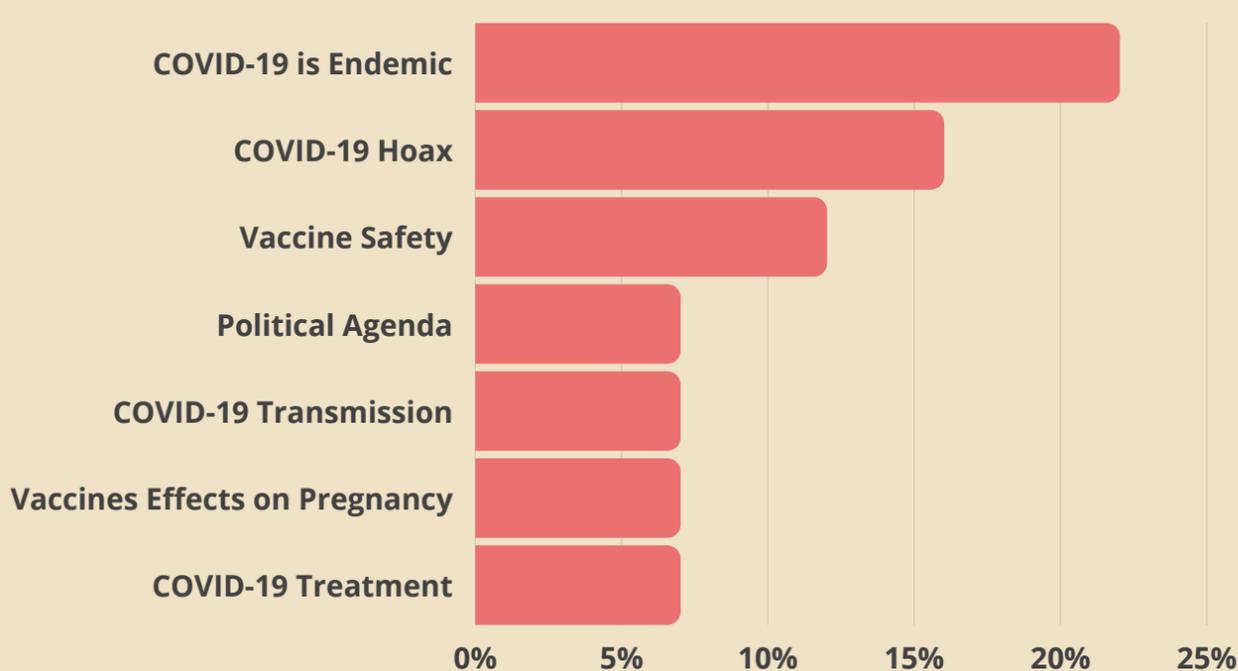


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - JULY 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES

In July 2022, Internews collected 636 rumors, misconceptions, and community concerns on social media about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines in Sudan. The rumors were collected via listening groups with the participation of people impacted by conflict and displacement in eight states in Sudan, including **Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Kassala, Al-Gedaref, East Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, and North Darfur**. Rumors were also collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country (Facebook and Twitter) and were selected through a risk analysis that identifies misinformation that may potentially impact vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project.

TOP COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMOR THEMES



Rumors that fall under the endemic theme highlight perceptions that COVID-19 is endemic, and is no longer a concern. Hoax rumors say that COVID-19 is not real, while Vaccines safety are rumors questioning the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. Transmission rumors represent the beliefs that says COVID-19 can not be transmitted in Sudan due to hot weather or infects older people only. Treatment rumors represent the local remedies that people believe can treat COVID-19, like the Acacia.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS IN JULY 2022



56% of rumors were collected from listening groups

44% of rumors were collected from social media

Internews and its Rooted in Trust partners, collected a total of **636 COVID-19 and vaccine rumors**, including **356 rumors collected during listening group sessions**, while **280 rumors were collected from social media**.



SUDAN ROOTED IN TRUST

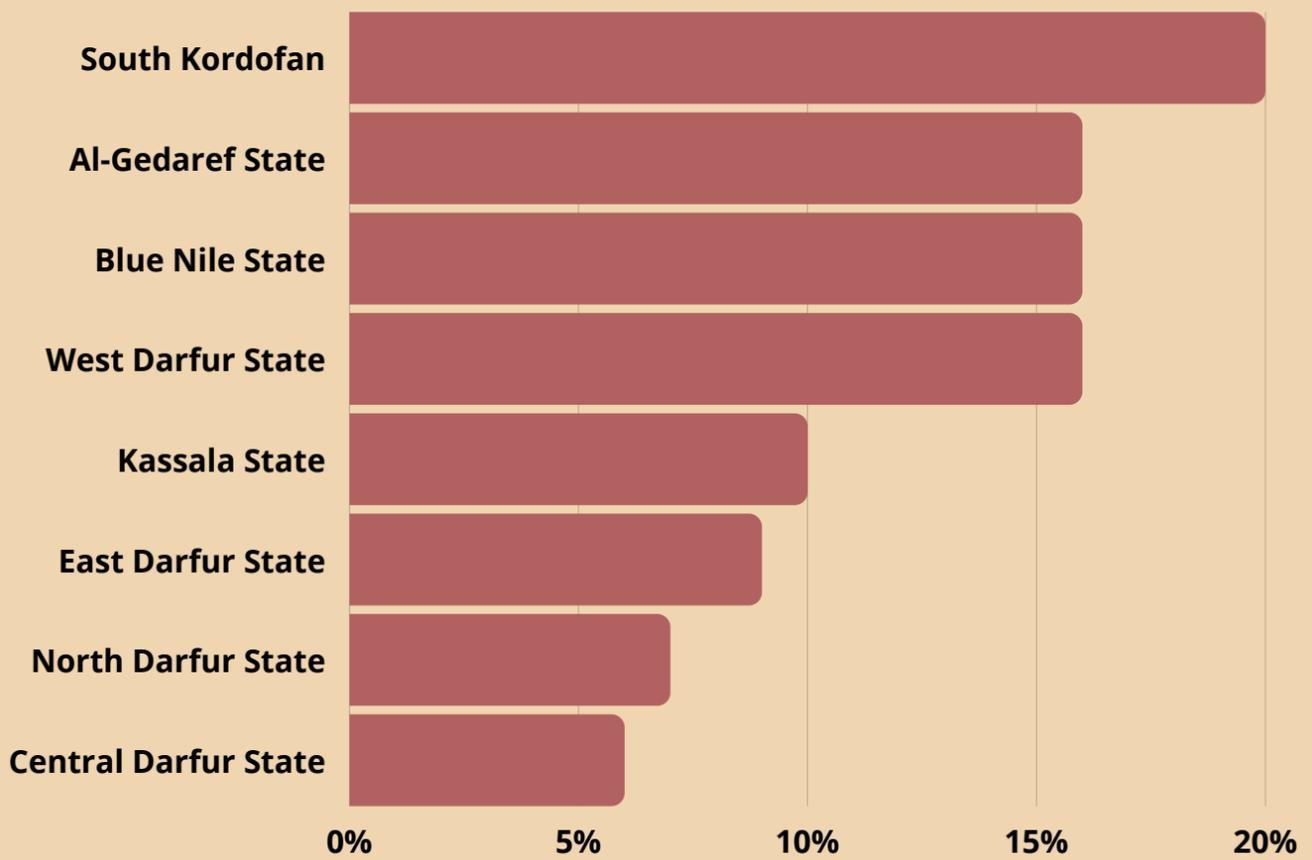
We aim to tackle misinformation and rumors about the pandemic and vaccines, to engage and support humanitarian, public health and media actors in responding to vulnerable communities' COVID-19 information needs.

Please visit: [Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins](#)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - JULY 2022
**SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK
 ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES**

Rumors questioning the **effectiveness and safety of the COVID-19 vaccines** are common on Sudanese social media, with some saying the **Monkeypox virus** is merely a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine. Others have also expressed outright fear of the vaccine, saying “We are afraid of the side effects”. While some have dismissed the vaccine, citing their **natural immunity** to the virus because of their dark skin color, Sudan’s hot climate, and being “**African**”.

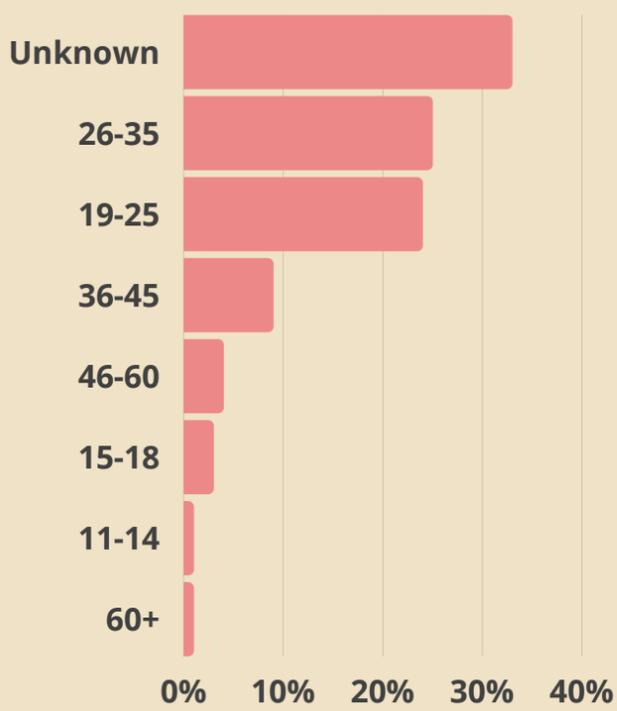
COVID-19 AND VACCINE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY STATE



Fifty-six percent of the rumors were collected through listening groups. The above graph shows distribution by geographic coverage of this data.

In Sudan, many rely on **herbal remedies** to treat a COVID-19 infection. They are considered an essential and trusted treatment, as some of these home-based remedies have been passed down through generations. A man in **Abu Karshola, South Kordofan**, explained that they rely on “thin corn and red corn” in their diet for protection because the COVID-19 vaccine is “harmful”. While others rely on various **remedies to treat COVID-19**, such as “acacia”, “balanitis oil” “bitter tea”, “ginger”, “raw donkey milk” and “tamarind juice”.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS BY AGE



The term "unknown" refers mostly to social media users that have not disclosed their age.

RUMORS COLLECTED IN REFUGEE AND IDP CAMPS



Nearly 18% of the COVID-19 and vaccine rumors were collected from listening groups held in IDP camps in the Darfur region, and Blue Nile State.

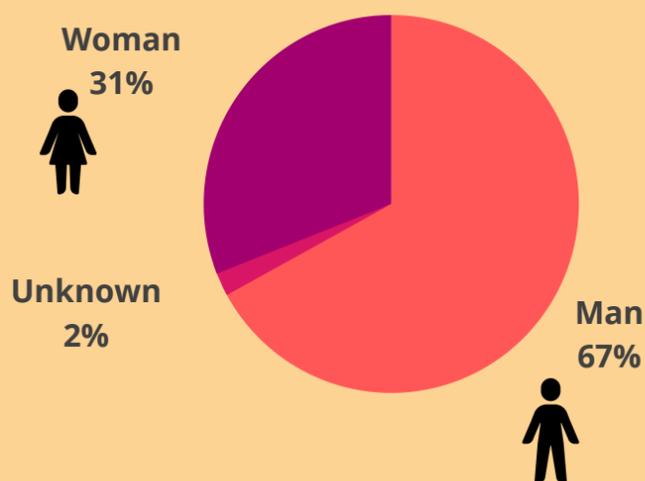
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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - JULY 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES

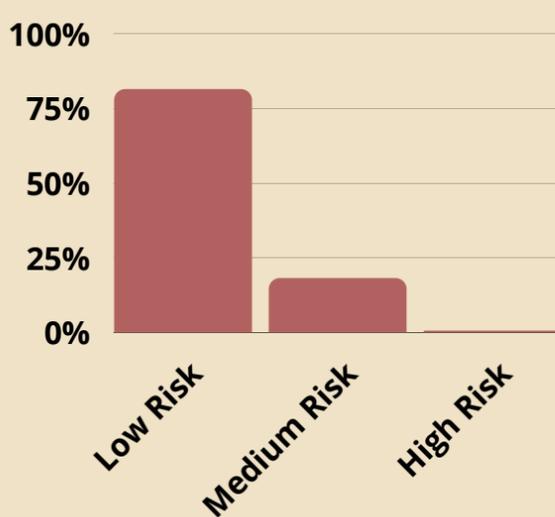
In July 2022, people expressed **fear** of taking the COVID-19 vaccine, saying it can kill the vaccinated person after a certain period of time or can cause "**paralysis**" or "**stroke**". While **20 women and 27 men** shared during listening groups that the vaccine can lead to **infertility, miscarriages, cause birth defects for newborns, and reduce sexual drive**. Also, **99 out of a total of 636 rumors** collected on social media and from participants of listening groups said **COVID-19 is a hoax**. For example, a woman in **Dabanga camp in Ad Du'ayn, East Darfur** shared: "There is no corona, it is used for political gain for the purpose of making money". Others downplay the pandemic by referring to COVID-19 as a "common cold".

RUMOR BY GENDER DISTRIBUTION



The majority of the rumors were shared by men, both online and through face-to-face listening groups.

RUMOR BY RISK LEVEL



Despite high risk rumors being the lowest, they require our immediate response because of their potential harmful impact on people.

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS: COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS



The majority of rumors collected in July 2022, expressed apathy and indifference regarding COVID-19, with some downplaying the pandemic, and others pointing out that COVID-19 treatments are readily available, like herbal remedies. Some rumors expressed fear of a COVID-19 infection, because people do not want to become separated from their family and community. However, the majority of the rumors expressed fear of the COVID-19 vaccine because of the harm they believed it would cause, such as miscarriages, severe illness, and even death.

Please visit: [Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please contact: Mayada Mahdi, Information Management Officer, mibrahim@internews.org