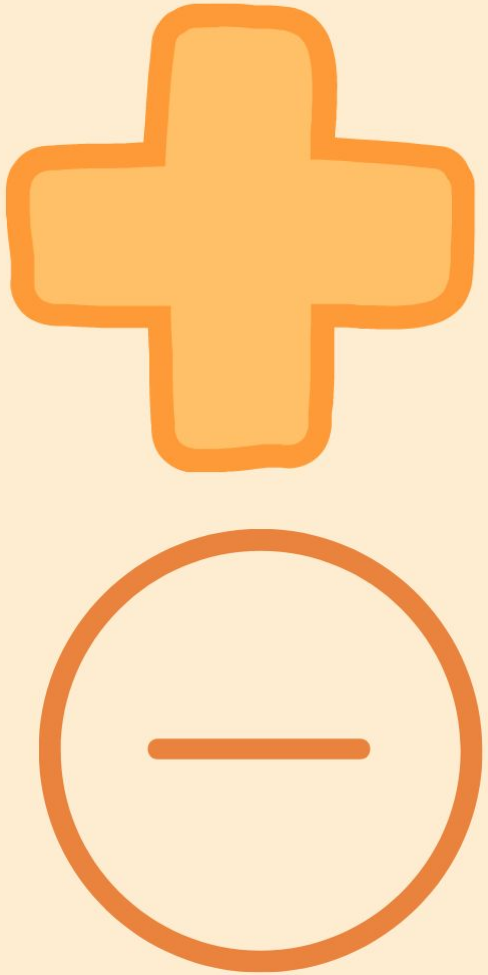
Examples of the positive and negative impact of Tech in Human Rights and Global Health.

As part of the research for the masterclass delivered by Impala Global (Previously Kadye Global) on 3 December 2020 for Africa Legal Innovation Week 2020 - Justice in the Digital Age, Isabella Garcia provided the below examples which outline the positive/negative Impacts of Tech in Human Rights & Global Health.



Positive impact of tech in human rights

In recent years there has been a push to develop technological tools to aid legal empowerment for marginalised communities, who are unable to access legal and state support through traditional means. Nazdeek a grassroots rights organisation in India – focusing on access to justice – has been working with tea plantation workers in Assam and Slum Dwellers in Delhi, aiming to tackle barriers to social entitlements and other rights through community-led policy and legal advocacy. The communities they work with face extreme poverty and deprivation without access to basic rights, such as clean water, food, sanitation services and healthcare.

Nazdeek wanted to develop a legal tool that could empower communities to communicate their grievances regarding their living and working conditions to the relevant government agency. They partnered with community paralegals in Delhi and Assam to develop effective and accessible ways to monitor essential government services; to seek redress for individual rights violations, and to collectively advocate for systemic improvements. They created a digitised system to make monitoring and documenting easier, as each entitlement has a numerical code that paralegals in the communities can simply report by texting the relevant codes through SMS to Nazdeek.

The staff at Nazdeek will then verify these reports through either phone calls or field visits, and once confirmed seek redress for the communities through the appropriate legal channel. This system thus allows previously excluded groups to have their voices heard and become partners in change.

Sen, S., 2018. *Bringing Justice Close: An Experiment In Accessing Justice With Technology*. [online] OpenGlobalRights. Available at: <https://www.openglobalrights.org/bringing-justice-close-an-experiment-in-accessing-justice-with-technology/> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

Positive impact of tech in global health

Go. Data is a disease and virus outbreak investigation tool created by the World Health Organisation and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GORAN). It is used for field data collection during public health emergencies enabling case investigation; contact follow-up; visualization of chains of transmission including secure data exchange; and it is flexibly designed to adapt to the wide range of outbreak scenarios. Go. Data was successfully utilised during an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Kasese district of Uganda in June 2019. Additionally, it has been deployed to over 35 countries in support of the Covid-19 Pandemic response.

Extranet.who.int. n.d. *Go.Data | GOARN*. [online] Available at: <https://extranet.who.int/goarn/godata> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

ReliefWeb. 2019. *WHO'S Data Tool Improves Ebola Surveillance, Contact Tracing And Decision Making In Uganda - Uganda*. [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/who-s-data-tool-improves-ebola-surveillance-contact-tracing-and-decision-making-uganda> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

Who.int. n.d. *About*. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/godata/about> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

Positive impact of tech in global health

The four main strengths of Go. Data in comparison to the paper-based systems that have traditionally been used for contact tracing are:

1. Generates real-time data that increases the speed of contact tracing.
2. Improved data completeness, storage and accuracy. For example, contacts will not be lost.
3. More discreet than carrying around paper files and increase security for tracers working in communities who are distrustful of official institutions.
4. The visual representation of real-time data helps epidemiologist understand how the disease or virus is spreading.

Extranet.who.int. n.d. *Go.Data | GOARN*. [online] Available at: <https://extranet.who.int/goarn/godata> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

ReliefWeb. 2019. *WHO'S Data Tool Improves Ebola Surveillance, Contact Tracing And Decision Making In Uganda - Uganda*. [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/uganda/who-s-data-tool-improves-ebola-surveillance-contact-tracing-and-decision-making-uganda> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

Who.int. n.d. *About*. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/godata/about> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

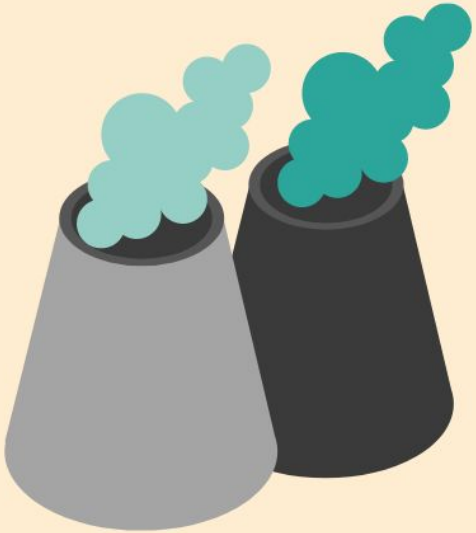
Negative impact of tech in human rights

The European Union Border and Coast Guard Agency have been condemned by multiple human right organisation for conducting unlawful operations aiming to stop migrants reaching Europe. The European Union (EU) are increasingly outsourcing border security to private security companies such as ‘Frontex’, who use drone technology to detect migrant boats from the air and ‘guide’ them to the Libyan Coast Guard, despite its documented connections to militias, human trafficking and other human rights abuses. A new report published by several migrant rights organisations (2020) has found that aerial surveillance has led to the capture of tens of thousands of migrants who are then returned to conflict zones or placed in Libyan detention centres. Migrants who are placed in detention centres are forced into overcrowded and unhygienic cells; without adequate food and water and are subject to physical and sexual assaults by guards. The report concluded that “through both aerial surveillance and coordination activities in migrant interceptions, EU actors have violated their SAR obligations and facilitated interception activities of the Libyan authorities. EU actors are thus complicit in the systematic violation of human rights.” (Alarm Phone, borderline-europe, Mediterrena & Sea-Watch, 2020, p. 2)

Alarm Phone, Borderline Europe, Mediterranea and Sea-Watch., 2020. *Remote Control: The EU-Libya Collaboration in Mass Interceptions of Migrants in The Central Mediterranean*. [online] Alarm Phone, Borderline Europe, Mediterranea and Sea-Watch., pp.1-30.

https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/01/21/no-escape-hell/eu-policies-contribute-abuse-migrants-libya

Negative impact of tech in global health



Air pollution has increased rapidly over the past 200 years as a result of technological developments in the production of energy through the burning of fossil fuels, which in turn releases various pollutants into the air such as scoot, smoke, mould, pollen, methane, and carbon dioxide. These sources of energy power an endless list of our everyday energy needs from transport, to household appliances and mobile phones.

However, the air pollutants emitted are highly toxic, with the World Health Organisation (WTO) estimating that air pollution kills seven million people globally every year and that 9 out 10 people breathe air that exceeds the WHO guidelines.

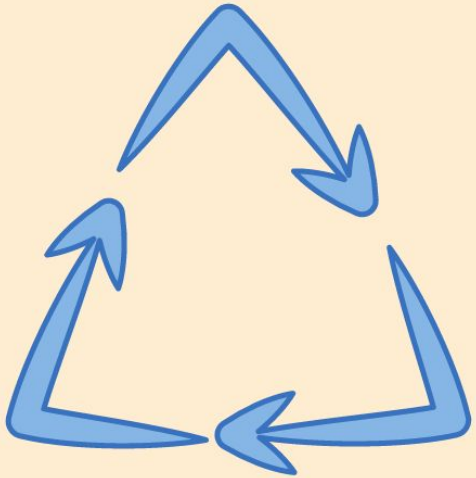
Barnes, J.H., Chatterton, T.J. and Longhurst, J.W., 2019. Emissions vs exposure: Increasing injustice from road traffic-related air pollution in the United Kingdom. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, *73*, pp.56-66.

Ogden, C., 2019. *Poor Most Exposed to Air Pollution Caused by Rich, Study Finds - Air Quality News %*. [online] Air Quality News. Available at: <https://airqualitynews.com/2019/06/19/poor-most-exposed-to-air-pollution-caused-by-rich-study-finds/> [Accessed 1 December 2020].

Who.int. n.d. Air Pollution. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1> [Accessed 1

Negative impact of tech in global health

Additionally, air pollution has been linked to higher rates of heart diseases, strokes, cancer and respiratory diseases like asthma. Low-and middle-income countries suffer the highest levels of exposure to both ambient and household air pollution, because in contrast to high-income countries they lack the wealth and resources to control the unhealthiest forms of pollutants. However, even in wealthier countries air pollution disproportionately impacts poorer sections of the population, despite them being least responsible for it. For example, a study conducted by the Air Quality Management Resource Centre (2019) found that UK households in the poorest areas emitted the least nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM), whereas the least poor areas emitted the highest, per kilometre vehicle emissions. However, in London those living in the most deprived communities are exposed to levels of pollution that are 25 per cent above the national average, thus highlighting the unequal impact that air pollution has on different communities.



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Who.int. n.d. Air Pollution. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/air-pollution#tab=tab_1> [Accessed 1