WCW Endline Survey

Hello! We would like to invite you to take the final survey of this study. You will earn **R40** in airtime for completing this 15-minute survey. As part of the survey, you will also answer some quiz questions. Just like previous quizzes, if you get at least **4 out of 6** of these quiz questions correct, you will earn an extra **R10**. This means that you can earn up to **R50** today for completing this survey.

First stage questions

fs_1 Do you ever listen to **podcasts**? Podcasts are audio shows that you can download from the Internet and platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter.

1. Never
2. Not very often
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. All the time
6. Do not know

fs_2 [Skip if "never" in last answer] In the last two weeks, have you listened to any of these podcasts? Select all that apply.

1. The Money Show
2. Lesser Known Somebodies
3. What's Crap on WhatsApp
4. On the Ball
5. My Only Story
6. None of these

Fs_2_a [If fs_2 contains WCW] How many times have you listened to the podcast "What's Crap on WhatsApp"?

- Never
- Only once or twice
- Several times
- Almost every episode that I have received
- Every episode that I have received
- Do not know

Fs_2_b [If fs_2 does not contain WCW & respondent is treated] Have you ever listened to the podcast "What's Crap on WhatsApp"?

- Never
- Only once or twice
- Several times
- Almost every episode that I have received
- Every episode that I have received
- Do not know

Fs_2_c [If fs_2_a | fs_2_b != never] In your opinion, how interesting is the content on What's Crap on WhatsApp?

- Not at all interesting
- Not very interesting
- Somewhat interesting
- Quite interesting
- Very interesting
- Do not know

Fs_2_d [If fs_2_a | fs_2_b != never] In your opinion, how useful is the content on What's Crap on WhatsApp in your daily life?

- Not at all useful
- Not very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Quite useful
- Very useful
- Do not know

Fs_2_e [If fs_2_a | fs_2_b != never] How often does the content on What's Crap on WhatsApp change the way you think about important issues relating to public health or politics?

- Never
- Not very often
- Sometimes
- Quite often
- Very often

fs_3 We would now like to ask you a few questions about current issues. Please answer each to the best of your knowledge. There are **six** of these questions, and each one has one correct answer. If you answer **four** or more correctly, then you will receive an additional **R10** in airtime. If you don't know the answer, just select unsure. We will tell you how you did at the end of the survey.

[WEEK QUIZ QUESTIONS 1-6]

We would like to ask you a few more questions about current issues. These questions will not determine how much airtime you receive for taking this survey.

Is it true that Cyril Ramaphosa received the Covid-19 vaccine?

- True: he received the vaccine.
- False: he was photographed receiving a vaccine, but the needle had a cap on.
- False: he has not yet received the vaccine.
- Unknown: he has refused to indicate whether he has received a vaccine.
- Do not know

Did an Indian company sell the South African government a stock of expired Covid-19 vaccines for R120 million?

- True: the vaccines had expired by the time they reached South Africa.
- False: the vaccines had not expired by the time they reached South Africa but, just like all vaccines, had a short expiration date.
- False: the vaccines were not expired and did not have a short expiration date.
- False: The South African government has not bought Covid-19 vaccines from any Indian company.
- Do not know.

Is it true that Facebook hackers have begun to post harmful messages to users' contacts which cannot be seen by the user?

- True: a recent security breach at Facebook has enabled hackers to post messages using the accounts of other users who could not see them.
- False: a recent hack at Facebook enabled hackers to post such messages, but it was fixed after a few days and all the affected messages were deleted.
- False: a recent hack at Facebook enabled hackers to post messages using the accounts of other users, but the users could see the messages.
- False: There has never been such a hack at Facebook.
- Do not know

We will now ask you some questions about the news and information that you receive day-to-day.

fs_4 If you wanted to verify some information, which sources might you use? List as many as you know. If you do not know any sources, type "None."

1. Ask experts
2. Ask themselves if the news makes sense

3. Check if the news came from a popular website or social media account
4. Search for and assess the original source of the news
5. Use reverse image searches
6. Talk to others to see if they have received the same news

fs_5 Which of the following are strategies that fact checkers use to verify news? Select all that apply.

7. Ask experts
8. Ask themselves if the news makes sense
9. Check if the news came from a popular website or social media account
10. Search for and assess the original source of the news
11. Use reverse image searches
12. Talk to others to see if they have received the same news

Trust of different information sources

trust_1 To what extent do you **trust or distrust** information you receive from the following sources?

	Strongly distrust (1)	Somewhat distrust (2)	Neither trust nor distrust (3)	Somewhat trust (4)	Strongly trust (5)
Radio/Television (1)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp (2)	○	○	○	○	○
Other social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) (3)	○	○	○	○	○
Discussions with family and friends (4)	○	○	○	○	○
Politicians and government officials (5)	○	○	○	○	○

trust_2. To what extent do you **trust or distrust** information you receive from the following sources **on WhatsApp?**

	Strongly distrust (1)	Somewhat distrust (2)	Neither trust nor distrust (3)	Somewhat trust (4)	Strongly trust (5)
WhatsApp messages from close friends and family (1)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp messages from large WhatsApp groups (2)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp messages from organisations that you subscribe to on WhatsApp (3)	○	○	○	○	○

trust_3 (old media_trust) Which of the following sources do you trust the most for information? [Select up to three.]

1. Friends and family
2. Government officials
3. Politicians and other public figures
4. International NGOs and agencies
5. South African civil society organizations or NGOs
6. News websites or newspapers
7. Large WhatsApp groups
8. Other social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
9. None of these

Perceptions about misinformation

pm_1 When you receive information from the following sources, how much of the information do you think is likely to be truthful or fake?

	All fake (1)	Mostly fake (2)	Equally truthful and fake (3)	Mostly truthful (4)	All truthful (5)
Radio/Television (1)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp (2)	○	○	○	○	○
Other social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) (3)	○	○	○	○	○
Discussions with family and friends (4)	○	○	○	○	○
Politicians and government officials (5)	○	○	○	○	○

pm_2 How much of the information you receive from the following sources **on WhatsApp** is likely to be truthful or fake?

	All fake (1)	Mostly fake (2)	Equally truthful and fake (3)	Mostly truthful (4)	All truthful (5)
WhatsApp messages from close friends and family (1)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp messages from large WhatsApp groups (2)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp messages from organisations that	○	○	○	○	○

you subscribe to on WhatsApp (3)

pm_3 How often do you think that people in South Africa who are fooled by fake news engage in behavior that harms themselves or others?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Do not know

Consumption and sharing behavior

csb_1: Which of these sources do you regularly go to for news? Select all that apply.

1. Radio/Television
2. WhatsApp
3. Other social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)
4. Discussion with family and friends
5. None of the above

csb_2 On WhatsApp, how often do you encounter news through the following sources?

	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Always (5)
WhatsApp messages from close friends and family (1)	○	○	○	○	○
WhatsApp messages from large WhatsApp groups (2)	○	○	○	○	○

WhatsApp messages from organisations that you subscribe to on WhatsApp (3)	○	○	○	○	○

csb_3 When someone shares a news story with you that they saw on platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, or Twitter, how often do you **share it** with others?

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Always
6. Do not know

Behavior around misinformation

bam_Q0 In your opinion, what are the best ways to avoid being misled by fake news you come across on platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, or Twitter? [Select up to three options.]

1. Distrust all information you see on those platforms
2. Pay close attention to the source of the information that you see on those platforms
3. Verify whether it is true or fake using additional sources
4. Seek information from reputable organisations about fake news circulating on social media
5. Ask other people
6. Other ways
7. Do not know

bam_Q1 Although it can be time consuming, how often do you **pay close attention to, or think twice about,** whether the information you receive from platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter is true or fake?

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often

5. Always
6. Do not know

Non-Podcast Discernment Questions

1. According to the World Health Organization, Covid-19 is spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe heavily. (True)
2. Covid-19 is spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe heavily. (True)

3. According to a widely disseminated Facebook post, all students who were in matric in 2020 would have 5% added to their final marks. (False)
4. All students who were in matric in 2020 would have 5% added to their final marks. (False)

5. The South African government claimed that "Drinking alcohol makes it difficult for the body to fight infections like COVID-19." Dr Katherine Jung, of the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, separately confirmed that alcohol "suppresses the ability to defend against respiratory infection in the short term." (True)
6. The South African government claimed that "Drinking alcohol makes it difficult for the body to fight infections like COVID-19." (True)

7. According to a source working in the ministry of finance "almost 100%" of restaurant workers in South Africa are foreign. This was up from about 20% in 1990. (False)
8. According to South Africa's minister of finance "almost 100%" of restaurant workers in South Africa are foreign. This was up from about 20% in 1990. (False)

Conspiracy_1 In your opinion, how likely do you think it is that HIV/AIDS was created intentionally to harm South Africans?

- Not all likely
- Unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Do not know

Conspiracy_2 In your opinion, how likely do you think it is that Nelson Mandela actually died in 1985 and was subsequently impersonated by someone controlled by the old apartheid government?

- Not all likely
- Unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Do not know

Conspiracy_3 In your opinion, how likely do you think that the COVID-19 vaccine will be used to implant chips in people around the world?

- Not all likely
- Unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Do not know

Conspiracy_4 In your opinion, how likely do you think that the COVID-19 vaccine causes infertility and will be used to reduce the world's population?

- Not all likely
- Unlikely
- Neither likely nor unlikely
- Likely
- Very likely
- Do not know

Behavior around misinformation

bam_Q1_important When you receive information from platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, how **important** do you think it is **to verify** whether it is true or fake?

1. Not at all important

2. A little important
3. Somewhat important
4. Quite important
5. Very important
6. Do not know

bam_Q2 When you receive information from platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, how often **do you try to verify** whether it is true or fake?

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Always
6. Do not know

bam_Q3_1 When you **try to verify** whether information is true or fake, how do you do this? Select all that apply. [just ask this question if the respondent did not answer "never" or "don't know" to bam_Q2]

1. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) in person
2. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) through WhatsApp
3. Ask people that I don't know well through groups on WhatsApp
4. Go to a fact-checker's website to see if it was verified
5. Submit a fact-check request to a fact-checking organization u
6. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) by posting on social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram or Twitter)
7. Use the internet to fact-check by myself
8. In other ways

bam_Q3_2 (old media_Q5_2) **If you were to verify** whether information is true or fake, how would you do this? Select all that apply. [just ask of those that say "never" or don't know to bam_Q2]

1. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) in person
2. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) through WhatsApp
3. Ask people that I don't know well through groups on WhatsApp
4. Look a fact-checker's website to see if it was verified
5. Submit a fact-check request to a fact-checking organization
6. Ask people that I know (e.g. friends, family) by posting on social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram or Twitter)
7. Use the internet to fact-check by myself
8. In other ways

bam_4 /media_Q7 What is the biggest challenge that you face in verifying whether information is true or fake?

1. I don't know where to verify information
2. Data is too expensive
3. It takes too much time
4. Fact-checkers are not trustworthy
5. Fact-checkers rarely check the information I care about
6. Other [fill in the blank]
7. There is so much information available, I don't what to start checking
8. I do not try to verify whether is true or fake

bam_Q5 In the past few months, how often have you been alerted that a particular piece of information on platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, or Twitter is fake news?

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Always
6. Do not know

bam_Q6 [only ask if bam_Q5 is not "Never"] In the past few months, when you were alerted that some information was fake**, how often did you alert others** on platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, or Twitter?

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Always
6. Do not know

Preventative Behavior and Views About COVID-19 Questions

We will now ask you a few questions about what you have been up to recently.

behave_Q1 In the last week, on **how many days** did you...

	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	4 (4)	5 (5)	6 (6)	7 (7)	None (8)

stay at home all day without any visitors? (1)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Visit other people at an indoor location? (2)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Wear a mask or other face covering in public? (3)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

COVID-19 questions

We will now ask you a few questions about your views about the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID_Q1 Which of the following statements is closest to your views on the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa?
Statement 1: COVID-19 is a real disease and a serious health problem in South Africa
Statement 2: COVID-19 is a fake disease made up by powerful actors to fool and harm South Africans

1. Agree very strongly with statement 1
2. Agree with statement 1
3. Agree with neither statement
4. Agree with statement 2
5. Agree very strongly with statement 2

COVID_Q2 Which of the following statements is closest to your views on the lockdowns that have been implemented in South Africa to contain the spread of Covid-19?

1. These were definitely necessary to save lives and the economic cost is justified

2. They were probably necessary, but it is hard to say for sure if the economic cost was justified
3. They were probably not necessary and the economic cost is hard to justify
4. They were very definitely not necessary and the economic cost is impossible to justify

COVID_Q3 (new behave_Q2): How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: If a vaccine for Covid-19 were available to me, I would take it.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Somewhat disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Somewhat agree
5. Strongly agree
6. Do not know

COVID_Q4 (new behave_Q3): How much do you trust that the Covid-19 vaccines available in South Africa are safe?

1. Strongly distrust
2. Somewhat distrust
3. Neither trust nor distrust
4. Somewhat trust
5. Strongly trust
6. Do not know

Political views

Now, we would like to ask you some questions about your views about politics in South Africa.

Pol_q1 In your opinion, how well or badly is the national government **performing in general**?

1. Very badly
2. Badly
3. Neither badly nor well
4. Well
5. Very well
6. Do not know

Pol_q2 In your opinion, how well or badly is the national government **handling the COVID-19 pandemic**?

1. Very badly
2. Badly
3. Neither badly nor well
4. Well
5. Very well
6. Do not know

To be successful with its policies, governments need both (1) the desire to do them, and (2) the ability to carry them out. Let's discuss your view about the South African government's ability to carry out policies successfully.

Pol_q3 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? If the government of South Africa wanted to improve a large number of the roads in the country, it would be able to do this efficiently and without major difficulties.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. Do not know

Pol_q4 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? If the government of South Africa wanted to provide electricity to everyone in the country, it would be able to do this efficiently and without major difficulties.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. Do not know

Now, we would like to ask you some questions about your views of politics in South Africa.

Pol_q5_1 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The government only implements policies that benefit the elites.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree

5. Strongly agree
6. Do not know

Pol_q5_2 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Ordinary people have no influence over what the government does.

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Neither agree nor disagree
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. Do not know

Pol_Q6 If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?

1. Africa National Congress (ANC)
2. Democratic Alliance (DA)
3. Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
4. Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
5. Freedom Front Plus (VF+)
6. Other
7. I would not vote
8. Do not know

Pol_Q7 How close do you feel to the incumbent Africa National Congress (ANC) party?

1. Very distant
2. Distant
3. Neither close not distant
4. Close
5. Very close
6. Do not know

Personal Questions

We would now like to ask you a few questions about yourself. When answering the following questions, remember that all your answers are confidential.

personal_Q1 What is your ethnic community, cultural group, or tribe?

1. Zulu

2. Xhosa
3. Afrikaans
4. English
5. Sotho
6. Ndebele
7. Other
8. Do not know

Personal_Q2 In the past year, how often did you fear that you or anyone in your household would lose their income or job?

1. Never
2. Not very often
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. All the time

Personal_Q3 In the past year, how often did you fear that you or anyone in your family would fall severely ill?

1. Never
2. Not very often
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. All the time

Personal_Q4 In the past year, how often did you or anyone in your household struggle with mental health due to the lockdown and social distancing restrictions?

1. Never
2. Not very often
3. Occasionally
4. Often
5. All the time

Personal_Q5 In the past year, how often did you fear that you or anyone in your household would be victims of a crime?

1. Never
2. Not very often
3. Occasionally
4. Often

5. All the time

If assigned to WCW:
stay_subscribed Thank you! This concludes the final survey for the study. As part of the study, you have been asked to subscribe to Africa Check's podcast, What's Crap on WhatsApp.

Since the study has now concluded, you can decide whether you would like to remain subscribed or not. It does not cost any money.

Would you like to **remain subscribed and keep getting the podcast** now that the study is complete? Your decision **will not affect** how much you earn today or any future opportunities to earn money.
1. Yes
2. No

If not assigned to WCW:
stay_subscribed Thank you! This concludes the final survey for the study. As part of the study, you have been asked to subscribe to Africa Check's podcast, What's Crap on WhatsApp. However, for the duration of the study you were randomly assigned not to receive the podcast.

Since the study has concluded, you can decide whether you would like to continue subscribing and start getting the podcast or not. It does not cost any money.

Would you like to **start getting the podcast** now that the study is complete? Your decision **will not affect** how much you earn today or any future opportunities to earn money.
1. Yes
2. No

You might also want Africa Check to send you additional regular messages that you might find useful so that you are not fooled by fake news.

Fact_subscribe: Do you want Africa Check to send you a message every time it releases a fact check?
1. Yes
2. No

Reminder_subscribe: Do you want Africa Check to send you reminders every few weeks that you should pay attention to fake news?
1. Yes
2. No

Covid_subscribe: Would you like Africa Check to send you a one-off message about Covid-19

and the Covid-19 vaccines, including how they will be distributed in South Africa?
1. Yes
2. No

To measure how receiving Africa Check's podcast affected the behavior of study participants on social media, we would like to ask you to share the details of your social media accounts.

Please, provide the links to your Facebook account (e.g., https://www.facebook.com/AfricaCheck/). If you cannot locate the link, please provide your username (e.g., Africa Check). [If you don't have a Facebook account, write "I don't have".]

Please, provide the link your Twitter account (e.g., https://twitter.com/AfricaCheck). If you cannot locate the link, please provide your username (e.g., Africa Check). [If you don't have a Twitter account, write "I don't have".]

FINAL MESSAGE:

Thank you! This is the final survey of the study, and so the study has concluded. Thank you for participating! Your responses have helped us to better understand how South Africans deal with fake news.

In the quiz portion of this survey, you got more (less) than 4 out of 6 quiz questions correct. This means that you have earned R50 (R40). You will receive the airtime credit within 5 days of taking this survey. If you have any questions, requests, concerns, or complaints about this research study, you can reach out to the project team here: https://api.whatsapp.com/send?phone=18572420837 .

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