Health Information, Vulnerability Patterns and Resilience to Information Disorder

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The infodemic affects everyone

• The infodemic is not only about circulating misinformation or disinformation

• It is also about overload of information, outdated information, and information voids

• Isolated and vulnerable populations are particularly susceptible to the infodemic.
### Types of harm the infodemic can contribute to

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<th>Domain of impact - harms</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
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| Physical                 | • Limited accurate knowledge about available treatments  
                          • Misplaced actions |
| Social                   | • Victimization and stigma |
| Economic                 | • Falling for scams  
                          • Panic buying |
| Political                | • Limited trust in officials  
                          • Rejection of official guidelines  
                          • Disregard of government-led responses |
| Psychological            | • Mental health epidemic  
                          • Extreme anxiety  
                          • Long-term depression |

Table 3. Our risk framework of health misinformation based on the evidence.
During an emergency, people are more vulnerable to the infodemic

- People’s brains operate differently in emergencies.
- In emergencies, we:
  - simplify & limit intake of information
  - cling to current beliefs
  - remember what we see or previously experience
  - Believe the first thing we hear
  - look for additional information or opinions

Therefore, people’s and systems’ vulnerabilities are more easily exploited during emergencies.

Advancing infodemic management 2022-23

Mandate

1. WHA74.7
   Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

2. 132 signatories of “cross-regional statement on infodemic in context of COVID-19” to UN Secretary General

Programmatic response

1. Framework, strategy and action

2. The science

3. Country tools and partnerships

4. Professionalization

YOU THINK THAT LIBRARIES ARE JUST BOOKS?
YOU MUST BE NEW HERE

Trusted spaces
Even the Caped Crusader and Boy Wonder knew who to call when they didn't know the answer!
Is this information literacy?
Improving health information equity
I Don’t Remember the title, but the cover was Red
Fun takeaway: Educational tool to teach digital literacy and inoculate against misinformation

Thank you!