

2025

FactCheck Africa

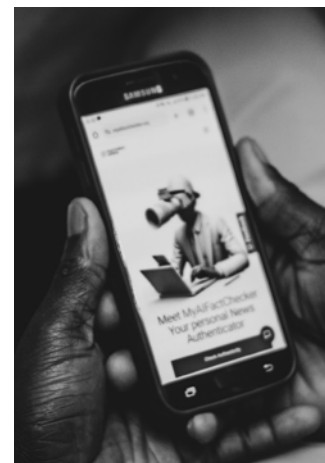
Annual Impact Report

Advancing Truth in the Age of Artificial Intelligence



Executive Summary

In 2025, FactCheckAfrica (FCA) entered a new era – one defined not merely by the scale of its programmes but also by the depth of its influence. Building on a foundation established in 2024, the organisation expanded its technological footprint, deepened its grassroots presence, secured landmark institutional recognition, and stepped decisively onto the global stage. The defining theme of the year was “Expansion and Innovation”: a dual commitment to scaling what worked and pioneering what had never been done.



The year opened with a milestone that affirmed FCA's global standing: verified signatory status with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) Code of Principles. This credential – among the most rigorous marks of credibility in the fact-checking world – signals to partners, donors, and the communities FCA serves that its operations meet international standards of transparency, independence, and accuracy.

At the heart of FCA's technological growth was the continued evolution of [MyAIFactChecker](#), which processed over 25,000 verification queries throughout the year. A pivotal milestone came in January 2025 when the tool was showcased at the Regional Conference on Information Integrity in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, where French-speaking journalists tested and committed to adopting it in their newsrooms. During the Cameroon 2025 presidential election, thousands of citizens turned to the tool in real time to verify viral claims – a demonstration of its cross-border relevance. FCA also launched a dedicated WhatsApp Chatbot, equipped with voice-to-text functionality and multi-language support, making verification accessible even in low-connectivity environments.

FCA's grassroots programmes reached

an unprecedented scale. Over 150,000 citizens were sensitised across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. The Fact-Check Champs initiative, an interactive flashcard game, reached more than 36 schools. A total of 217 publications were produced, spanning deep dives into AI-generated disinformation, election integrity, health misinformation, and cross-border political narratives. Over 12,000 university students and 450 campus journalists received training.

Advocacy carried FCA to the Paris AI Action Summit, Global Fact 12 in Rio de Janeiro, the Africa Facts Summit in Dakar, and COP30 in Belém – events at the intersection of truth, technology, and governance. These were not passive attendances; they were contributions to conversations shaping the rules of the information age.

What the numbers alone cannot fully convey is the quality of change FCA's work generated. In Osogbo, a young workshop participant drafted an FOI petition to the Ministry of Youth. In Ibadan, journalists left with tools they began using the same week. In Cameroon, citizens exercised a new kind of electoral agency. This report documents what happened — and more importantly, what changed.

Foreword

I write this foreword with a sense of both humility and profound resolve. Humility, because the challenges posed by misinformation and the rapid advance of synthetic media are forces that no single organisation can confront alone. Resolve, because the evidence assembled in this report – every workshop, every verified claim, every student who left a classroom more critically equipped than when they entered – confirms that our approach is working

2025 was the year FactCheckAfrica grew up institutionally. FactCheckAfrica has continued to thrive amidst unique challenges, demonstrating resilience and ingenuity in its pursuit of truth and transparency. Through it all, we have remained steadfast in combating misinformation and empowering communities across Africa with the tools to create a brighter, more informed future.

Achieving verified signatory status with the IFCN is not a trophy on a shelf; it is a commitment we renew every time we publish a fact-check, every time we engage a community, every time we choose accuracy over speed. It tells the world that we are not merely a Nigerian organisation fighting local misinformation – we are a credible global participant in the fight to protect the integrity of information.

Our dedication to innovation propelled us to new heights, enabling us to refine our fact-checking processes with cutting-edge technology and amplify our reach across the continent. The launch of the WhatsApp Chatbot and the deepening of MyAIFactChecker's multilingual capabilities reflect our conviction that the tools of truth must be as accessible as the tools of falsehood. If a lie can travel across six states via a voice note, then the means to debunk it must be reachable through the same interface. This is not idealism – it is strategy.

I am equally proud of our educational work. The integration of FCA's fact-checking curriculum into universities like Kwara State University and the University of Ilorin plants seeds that will bear fruit for years. When students become journalists, teachers, and public officials, they will carry with them the habits of verification. That is a generational impact.

Equally important has been our commitment to community engagement, which has strengthened public trust and showcased the immense power of informed citizens in fostering accountability and transparency.

Our work is made possible by the partners and funders who share our belief that informed citizenship is a prerequisite for democracy. Their trust demands our best, and their support enables it. To every community leader who opened their doors, every journalist who applied our tools, and every young Nigerian who asked a harder question because of what they learnt – this report is yours.

Foreword

The threats ahead are formidable. Artificial intelligence has become both the greatest tool and the greatest threat in the information landscape. But the antidote to synthetic deception is not silence – it is vigilance, literacy, and institutional strength. FactCheckAfrica will keep building all three.

As we move forward into 2026, our resolve remains steadfast. We will channel our energy into expanding educational initiatives, fortifying advocacy campaigns, and ensuring that media literacy is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. Media literacy is not just a skill; it is a fundamental right, and we are deeply committed to making it a cornerstone of our mission.

With profound gratitude for the unwavering support of our partners, stakeholders, and the communities we serve, I invite you to reflect on the milestones of the past year and join us in shaping the road ahead. Together, we can envision and build a future where truth prevails, misinformation is effectively challenged, and Africa thrives on transparency and accountability.

Olasupo Abideen

Convener, FactCheckAfrica

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Organisational Structure

FactCheckAfrica (FCA) is a premier fact-checking, AI research and digital rights organisation focused on “flattening the curve” of information manipulation across the continent. Originally established as [FactCheckElections](#) in 2022, it has evolved into a regional leader in AI-driven verification. The organisation developed MyAIFactChecker, Africa’s first AI-powered fact-checking tool combining Google’s Fact-Checking API with GPT-4 models. Operationally headquartered in Nigeria, FCA extends its mandate across West Africa and the broader African continent.



Mission

FCA’s mission is to provide accurate, timely, and unbiased fact-check reports focused on electoral activities, governance and accountability, climate, and conflict in Africa.



Strategic Positioning

Its strategic positioning in 2025 reflects a deliberate evolution: from reactive fact-checker to proactive civic-technology organisation. FCA now operates simultaneously as an editorial fact-checking body, an AI tool developer, a curriculum designer, and a grassroots civic educator.

This multi-dimensional identity distinguishes FCA from peer organisations. Where most African fact-checkers focus primarily on editorial output, FCA has built a programmatic architecture that addresses misinformation upstream – through education and tool-building – and downstream, through rapid verification and public sensitisation.

Thematic Focus Areas for FactChecking

Electoral Integrity

Monitoring and verifying claims surrounding elections across Nigeria and West Africa, including pre-election, election-day, and post-election narratives.

AI & Synthetic Media

Investigating AI-generated disinformation, including deepfakes, fabricated screenshots, and synthetic voice recordings.

Governance & Accountability

Fact-checking claims made by public officials, government agencies, and civil society actors on matters of public policy.

Health Misinformation

Debunking viral health myths, particularly those with the potential to cause harm at the community level.

Climate Misinformation

Monitoring false narratives around climate policy, environmental data, and climate action.

Methodology & Editorial Standards

FactCheckAfrica adheres to a rigorous, multi-stage fact-checking methodology aligned with the IFCN Code of Principles – the global standard for independent fact-checking organisations. In 2025, FCA achieved **verified IFCN signatory status**, confirming that its processes meet the highest benchmarks of accuracy, transparency, non-partisanship, corrections policy, and methodology disclosure.

The Fact-Checking Process

Claims are selected based on virality, potential for harm, and public interest. Each claim undergoes primary source verification — including direct engagement with official records, expert sources, and institutional data — before any verdict is assigned. Verdicts are assigned against a clear rubric (True, Misleading, False...) and are published alongside full evidence trails, enabling readers to independently assess the basis of each conclusion.

AI Integration & Safeguards

MyAIFactChecker augments – but does not replace – human editorial judgement. The tool performs initial information retrieval, cross-referencing claims against credible published sources. All AI-generated outputs are reviewed by trained fact-checkers before publication or dissemination. FCA publicly acknowledges the limitations of its AI tools, including the risk of hallucination in generative models. This transparency is a deliberate editorial and ethical choice: users must understand what the tool can and cannot do.

To minimise hallucination risk, MyAIFactChecker’s architecture anchors responses to verified news sources rather than generating responses from model weights alone. Continuous refinement of the tool’s ability to interpret African linguistic contexts and accents remains an active priority.

Corrections Policy

FCA maintains a publicly accessible corrections policy. Errors, once identified, are corrected promptly, prominently labelled, and accompanied by an explanation of what changed and why. This practice reflects FCA’s commitment to institutional accountability – the same standard it holds others to.

Governance & Accountability

Institutional credibility in fact-checking begins with the organisation's own standards of governance, transparency, and accountability. FCA's 2025 governance posture was shaped by three commitments: verified IFCN signatory status, editorial independence from all funders, and public transparency about its operations, funding, and methodology.



IFCN Signatory Status

In 2025, FCA achieved verified signatory status with the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) Code of Principles. This achievement represents compliance with five core principles: a commitment to non-partisanship and fairness; a commitment to transparency of sources; a commitment to transparency of funding and organisation; a commitment to transparency of methodology; and a commitment to open and honest corrections policy.

Editorial Independence

FCA maintains an explicit editorial firewall between its funding relationships and its editorial decisions. No funder, current or prospective, has any influence over claim selection, verdict assignment, or publication decisions. This policy is documented publicly on FCA's website. Funders are named, funding relationships are disclosed, and the editorial team operates with full independence from all financial contributors.

AI Ethics

FCA has a formal AI Ethics framework for its tool development and deployment practices. It also maintains public communications about MyAIFactChecker's limitations, including the hallucination risk, which represents a foundational commitment to honest AI deployment. An AI Ethics Handbook for African newsrooms is a planned 2026 deliverable.



FCA in Numbers: 2025 At A Glance

150k+

Citizens Reached
*across 6 geopolitical
zones*

25,000+

AI Queries Processed
via MyAIFactChecker

12,000+

Students & Youth Sensitised
digital rights conferences

450+

Campus Journalists Trained
across Nigeria

217

Major Publications
*fact-checks, analyses
& reports*

36+

Schools Reached
via Fact-Check Champs

85+

Communities Engaged
grassroots outreach

80%

Newsletter Readership
12 monthly editions

1

New AI Products Launched
WhatsApp Chatbot

Compared to 2024 – which recorded 201 publications, 100,000+ citizens reached, 19,241 tool queries, and 298 campus journalists trained – 2025 reflects a consistent upward trajectory across every indicator. The WhatsApp Chatbot, a product absent in 2024, marks a new channel of accessibility. The 80% newsletter readership, up from 75% in 2024, signals a deepening relationship with FCA's engaged audience.



Thematic Areas of Impact

Technology & Innovation: MyAIFactChecker and the WhatsApp Chatbot

In an information environment increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, FCA made a deliberate strategic choice in 2025: use AI not only as an editorial tool but also as an infrastructure of access. The result was a year of significant platform growth, international exposure, and real-world deployment under election conditions.

MyAIFactChecker: Platform Upgrade

MyAIFactChecker, first launched in 2024, came of age in 2025. The platform processed over 25,000 verification queries, a significant increase over the 19,241 recorded in 2024. Its capability set was expanded with multi-language support covering Swahili, French, Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, and Arabic, ensuring that Africa's linguistic diversity is reflected in its verification infrastructure, not treated as an obstacle to it.

The platform's instant verification architecture allows users to receive analysis of a claim in under 30 seconds. This speed is not merely a convenience; in the context of rapidly spreading election misinformation, it can determine whether a false claim reaches tens of thousands before it is corrected or whether citizens are equipped to assess it in the moment it appears.

Notable Milestone: JournalismAI Connect — LSE, April 2025

- MyAIFactChecker was selected for the JournalismAI Connect Project Showcase, anchored by the London School of Economics.

FCA representatives Prudence Emudianughe and Mustapha Lawal presented the tool to an international audience of journalism researchers and media practitioners.

The showcase positioned FCA as a leading African voice in the global AI-and-journalism conversation.

Thematic Areas of Impact

The WhatsApp Chatbot: Verification Where Misinformation Lives

The most consequential technological launch of 2025 was the FactCheckAfrica WhatsApp Chatbot. WhatsApp is the dominant communication channel across much of Nigeria and West Africa; it is where misinformation is born, shared, and believed. Placing a verification tool inside that environment was not an incremental upgrade; it was a fundamental rethinking of where fact-checking must occur.

The chatbot was designed with inclusivity at its core. It operates in low-bandwidth conditions, making it viable for rural communities with intermittent connectivity. Its voice-to-text functionality extends access to persons with disabilities, including those who cannot read or type. Multi-language support ensures that verification is not confined to English-language users.

“The MyAIFactChecker WhatsApp bot is a massive development. As a journalist, it’s my number one go-to tool for quick verification.”

— Biliaminu Manne, Editor



Regional Conference on Information Integrity — Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire

In January 2025, FCA showcased MyAIFactChecker at the Regional Conference on Information Integrity in West Africa in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. French-speaking journalists from across the sub-region tested the tool in live sessions and committed to integrating it into their newsrooms. This moment marked FCA's first formal Francophone adoption pathway for the tool, a critical step toward Pan-African relevance.

Thematic Areas of Impact

Media Literacy Campaigns: Reaching the Last Mile

The digital information crisis is not evenly distributed. Its heaviest burden falls on communities with the least access to verified information – rural populations, persons with disabilities, women’s groups, and citizens navigating political transitions. FCA’s 2025 media literacy strategy was designed around this reality: not broadcasting from a distance, but entering communities and building capacity from within.

Grassroots Sensitisation: Scale and Inclusion

FCA engaged over 85 grassroots communities across Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones, reaching a cumulative audience exceeding 150,000 citizens. Outreach was explicitly designed for inclusion: senior citizens, community leaders, religious organisations, women’s groups, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) were all specifically targeted.

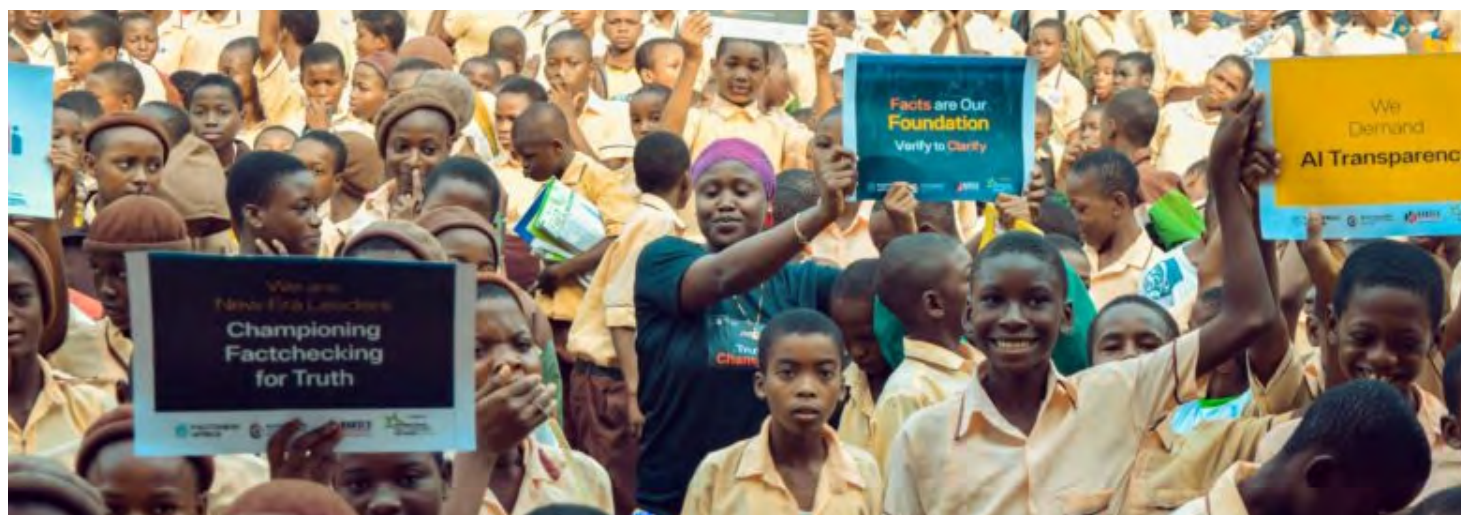
In Ekiti State, FCA reached over 781 citizens across the Private Sector Association and various religious bodies in Ilawe-Ekiti and Iyin-Ekiti. In Port Harcourt, workshops sensitised communities in Umuada Aluu, Umuoko Aluu, and Alakahia. Radio remained a vital medium, with stations including Midas Radio 90.5 FM and Radio Uniport 88.5 Unique FM carrying media literacy messages to thousands who could not be reached through digital-only channels.

Fact-Check Champs: Early Intervention through Play

One of the most distinctive and strategically significant innovations of 2025 was the launch of Fact-Check Champs – an interactive flashcard game designed to introduce media literacy concepts to children and secondary school students. The game contains 30 cards covering fact-checking terminology, techniques for spotting fabricated content, and the mechanics of how misinformation spreads.

Since its introduction in January 2025, Fact-Check Champs has been deployed in over 36 schools across Nigeria, engaging students across multiple states, including the FCT, Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Borno, Sokoto, Imo, and Jigawa. The programme is validated by educational specialists and clinical psychologists, ensuring that its pedagogical approach is both developmentally appropriate and measurably effective. Students who engage with the game are not passive recipients of information – they are active reasoners.

Thematic Areas of Impact



“Fact-Check Champs has redefined how I teach media literacy. My students are now more analytical and confident in questioning what they see online.”

— Kehinde Olujide, Secondary School Teacher

Digital Democracy Lab: Civic Tech for Accountability

The Digital Democracy Lab (DDL), supported by the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) Catalyst Grant, emerged as one of FCA's most transformative programmes of the year. The DDL brought together youth, journalists, civic actors, and community leaders across the southwest for intensive workshops on AI literacy, civic technology, and accountability tools.

Workshops were held in Ibadan (Oyo State), Osogbo (Osun State), Ado-Ekiti (Ekiti State), and Akure (Ondo State). Each session was tailored to the specific civic landscape of its host city, with participants exploring how AI tools can be deployed not only to verify information but also to demand accountability from government.

Impact Stories: Evidence of Change

Media Literacy Campaigns: Reaching the Last Mile

Outputs tell us what was done. Impact stories tell us what changed. Below are two cases, drawn from FCA's 2025 operations that demonstrate the organisation's capacity to generate real-world outcomes, not merely activities.

CASE STUDY 01

CAMEROON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2025

AI - VERIFICATION AT SCALE

The Cameroon 2025 presidential election unfolded against a backdrop of intense digital campaigning and widespread circulation of unverified claims. Fabricated screenshots attributed to electoral officials, manipulated video footage of candidates, and AI-generated audio clips circulated on WhatsApp and X within hours of their creation. For citizens with no access to trained fact-checkers, distinguishing the real from the fabricated was nearly impossible. FCA's **MyAIFactChecker**, deployed in both English and French, gave those citizens an accessible means of self-verification. Thousands of users submitted claims to the platform during the election period, receiving near-real-time analyses that cross-referenced assertions against verified databases, official electoral commission updates, and credible media reports. The chatbot's intuitive interface, accessible on WhatsApp, meant that citizens in areas without reliable internet could still access verification through a familiar tool.

OUTCOME

Thousands of citizen-initiated verification queries processed during a live election. Demonstrated cross-border, bilingual tool deployment. Gave citizens in Cameroon a practical sense of electoral agency previously unavailable to them.

Impact Stories: Evidence of Change

CASE STUDY 02

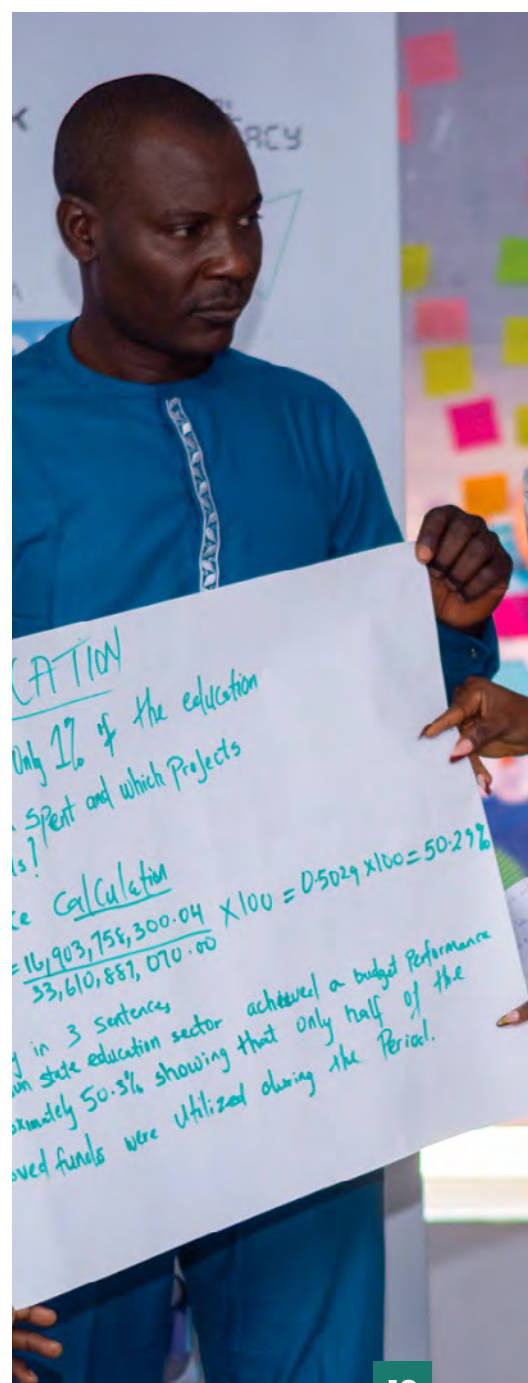
OSOGBO, OSUN STATE

FROM DDL WORKSHOP TO FOI PETITION

At the Digital Democracy Lab workshop held in Osogbo in October 2025, participants from the media, civic sector, and youth organisations were introduced to AI tools for civic accountability, digital rights, and the Freedom of Information Act. The workshop was designed not only to inform but also to activate. Joseph Adebayo, a youth advocate who attended, left the session and independently drafted an FOI petition on behalf of young people in the state, addressed to the Ministry of Youth. His initiative was not prompted by FCA staff; it was an autonomous civic action, triggered by the knowledge and confidence he gained in the workshop. Beyond the petition, participants in Osogbo formed thematic accountability clusters spanning health; education; agriculture, youth and sports; infrastructure; and technology — organic civic structures that continued operating after the DDL concluded.

OUTCOME

Documented instance of unsolicited civic action (FOI petition) directly attributable to FCA training. Formation of six thematic accountability clusters in Osogbo. Demonstrated that FCA's methodology can convert passive attendees into active civic actors.



Thematic Areas of Impact



Fact-Checking Education & Capacity Building

The long-term resilience of Africa's information ecosystem depends not only on the fact-checkers who exist today but also on the institutions that will train those of tomorrow. FCA's education strategy in 2025 operated at three levels: tertiary curriculum integration, campus journalist training, and secondary school teacher development.

Curriculum Development and University Adoption

FCA's fact-checking and media and information literacy curriculum – developed through comparative analysis of programmes at 133 universities worldwide and grounded in research from Nigerian academic and community contexts – was formally integrated into the mass communication programmes of Kwara State University (KWASU) and the University of Ilorin (UNILORIN). Additional institutions, including Kaduna State University (KASU), Federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe, and the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti participated through conference-based training programmes.

The curriculum covers critical information literacy, digital and data literacy, media literacy, moral and civic sensibility, and the use of AI and open-source intelligence (OSINT) in fact-checking. Its development involved collaboration with the Association of Communication Scholars and Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) to ensure both academic rigour and practical applicability. Students who completed the programme left as FactCheckAfrica campus ambassadors – peer educators continuing the work within their institutions.

Campus Journalist Training

More than 450 campus journalists from institutions including UCJ Unilorin, UCJ UI, UCJ OAU, and others received targeted training in fact-checking methodologies, AI-driven verification tools, and ethical journalism standards. These are not passive knowledge transfers, they are the formation of a professional cohort that will enter Nigeria's newsrooms equipped with skills most practising journalists have not yet acquired.

Online Certification Courses

To extend knowledge sharing beyond physical events, FCA introduced specialised online certification courses covering AI Ethics and Governance, Digital Rights and Journalism Innovation, and Fact-Checking and Media Literacy. Enrolment data is tracked internally; future reporting will include participant numbers and completion rates.

Thematic Areas of Impact

Advocacy & Policy Engagement

Misinformation is not only a media problem – it is a governance problem. Addressing it effectively requires engagement not only with communities and journalists but also with the policy processes that shape the rules of the digital public square. In 2025, FCA expanded its advocacy footprint significantly, appearing at the highest levels of global discourse on AI, journalism, and information integrity.

Global Stage Engagements

FCA's Convener joined world leaders at the Paris AI Action Summit, contributing an African civic-technology perspective to discussions on AI governance and ethical frameworks. At Global Fact 12 in Rio de Janeiro, FCA participated in international exchanges on fact-checking standards and the responsible integration of AI into editorial workflows. The Africa Facts Summit in Dakar brought together more than 200 participants from 20 countries, and FCA both attended and documented the event – positioning itself as a knowledge node, not only a participant.

At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, FCA engaged discussions on the role of misinformation in undermining climate action – a thematic intersection between FCA's editorial mandate and the global climate agenda. These were not ceremonial appearances; each engagement produced relationships, learning, and visibility that will shape FCA's programmatic direction in 2026.

Curriculum Policy Advocacy

FCA continued its active campaign to integrate fact-checking and media literacy into Nigeria's national curriculum at both secondary and tertiary levels. The formal adoption of FCA's curriculum by KWASU and UNILORIN represents early institutional traction. National-level curriculum policy reform remains a medium-term goal, and FCA's growing relationships with academic associations and communication scholars are the necessary preconditions for that change.



Collaborations & Partnerships

No organisation combats misinformation alone. FCA's partnerships in 2025 spanned international networks, national funders, academic institutions, and local civil society — each contributing a distinct dimension to FCA's impact.



IFCN / Poynter Institute
Verified signatory recognition



Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN)
Collaborated on curriculum validation and academic adoption pathways.

JournalismAI

LSE JournalismAI Project

Hosted MyAIFactChecker at the JournalismAI Connect Project Showcase in April 2025.

Kwara State University & University of Ilorin

Formal curriculum integration partners; institutional adoption of FCA fact-checking curriculum.

Civic Tech Innovation Network (CTIF)

Exhibition and networking partner for civic-tech visibility.



Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF)

Catalyst grant enabling the full Digital Democracy Lab programme across four southwest states.

Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law

Stanford University – Deliberative Democracy Lab

Academic partner for Train-the-Trainer secondary school programme in Kwara State.

Foundation for Excellent Living and Development (FELAD)

Community outreach partner in Ekiti State.

Trends & Insights: The Information Landscape in 2025

Understanding what FCA did in 2025 requires understanding the environment in which it operated. The information crisis of 2025 was not the crisis of 2020; it was faster, more synthetic, and more difficult to distinguish from reality.

The Rise of Synthetic Media

AI-generated content – deepfakes, fabricated screenshots, synthetic audio – became a mainstream misinformation tool in 2025. FCA's multi-part 'State of Synthetic Reality' series documented this shift in detail. Particularly alarming was the emergence of what analysts term the 'Liar's Dividend': the existence of deepfakes allows bad actors to dismiss genuine evidence as fabricated. FCA's analysis and verification work explicitly addressed this dynamic, providing citizens and journalists with frameworks to assess AI-generated content critically.

WhatsApp as a Misinformation Infrastructure

WhatsApp remained the primary vector for misinformation distribution across Nigeria and West Africa. From fabricated government circulars to cloned voice notes, the platform's end-to-end encryption and group dynamics make misinformation both easy to spread and difficult to trace. FCA's MyAIFactChecker WhatsApp Chatbot was a direct response to this reality: meet misinformation on the platform where it lives.

Election Disinformation at Scale

2025 featured several electoral moments across West Africa, each accompanied by coordinated disinformation campaigns. FCA's cross-border coverage — including the Cameroon presidential election and pre-positioning narratives for Nigeria's 2027 elections, established it as a monitor of regional electoral integrity, not just a domestic fact-checker.

Civic Engagement as a Counter-Force

One of the most encouraging trends of 2025 was evidence that media literacy and civic tech training can shift citizens from passive consumers to active accountability actors. The FOI petition initiated by a DDL participant in Osogbo is the clearest example. Where institutional responses to misinformation often lag, citizen-initiated accountability can fill the gap. FCA's programmes are deliberately designed to activate this potential.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Financial Sustainability

FCA's operational model remains predominantly grant-dependent, a reality shared across the African fact-checking sector. The costs of maintaining and scaling MyAIFactChecker, including API subscriptions, hosting infrastructure, and ongoing model refinement, is significant for a small non-profit. The broader sector faced a period of dwindling donor attention to African-focused work in 2025, a trend documented at the Africa Facts Summit in Dakar. FCA has responded by diversifying its funding relationships and developing ancillary revenue channels, including an individual giving portal via Paystack. Sustainable funding remains the single most pressing strategic challenge.

AI Hallucination and Tool Integrity

The responsible use of AI in fact-checking requires honest acknowledgement of its limitations. MyAIFactChecker, like all generative AI systems, is susceptible to hallucination, producing outputs that are plausible but inaccurate. FCA manages this risk through mandatory human editorial review of all AI-assisted outputs. It communicates this limitation transparently in its public-facing tool documentation. This is not a weakness unique to FCA, it is a sector-wide challenge, but managing it rigorously is essential to maintaining the trust on which fact-checking depends.

Scale versus Depth

FCA's ambition is wide: editorial fact-checking, AI tool development, university curricula, grassroots workshops, and global advocacy, all running simultaneously. The risk inherent in this scope is programme quality dilution. In 2025, FCA managed this tension by deploying a lean, high-capacity team and leveraging partnerships to extend execution capacity. As programmes grow, investment in organisational infrastructure, monitoring, evaluation, and internal knowledge management will be equally important as investment in programme expansion.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Key Lessons

- **Adaptability is not optional** – the misinformation landscape shifts faster than any static programme design can anticipate. Flexibility must be built into methodology, not just culture.
- **Community-centric design** consistently outperforms generic campaigns. Programmes tailored to specific linguistic, cultural, and civic contexts generate deeper, more lasting change.
- **Partnerships multiply impact in ways** that unilateral action cannot. Every institutional partnership in 2025 delivered value beyond its nominal scope – in networks, legitimacy, and co-created knowledge.



Looking Ahead: FCA in 2026

2025 was the year FCA proved that its model works. 2026 is the year to scale what has been proven and deepen what has begun. The following priorities will guide FCA's strategy in the year ahead.

Mobile App Launch

The release of native Android and iOS applications for MyAIFactChecker will dramatically expand the tool's reach and convenience. A mobile-first interface removes barriers that browser-based access imposes, particularly for younger users and those in low-connectivity environments.

AI for Media Hackathon

FCA will convene an AI for Media Hackathon, bringing together journalists, technologists, and civic innovators to develop new tools and workflows for combating information pollution. This initiative reflects FCA's conviction that the solutions to AI-driven misinformation must themselves harness AI — responsibly.

Regional Curriculum and Programme Scaling

Building on the adoption of FCA's curriculum at **KWASU** and **UNILORIN**, the organisation will work toward adoption in all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, and toward pilot deployments in francophone West African institutions. Fact-Check Champs will be scaled to reach a target of 100 schools nationally.

AI Ethics Handbook

FCA will publish a comprehensive AI Ethics Handbook for African newsrooms — a practical governance framework addressing responsible AI adoption, hallucination risk management, editorial independence from AI systems, and ethical considerations in AI-assisted reporting. This will be a contribution not only to FCA's own practice, but to the sector as a whole.

Deepening Evaluation and Impact Measurement

FCA is committed to strengthening its monitoring, evaluation, and learning infrastructure. The 2026 programme cycle will incorporate pre- and post-training knowledge assessments, structured user feedback mechanisms for MyAIFactChecker, and a formal theory of change documentation — ensuring that impact can be demonstrated, not only described.

Conclusion

Truth is not a natural equilibrium. It does not prevail by default. It must be built, defended, and continuously renewed through institutions, tools, education, and the everyday choices of citizens who have been given the means to know better.

In 2025, FactCheckAfrica contributed to that work at every level. A child in Sokoto learned to spot a fabricated headline. A journalist in Ibadan left a workshop with a verification tool she used the same afternoon. A civic advocate in Osogbo drafted a petition because he understood his rights. Thousands of citizens in Cameroon checked election claims in real time, in a language their government had never prioritised for digital tools.

These are not abstract achievements. They are the concrete, documented outcomes of a strategy built around one conviction: that an informed citizenry is the most resilient defence against the erosion of democratic life.

FactCheckAfrica enters 2026 as a stronger, more recognised, and more connected organisation than it was twelve months ago. Its IFCN signatory status is a signal to the world. Its curriculum in Nigerian universities is an investment in the next generation. Its tools — now deployed across borders, in multiple languages, through multiple channels — are closing the gap between where misinformation lives and where verification is available.

The work is not finished. It is, in the most meaningful sense, only beginning. We are grateful to every partner, every funder, every community, and every individual who made 2025 possible – and we invite you to be part of what comes next.





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