



# PLSO MOZAMBIQUE



## Guide - How to Spot Fake News

Sharing information comes with the responsibility to avoid spreading false or misleading content. For development and humanitarian workers, this is particularly critical, as sharing inaccurate, outdated, or biased information can harm credibility and trust. While navigating today's fast-paced social media landscape is challenging, there are practical steps to assess and verify information before sharing, ensuring its reliability and accuracy.

### Check the Source

When evaluating information, consider whether it is a first-hand report—did the sender personally photograph or collect the information? If not, determine whether the sender knows the original source. If the original source is unknown, assess whether it is anonymous or comes from a trusted and credible entity.



Good Source

	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO

### Visual and Auditory Assessment

Evaluate the overall design, layout, and presentation of the information. Check for spelling or grammatical errors and consider whether it looks professional. Be cautious if the text is written in ALL CAPS, contains excessive exclamation marks (e.g., “!!!”), uses emojis, or includes provocative or comedic language, as these can indicate a lack of credibility.



Looks Professional

	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO

### Analyze the Message

Bias affects everyone, so it's essential to critically evaluate content. Consider whether the message is dominated by a single perspective and recognize that strong emotions can make people more vulnerable to misinformation—including yourself. If a message evokes strong emotions, exercise extra caution and verify the information thoroughly before sharing it. Remove any emotive language to ensure the message is clear and impartial.



Unbiased / Objective

	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO

### Reverse Image or Video Search

Use tools like Google Images, TinEye, or InVID to check if images or videos have been reused from unrelated events. For videos, take multiple screenshots and search them on these platforms. Pay attention to details like the time of day or weather conditions—does the scene match what is being reported? For instance, is it cloudy or rainy when it's supposed to be sunny, or hot when it should be cold? These clues can help verify authenticity.

Re-used Image Check

	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO

### **Find Other Sources**

Before sharing incidents on WhatsApp, check if the same information is being shared on other platforms or by reputable news outlets. If you're unsure about the source, mention in your group that the information hasn't been verified and you're checking its validity. This helps others understand that the content could be false and encourages caution before spreading it further.

### **Sharing Format**

Most apps, including WhatsApp, remove metadata (e.g., EXIF files) from images, which can erase proof of originality. To preserve metadata, send photos as files. On WhatsApp: open a chat, tap the attach icon, select Document, then Browse other files, and choose your image. The photo will be sent as a file, retaining details like creation date, time, device type, and geographic location (if location services were active). iPhone users must save the photo as a file before sharing. For more details, visit: [citizenevidence.org](https://citizenevidence.org)

PLSO greatly values the information shared by our partners. Your updates help keep our community connected, informed, and safe. Thank you for being an essential part of this effort!

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### **PLSO Disclaimer**

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