topic: Social and health Scope: National Legal/Research: Yes	Migrant characters. No Gender: Function: Terminology: displaced people, Quote: Perpetrator/Victim/	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ?
13 Nov 2018	Welcome to the HCR team	UK	n/a	n/a	n/a
27 May 2017	Voice for peace in troubled Mindanao	Philippines	Topic: Social and health Scope: Local Legal/Research: No	Migrant characters. No Gender: Function: Terminology: displaced people, Quote: Perpetrator/Victim/	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ?
7 Oct 2015	Tana FM prepares communities for El Nino	Kenya	Topic: Economic Scope: National Legal/Research: Yes	Migrant characters. No Gender: Function: Terminology: displaced people, Quote: Perpetrator/Victim/	Tone: Neutral Challenge/ promote st'types: ?
31 Oct 2014	First Response Radio needed in Pakistan	Pakistan	n/a	n/a	n/a

Count taken from above table

Story	Count	%	Refugees Reporting
politics	2	13%	55%
economy	1	7%	9%
social & health	11	73%	12%
Displacement	1	7%	5%
crime	0	0%	19%
Scope			
Local	8	53%	15%
National	7	47%	48%
Regional	0	0%	8%
International	0	0%	29%
Includes Research/Legal			
Includes Migrant Characters	4	27%	25%
Mentions migration	11	73%	21%
	4	27%	
Gender			
Male	Female	Both	N/A
4		7	4



Changing our Narratives

Amplifying Voices

Function	Personal Experience	Subject	Spokes-person	Eye Witness	Expert/Commentator	N/A
	4	3	2	2	1	4
Terminology	Refugee 9	Displaced People 7	None 1			
Direct Quote	Yes 6	No 5	N/A 4			
Perpetrator	N/A 9	Victim/Survivor 5	Perpetrator 2			
Tone	Neutral 9	Sympathy 3	Empathy 2	Pro 1		

Appendix 3: Summary of interview questions and responses

0. Who are you?

Aname Gnanguenon. Half French, half Beninese, working with domestic workers in Lebanon.

Seblewongel Habtamu. Ethiopian, freelancer working in Finland

Teresa di Mauro. Italian, freelancer working in Prague.

Nelly Kalu. Nigerian, working in Nigeria

1. What is the most important skill or principle that you learned in journalism school and still use today?

Relationship – before during and after interviewing sources. Not just taking. So many journalists just take.

Journalism Ethics. Responsibility to serve society, independent reporting, truth and balance.

The ethics of journalism. How to respect sources. Respecting how they want their stories to be told. Its not what you learn in journalism school. People assume you know it. School was much more practical.

How to pitch a story. Make it interesting for the newspaper you want to sell it to. Why would people care about this story. What the newspapers want. And how to fight for it.

Critical thinking, intersectionality of issues. See beyond the surface of the issues and delve deeper.

Principle of fair hearing – but question it (should an agent of misinformation be given a fair hearing)

2. When you started working as a journalist in migration settings/ training journalists in migration settings, what if anything was different to doing journalism in other settings?

Giving leadership skill, not just taking but giving something that helps sources grow.

When reporting on an important political speech, started off reporting what heard being said, but the editor wanted deeper analysis of what was said.

How to build a story – how to integrate the source and make the story flow ... But that doesn't work if you are giving people freedom to tell their own story.



Lack of nuance. Single narrative has pervaded ... never centering the migrant, or addressing the layers attached to the migrants story – assumptions about climate, terrorism and economic issues.

3. What new journalistic skills did you need to pick up/ encourage after you started working with migrants (or as a migrant in your current context)?

Needed to learn the about laws in a new country, and about different journalism culture – e.g. consent from sources

First talk to the migrant then decide what story to write

Listening, active and critical listening, listening the emotions and translating them correctly (even asking for an interpretation), letting people speak who have been through a dehumanising experience.

4. What key differences do you see in the practices/ work produced by professional journalism and citizen journalists

Motivation – “I want to tell my story, but lack the skills”- Not knowing how to distribute content, or what needs to be said.

Citizen journalists are first on the scene. Not censored by editors.

More rules, editorial process ... how do you fact check? How do you confirm source reliability? But they are first and fastest and reach the online communities. More connected.

I am also a fact checker. Most of sources are citizen journalists. Citizen journalists can be just ordinary people with a phone. Friend says they are not citizen journalists unless they have had some journalistic qualifications and report to an editor. Experience is limited due to distrust. If you are just a person who has observed a happening and you have broadcast that happening without context, discipline, language, or reportage.

5. How would you describe any experiences that you have had working with content creators best described as citizen journalists?

Podcasts they make are more relational

Social media has changed the environment – Citizen journalists use social media to access professional journalists. Good for professionals looking for sources, but standards are not consistent. Eg, someone sends an image which turns out to be 6yrs old. Most ask for money.

6. What one piece of advice would you give to citizen journalists belonging to (and serving) marginalized communities?



Take time with sources, and diversify your sources

Be responsible!

Team up with the professionals. Do Solutions Journalism. Professional journalists tend not to work this way and have less awareness of how communities are responding to challenges. The bad side of migration is always talked about ... but solutions are worth amplifying ... can perhaps help others to find solutions ...

Things that have guided me, critical thinking and active listening and nuances that lie between these two things. These are real people behind the stories and real happenings. Story telling is a skill. Being on the road with a camera and a microphone is not journalism. Get a training, get some knowledge. Report to someone (be accountable and test your story). When researching a topic, always run it by others. Who do you run your stories by before broadcasting?