LAC/ DAA Mileydi Guilarte's Participation in a Meeting with Meta
April 9, 2024, 1:30-2:30pm
Ronald Reagan Building (RRB) Meeting Room LAC Large Conference Room (5.09.040)
Google Meet

Sandra Luff: Thank you. It's been a great partnership, and today our colleagues and I traveled from Mexico. From our perspective, we would like to provide you with an update on our priorities in the region and the partnerships that we not only have in DC but also with embassies and civil societies. One of the things that we are talking about with the team is to share what we are doing and to give you an opportunity to ask as many questions as possible.

Íñigo Fernández Baptista: Thank you for having us today. Also, I love coming here and learning what your priorities are and how I can do my job better. I would like to focus on the results of the several programs on which we are working. We have been working with the Partnership in Central America, and we want to train them with digital skills. The second big area is developing the southeastern states in Mexico

- We are focusing on indigenous communities, we are the first tech company to translate their training to 7 indigenous languages, a lot of communities in Mexico are female driven and we are focused on training female entrepreneurs. Another big point that we need to step up is also creating digital citizenships. For a lot of the people who experience the internet for the first time, what we are teaching them is that they have a commitment to knowing what information they consume and what information they are delivering.
- I want to thank you for your partnership. We have been able to provide training on security best practices, and I think that's really made a difference.

Deborah Galindo: The USG is very focused on Honduras, Salvador, and Guatemala, and we are expanding this initiative to Panama, DR and other central american countries. We are also partnering with different organizations in Central America and focusing on women in business. We are also partnering with different organizations to focus on women and entrepreneurs, and our plan for 2024 is to partner with other members of the PCA, like MasterCard. We also want to partner with other organizations that are not inside the PCA but are working closely with them.

Mileydi Guilarte: Part of our limited footprint in Mexico is not only independent media but also the disappearance. Is there anything else we can do or another opportunity to exclusively focus on implementing partners?

Íñigo Fernández Baptista: It's tragic what is happening in Mexico. Being a journalist and human rights advocate in Mexico is very dangerous. We do several things to empower them: we

partner with Fundación Engabo en Colombia to teach journalists best practices to keep their accounts safe. The second one is that we are making them sign up for two-factor authenticators; this tool was launched with countries like Nicaragua.

Sandra Luff: Through DHS, they can identify high-risk communities and work to help secure them, and they launched a website that provides better guidance for human rights defenders.

Brian Townsend: We began training Venezuelan migrants so we could tackle misinformation from some NGOs and ORGs. We were able to reach 2000 migrants. It's a program that focuses on understanding that we, as citizens, are also digital citizens and what our digital footprint is. Impacto TIC trained NGOs and multilateral organizations, and we are planning to install this capacity knowledge, execute this training program, and train Venezuelans.

Patrick Goodwin: In order to identify the migrants that are taking the training, what is your process?

Brian Townsend: Impacto TIC works with Migracion Colombia and La Cancilleria and Venezolanos por Colombia; these organizations also help us understand some of the migrants. We are trying to pitch in as best as we can.

Íñigo Fernández Baptista: In our very limited field, we have an effort of policy within our platform where we clearly check international and external pressure as well as national policy. We try to disrupt in-state or non-state actors that are trying to disrupt. The one that we disrupted with the minister of communication in Nicaragua, led by the Ortega government. How do we publish this? It takes time. We need to disrupt the network, so this investigation takes a while. We make the investigation public, and we work with AC to disrupt this network.

- In Nicaragua, they created fake engagement and tried to make the people in Nicaragua believe things that the Ortega government was doing.
- Our strategy is: 1. promoting integrity; 2. detecting fake accounts; Another point of integrity is that we have 40,000 people in every time zone, guaranteeing the safety of our users. The second thing is to prevent and combat misinformation. Third parties are reporting content that contains misinformation. The other thing that we use to combat misinformation is training. We have trained over 276,000 people to show people that they have a responsibility for digital rights. The third is partnering with electoral authorities in the region; we report content and follow no other company's transparency efforts; every political addition needs to be approved with a valid government ID.

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Vera Zakem: Are there any efforts in atrocity prevention or violence during elections or before and after elections?

Deborah Galindo: We already partner with some organizations on the ground; we call them trusted partners, and they give contextual information and report content or trends that they are seeing on our platforms. They also flag any other problems that we might encounter; we cannot share the names for safety issues.

- Sometimes organizations don't have the bandwidth to become trusted partners, but we do parent with other organizations under the umbrella of trusted partners, and they give reports ahead of the elections.

Cara Thanassi: Several months ago we received a briefing by Internews regarding their report on the challenges related to the Trusted Partners Program. Could you talk about those and how you are addressing them?

- Referenced challenges related to staffing in terms of capability to respond.