



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FULL FACT, AFRICA CHECK, CHEQUEADO AND OPEN DATA INSTITUTE TO USE AI TO TRANSFORM INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST MISINFORMATION AFTER WINNING GOOGLE AI IMPACT CHALLENGE**

- **Organisations to launch three-year international project using machine learning to dramatically improve and scale fact-checking around the world.**
- **Factcheckers chosen from more than 2,600 entrants to receive transformative \$2 million Google.org grant and Google AI expertise.**

**Johannesburg, 7 May 2019:** Google has announced today that a ground breaking joint project from Full Fact, Chequeado, Africa Check and the Open Data Institute (ODI) — which will use artificial intelligence to dramatically improve and expand the global fight against misinformation — is one of just 20 international winners of the Google AI Impact Challenge.

Over the next three years, with Google's support, the four organisations will use machine learning to dramatically improve and scale fact-checking, working with international experts to define how artificial intelligence could transform this work, to develop new tools and to deploy and evaluate them.

They will work with media outlets, civil society, platforms and public policy makers worldwide to help them understand how AI can help people decide what information to trust and bring the benefit of automated fact-checking tools to everyone.

**A global effort**

The Google AI Impact Challenge was an open call to non-profits, social enterprises, and research institutions from around the world to submit their ideas to use AI to help address societal challenges. Over 2,600 organizations applied.

Full Fact, Chequeado, Africa Check and the ODI will share a \$2 million grant from Google.org, credit and consulting from Google Cloud and coaching by Google's AI experts.

Mevan Babakar, Full Fact's Head of Automated Factchecking, said: "The harm caused by misinformation affects millions of people's health, safety and ability to participate in society and is a threat to democracy in countries around the world. Tech responses to this problem need to be grounded in a firm commitment to free speech, a deep understanding of the responsible limits of AI and collaboration across sectors and borders.

"In three years, we hope our project will help policy makers understand how to responsibly tackle misinformation, help internet platforms make fair and informed decisions and help individual citizens know better who and what they can trust."

Africa Check Executive Director Peter Cunliffe-Jones said: "Tech solutions to global problems have too often been developed in and for the Global North. We are thrilled to be working from the outset on these solutions with our pioneer colleagues Full Fact,

Chequeado and the ODI, helping ensure they meet the needs of society in Africa and Latin America too.”

Jacqueline Fuller, President of Google.org, said: “We received thousands of applications to the Google AI Impact Challenge and are excited that Full Fact, Chequeado, Africa Check and the Open Data Institute were selected to receive funding and expertise from Google. AI is at a nascent stage when it comes to the value it can have for the social impact sector, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of this work and considering where there is potential for use to do even more.”

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### Notes to editors:

Next week, representatives of the four organisations will travel to San Francisco for five days to join Google AI experts, Project Managers and the startup specialists from Google’s [Launchpad Accelerator](#). Through the Launchpad programme, which will last from May to November, each of the grantees will develop their own OKRs — Objectives and Key Results — and set timelines for the project. Full Fact, Africa Check, Chequeado and the Open Data Institute will be paired with a Google expert who will meet with them regularly for coaching sessions and will also have access to other Google resources and expert mentorship.

**About Full Fact:** Full Fact was founded in 2010. Since then, we have factchecked two general elections, one European parliamentary election and three referendums. We go a step further than most fact-checking organisations by getting corrections and building a body of evidence to try to tackle misinformation at its source. We are also developing groundbreaking automated fact-checking technology, which we want to make available to factcheckers and journalists around the world. Find out more at [fullfact.org](http://fullfact.org).

**About Africa Check:** Africa Check was founded in 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa. We are the first and leading non-partisan fact-checking organisation on the continent. We work today from offices in four countries: South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Senegal. We seek both to tackle misinformation at source ourselves and to foster a network of fact-checking operations in other countries through awards and training and mentoring programmes. Find out more at [afriaccheck.org](http://afriaccheck.org)

**About Chequeado:** Chequeado is an Argentinian independent not-for-profit, non-partisan media organisation, and Latin America’s first and leading fact-checking site ([www.chequeado.com](http://www.chequeado.com)). Its mission is to strengthen democracy through fact-checking and the defence of the right to access information as a means to improve the quality of public debate. Under its education program, Chequeado runs different activities for journalists and journalism students in Argentina and elsewhere in Latin America. Its innovation program develops new ways of producing and sharing content and increasing community engagement, and now is leading fact-checking automation in Spanish.

**About the Open Data Institute:** The ODI was co-founded in 2012 by the inventor of the web [Sir Tim Berners-Lee](#) and artificial intelligence expert [Sir Nigel Shadbolt](#) to show the value of data, and to advocate for the innovative use of data to affect positive change across the globe.

It is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan company headquartered in London, with an international reach. It works with companies and governments to build a world where data works for everyone.

**About Google.org:** Google.org, Google's philanthropy, supports non-profits that address humanitarian issues worldwide and apply radical, data-driven innovation to solving the world's biggest challenges.