What Makes and Engaging, Award-Winning Data Project
Wait, so who are you?

- I’m Eva! @evaconstantaras
- I’m from the US, but have lived in 9 countries and been to over 80! I’ve been kicked out of three for my data journalism work.
- My passion is data journalism by, for and about marginalized communities
- I work with journalists mostly in the Global South
- I am the Data Editor for Lighthouse Reports and Data Journalism Advisor for Internews
- I’ve written eight data journalism manuals for eight countries in eight languages.
- Teams I worked with from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kenya have all been finalists for the Global Data Journalism Awards, now the Sigma Awards!
- I am on the pre-jury for the Sigma Awards and a mentor for the Digital Women Leaders
What do we want to get done today?

- Learn about the role of data journalism in a healthy media environment
- Look at trends in what makes a “great” data story
- Explore the accountability data journalism workflow
What Then?
The human and financial cost of 15 years of Fortress Europe

The Migrants Files was a consortium of journalists from over 15 European countries. It was coordinated by Journalism++.

Winner, Data Journalism Awards 2014
Winner, European Press Prize 2015
Reuters wins GEN 2018 Data Journalism Award for Data Visualization of the Year

Latrine usage
A communal latrine should be shared by no more than 20 people during the emergency phase of a camp, according to UNHCR standards. Many sites are operating beyond the U.N. guideline.

Makeshift latrines
Some latrines are made by refugees themselves and pose a health risk. Most operate with no hygiene or sanitation facilities.
What Now?
Why data journalism?

Lisa Rost - Less News More Context
LA PLATAFORMA DE ANÁLISIS DE DATOS MÁS COMPLETA SOBRE LAS INDUSTRIAS EXTRACTIVAS EN EL PERÚ
The State has not remedied any of the more than 3,000 hydrocarbon environmental liabilities that exist in Peru

Nine years after being commissioned to clean up contaminated sites, the Ministry of Energy and Mines says it has not been able to do so. Nor has it been possible to identify the private companies responsible for these risky sites, mainly poorly abandoned oil wells. This step is key, since the designated operators must finance the rehabilitation. For now, the ministry has prioritized the remediation of 15 liabilities, a process that will be financed with public money. This Convoca.pe report is the second part of the investigative series "Black Forest", made from the construction and analysis of a database that is part of the most powerful tool developed so far by our team.

By Ghiovani Hinojosa | September 11, 2020
Impunidad y muerte en los campamentos de la gran minería
Why now?
Pandemic economic inequality stories are universal

INVESTIGATION: COVID-19 Response Projects Worth ₦534.98 Million Awarded to Unverified Contractors

by Aderemi Ojekunle — July 21, 2020 in COVID19, Governance Reading Time: 13min read

HOW $5 BILLION (N1.9 TRILLION) COULD HAVE HELPED NIGERIA

In the last 16 years, the NLNG earmarked $18.3 billion (about N8 trillion) as dividend payout to the federation government through the NNPC. Of this amount, the NNPC used $5 billion to settle subsidy payments. The implications of borrowing continue to have a huge impact on the Nigerian economy. Here’s how its monetary value could have helped the country:

- **60,000**
  - At an average cost of N8 million per one Primary Health Centre, it could have allowed the country to create more than 60,000 additional functional health centres and equip them with modern facilities.

- **112,000**
  - At a cost of N2 million each, the cost could have built 112,000 units of 2-tech classrooms across the country.

- **100,000**
  - build over 100,000 mortgage homes at N45 million each across the country and reduce the country’s housing deficit.

- **3 Million**
  - boreholes constructed at N600,000 each across the country to ensure proper hygiene and fight coronavirus.

- **300,000**
  - With N6 million loans for each entrepreneur in Nigeria, it could have helped 300,000 small business owners to scale their businesses, cushion pandemic effects, employ millions, and grow the economy.

- **5,200 MW**
  - It could have helped Nigeria reduce its debt burden. Recently, the country is facing huge debt at N30.5 trillion ($149.3 billion) as of June 2020, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO).

- **3,800 km**
  - Debt of road networks could have been constructed across the country at N700 million per km. These would have helped the country to reduce fuel prices, lower electricities, and focus bond issuances on any critical projects.

- **21.7 Million**
  - 300,000 unemployed Nigerians trained, employed, and paid ₦30,000 monthly stipend for a few months (over 2 months/
Pandemic gender inequality stories are universal
The Modern Day Media Consumer...

Misinformation

Information Overload

Distortion of Facts
Wants accountability reporting that is presented in a compelling way.
A BuzzFeed News investigation based on thousands of satellite images reveals a vast, growing infrastructure for long-term detention and incarceration.

This is Part 1 of a BuzzFeed News investigation. For Part 2, click here. For Part 3, click here. For Part 4, click here. For Part 5, click here.
What do today’s great data stories have in common?

1. Evergreen projects that maximize resources
2. Open data over flashy visualizations
3. Extensive documentation of research methods
4. Beat reporting that builds public understanding of systemic failures
5. Hyper-local storytelling opportunities
On August 29, 1911, a Yahi man known as Ishi came out of hiding near Oroville, California. He had spent decades evading settlers after the massacre of his community in the 1860s and had recently lost the
AT THE EPICENTER

What if all Covid-19 deaths in Brazil happened in your neighborhood?

Published on July 24, 2020.
Data updated on May 9, 2021.

Up until yesterday, 407,092 people had died due
Unprecedented: more than 200 indigenous lands in the Amazon are at high risk for Covid-19
Hypothesis

Indigenous communities are facing an acute health crisis during the pandemic due to under-resourced health facilities and underlying health conditions.
Why use a hypothesis?

A hypothesis gives you something to verify, instead of trying to uncover a secret.

A hypothesis increases your chances of discovering secrets.

A hypothesis makes it easier to manage your project.

Hypotheses are a tool that you can use again and again.

A hypothesis virtually guarantees that you will deliver a story, not just a mass of data.

A hypothesis will ensure your story is data-driven, not data-decorated.
Tips for a Strong Hypothesis

Posit a theory that can either be proven or disproven with data

Be specific about what is being measured

Measure the problem, causes, impact and solutions

Make sure the data is available

Pick a topic that is important to the public
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question Type</th>
<th>Ask ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem questions</td>
<td>● How big is the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● How expensive is it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Is the problem getting better or worse?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact questions</td>
<td>● Who is affected by the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Are some groups more affected than others?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause Questions</td>
<td>● What are the causes of the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● What factors have made it worse?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solution Questions</td>
<td>● What is the solution to the problem?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● How can we measure effectiveness?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Where has the problem been solved and how did they do it?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem Questions

Are indigenous communities dying at a disproportionately high rate?

Do indigenous communities have worse access to ICU beds than the rest of the country?
Impact Questions

What proportion of indigenous lands are considered in critical condition now?

Are indigenous communities considered to be in a more critical condition during the pandemic than the rest of the country?

What proportion of the population of indigenous communities is considered high risk?
Situação de vulnerabilidade das terras indígenas

Fonte: Associação Brasileira de Estudos Populacionais (Abepl)
Cause Questions

How did maternal mortality rates of indigenous people compare to the general population before the pandemic?

How did access to clean water in indigenous communities compare to the rest of the population before the pandemic?

How complete are death records considered in indigenous territories compared to the rest of the country?

How complete are death records among indigenous communities?

How complete is the registration of Indigenous Territories?
Solution Questions

What strategy can be employed to close the gap in access to healthcare and mitigate the vulnerability of indigenous people?
Accountability requires evidence of systemic failure

The majority of Indigenous Lands (TIs) in the Amazon have been identified as in critical condition due to the coronavirus pandemic in Brazil.

Of 1,228 Brazilian municipalities where there is at least a stretch of TIs, only 108 have an ICU bed, so less than 10% of Brazilian municipalities with indigenous lands have ICU beds.

More than 80% of all TI lands in the country are concentrated in the North, precisely the region that, along with the Northeast, has the largest ICU deserts in the country.
Accountability requires evidence of systemic failure

The maternal mortality rate for indigenous people is highest among all races, even when controlling the socioeconomic level. The deaths among those in the indigenous community are undercounted.

Among the 10 regionals that have been identified as most vulnerable to the coronavirus, seven haven’t been officially recognised for protected indigenous status.

About four out of five households in indigenous territories did not have a water supply and a third of households on indigenous lands did not have a bathroom for exclusive use.
Accountability requires evidence of systemic failure

In 17 TIs, at least one-fifth of the population was over 50 years of age, which is considered a risk factor for coronavirus.

Researchers have called for the establishment of specific strategies for the care of indigenous peoples.

Another recommended solution is the construction of field hospitals exclusively for indigenous people.
Hypotheses can (and must) be used again and again.
Data is a team sport
3rd Edition
of the
SIGMA
AWARDS

for data journalism
Sigma awards, what we like to see …

Great data collection and analysis in the service of journalism, ideally shining a light on facts and issues of public interest that would otherwise not be known;

Great storytelling and engagement with strong visual and interactive elements of (ideally) that kind of reporting;

Great public service, either in reporting/analysis of key issues or in terms of empowering communities to discover important information for themselves;

Great innovative ideas that will likely move the field forward;
Stories beat Data
Questions?