2020
THE STATE OF COLLABORATION
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

1. Collaboration is increasing
2. Global work growing
3. COVID-19 work
4. Ongoing efforts
5. Recognition
WHAT’S HAPPENING

1. COLLABORATION INCREASING

— We’re seeing a more diverse set of organizations joining collaborative journalism efforts.

— Dozens of new collaboratives have been announced this year alone.

— Collaboration has long been a hallmark of small, independent, nonprofit, ethnic, community and immigrant media — but now we see more mainstream news orgs + influential industry leaders embracing it.
2. GLOBAL WORK GROWING

— ICIJ and ICFJ’s work has been critical

— First Draft and IFCN’s work helped expand beyond investigation

— Collaboration common in Latin America, parts of Europe

— Growing in Asia, Australia
WHAT’S HAPPENING

3. COVID-19 PARTNERSHIPS

— The new coronavirus has spurred a series of new collaborative efforts.

— It has also altered current collaborations.

ONE POINT TO WATCH:
As news orgs lose staff, collaboration should be looked at more as a way to fill community information need gaps together rather than to fill empty newsroom beats.
4. ONGOING EFFORTS

— In the U.S. alone, there are at least a half-dozen new, semi-permanent, ongoing collaboratives that have either been announced in last few months or are in the process of forming.

NOTE: In most cases, grant funding has made those efforts possible, most notably supported by Knight Foundation and Google.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

5. RECOGNITION

— Two more Pulitzers this year for collaborative efforts.
— Largest Collaborative Journalism Summit ever.
— More trade publications covering collaboration.
— More research being done focusing on collaboration.

#collaborativeej
WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

— COVID-19 will continue to spur partnerships.

— Freelance journalists will play a bigger role in collaborative efforts.

— Collaborations will begin to focus more on information needs.

— External funding will grow.

— Revenue-generation will be explored.