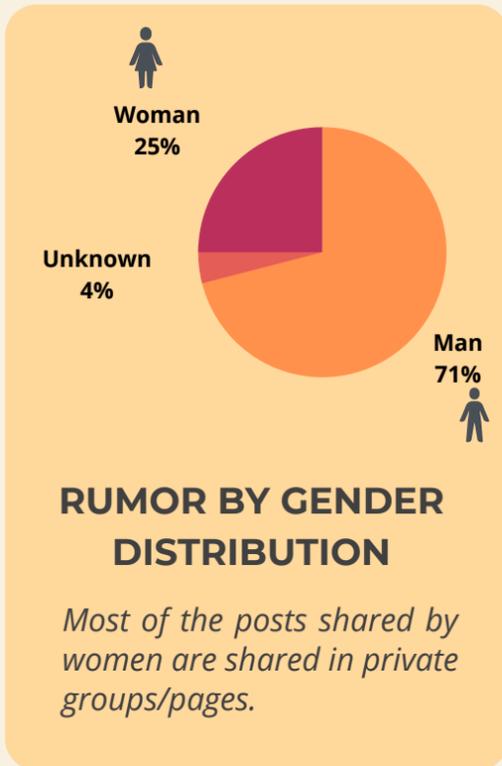
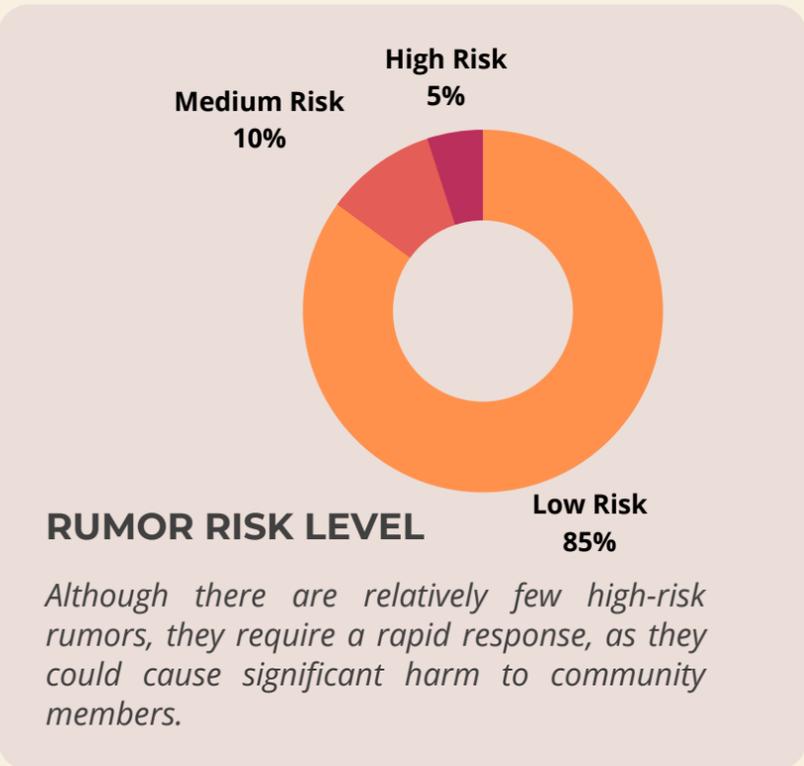
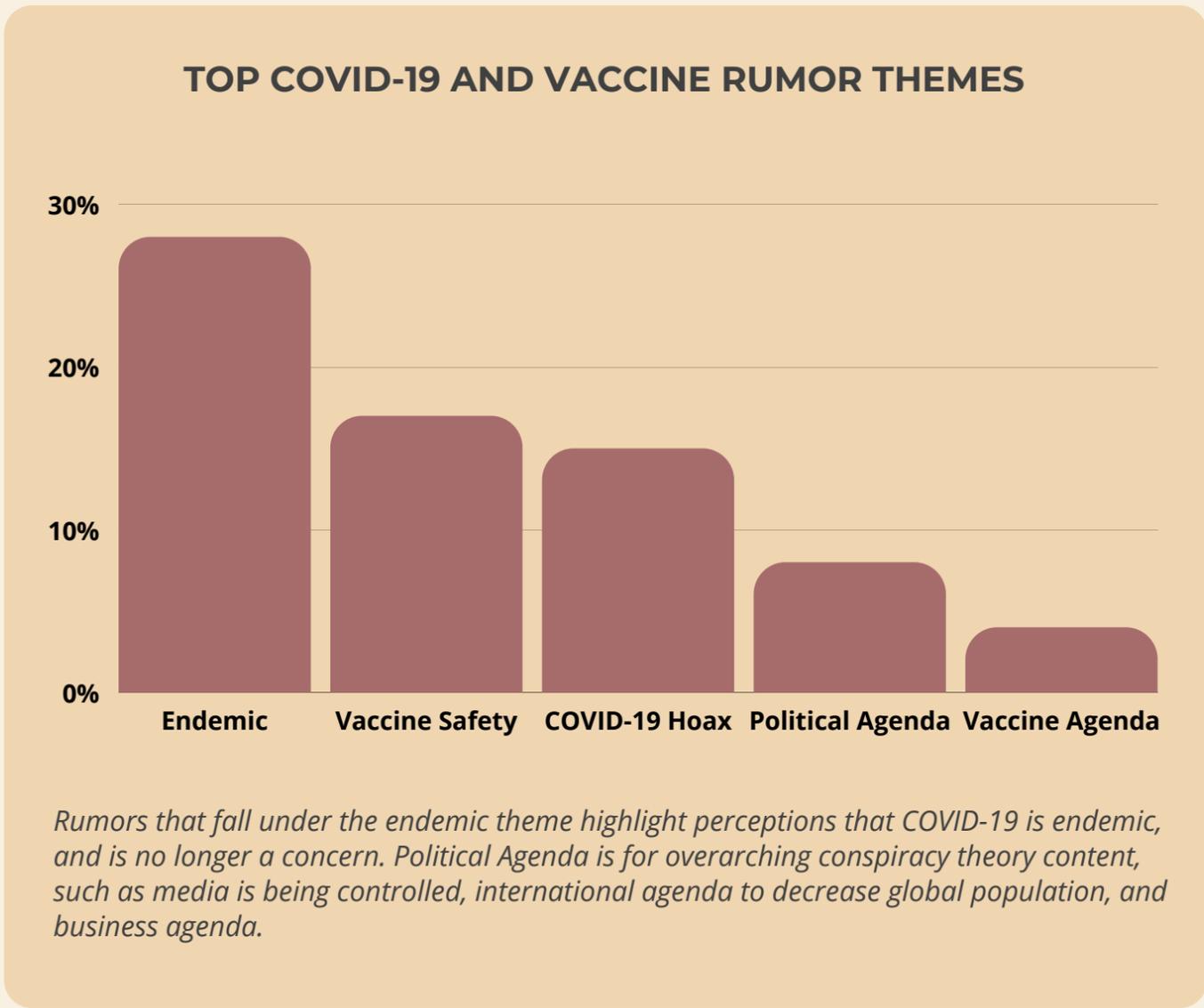
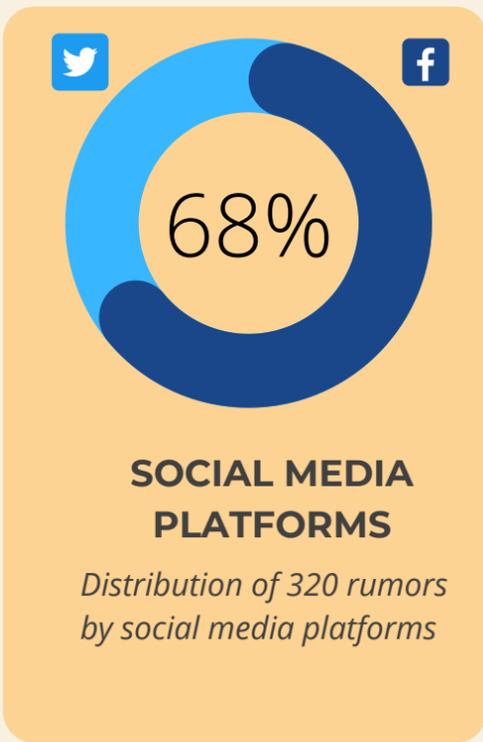


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - MAY 2022

Social Media Listening on COVID-19 and Vaccines

In May 2022, Internews collected **320** rumors, misconceptions and community concerns on social media about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, and **rumors linking Monkeypox and COVID-19 in Sudan**. The rumors were collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country (*Facebook and Twitter*), and were selected through a risk analysis that identifies misinformation with the highest risk and potential impact on vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project. **Rumors highlighting vaccine safety continue to circulate, and in May a new rumor trend emerged. Some social media users shared that donated COVID-19 vaccines are expired or medical waste, and that's why they're free-of-charge. Also, other social media users said that vaccines are not a necessity, and that there are other priorities.**



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

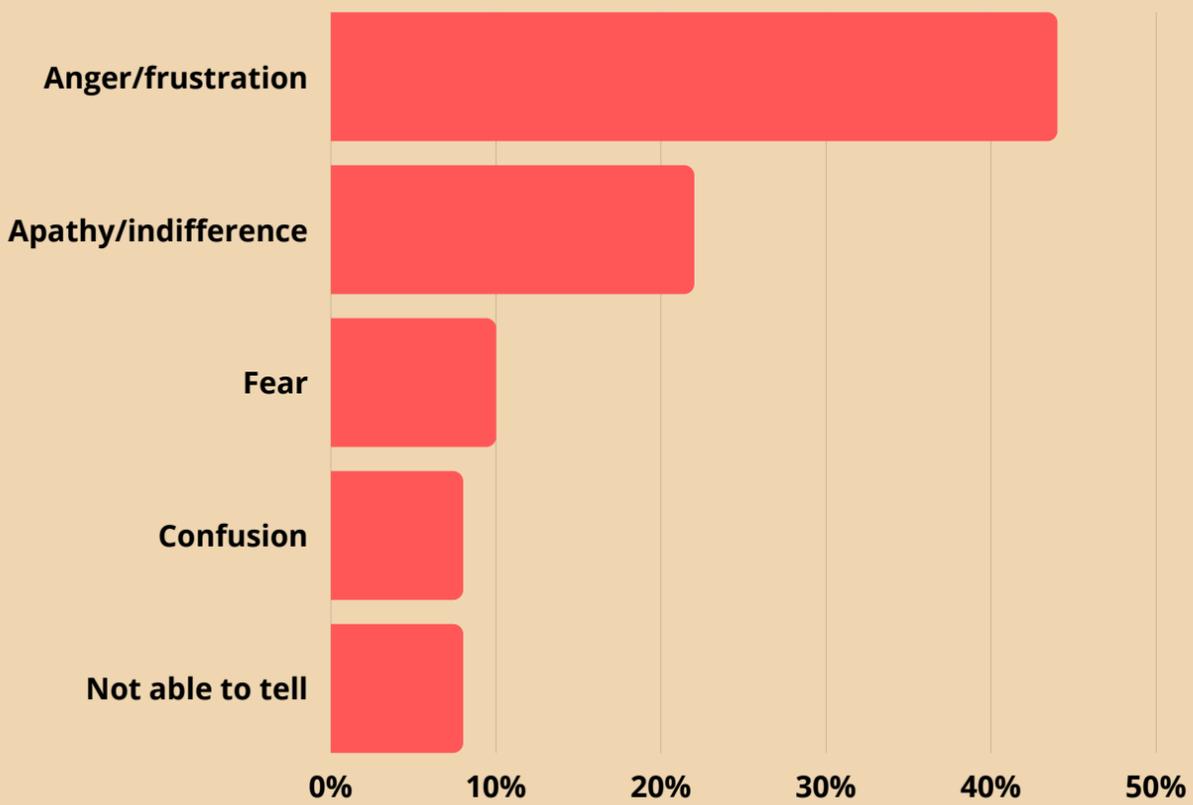
Social Media Listening on COVID-19 and Vaccines

A couple of posts from **Darfur**, also cited that the **vaccines will be tested on Darfurians, and vaccines were sent from Khartoum to Darfur only because they had passed the expiration date.** Another trending rumor is that COVID-19 is a hoax and is driven to yield political and economic gain, and end immigration. Some posts cited that there is **no scientific evidence to show that COVID-19 exists, and that no infections have been recorded so far.** On the other hand, there are social media users acknowledging that COVID-19 is real, but has ended with the Russia-Ukraine War or has become endemic. A couple of posts reasoned that COVID-19 is over, as mask-wearing is no longer mandatory for those performing Hajj/Umra in Saudi Arabia.

Sentiment Analysis of Rumors

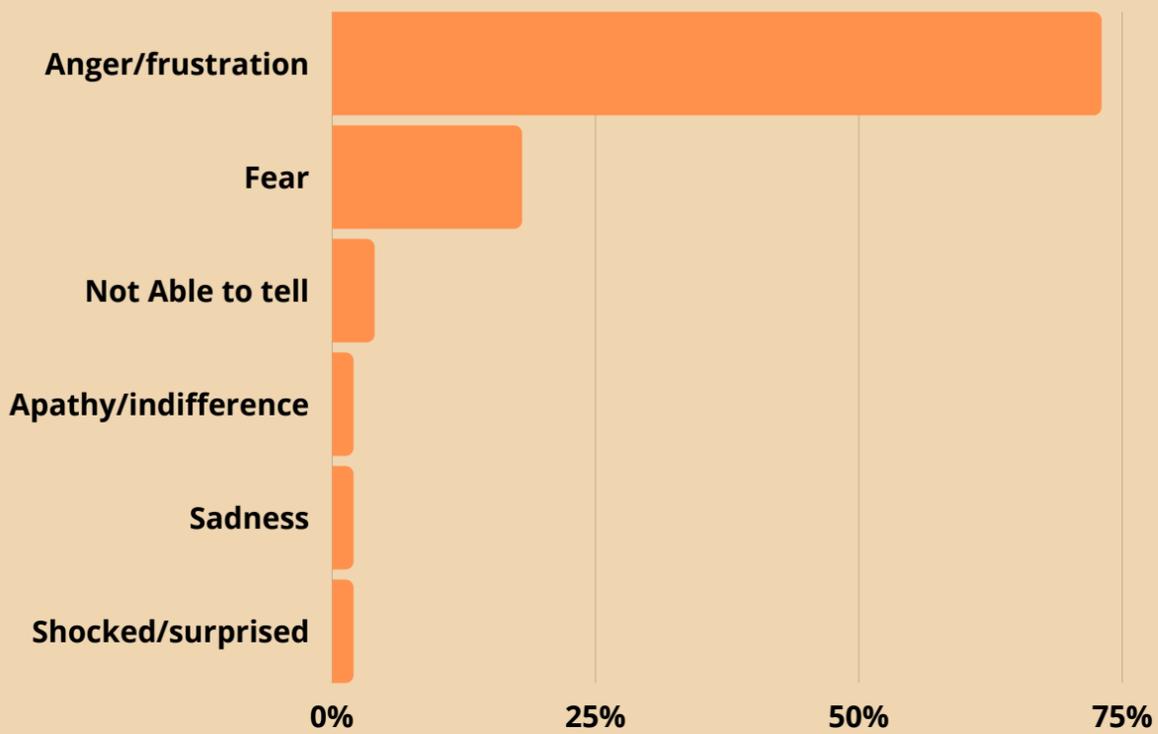
Sentiment analysis looks at the emotions expressed in a text. Rumors collected in May 2022, have been classified according to sentiment. This can help us contextualize rumors, and may allow us to answer questions on why certain rumors might persist and receive a lot of engagement.

UNDERSTANDING SENTIMENT OF VACCINE AND COVID-19 RUMORS IN MAY 2022



The majority of rumors collected in May, expressed anger and frustration, sometimes associated with rumors downplaying the COVID-19 pandemic or denying its existence. Also, several rumors linking Monkeypox and COVID-19; and others questioning the safety of vaccines evoked feelings of fear.

UNDERSTANDING SENTIMENT OF VACCINE SAFETY RUMORS



Safety relates to claims of potential for harm caused by the COVID-19 vaccine. For example, vaccines will cause harmful side effects, or Monkeypox is a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine. In May, Internews collected 55 rumors under the vaccine safety theme.

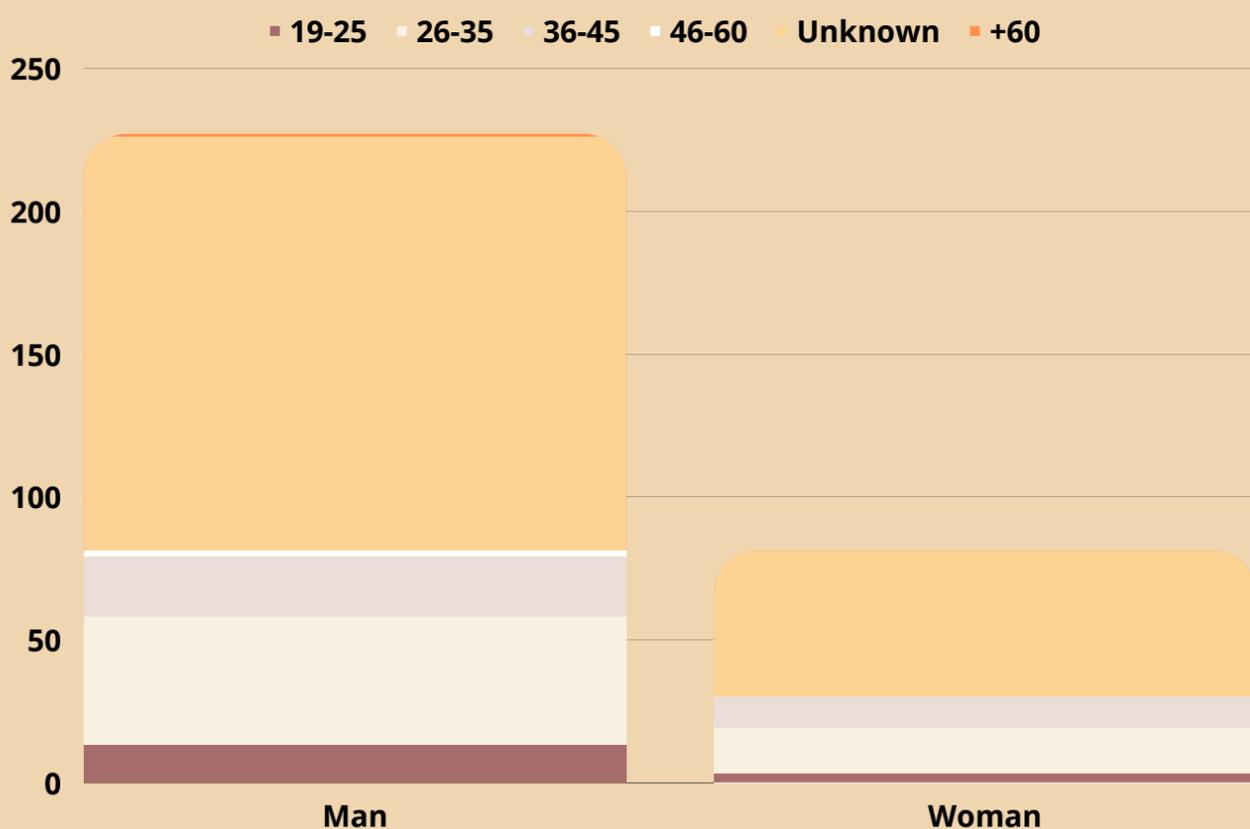
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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - MAY 2022

Social Media Listening on COVID-19 and Vaccines

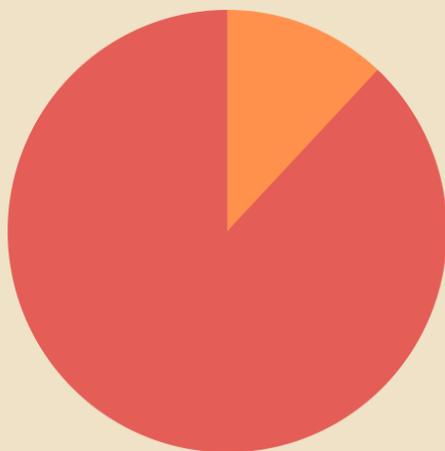
With several countries confirming Monkeypox infections, a new rumor trend quickly emerged associating COVID-19 with Monkeypox. Although the first Monkeypox infection in humans was recorded in 1970, many people on social media were referring to the disease as the new virus or COVID 2.0. Some of the rumors highlighted that Monkeypox is manmade or a biological weapon, like COVID-19, or a tool by powerful countries to pass their agenda and to ruin China's economy. Others say Monkeypox is a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine and may even transform you into a zombie. A post on Facebook, also noted that people's immunity would be weakened due to the COVID-19 vaccines, and that Monkeypox would come along and kill them.

SOCIAL MEDIA USERS SHARING RUMORS DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND GENDER



While men shared more rumor posts on social media in May 2022, both men and women between ages 26 and 35 accounted for most rumors shared when compared to other age groups.

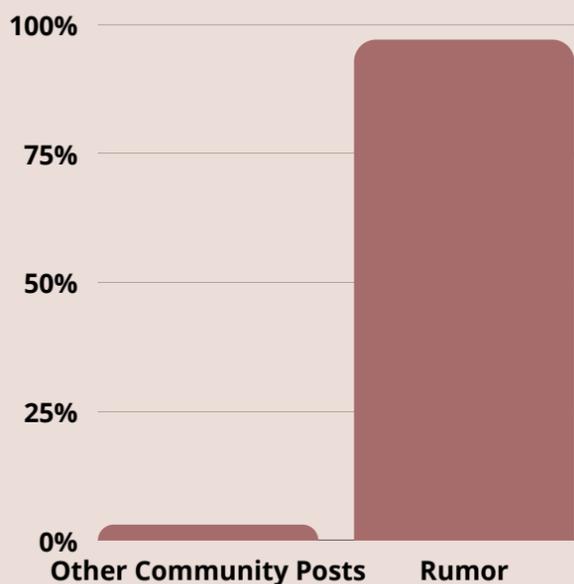
Private
12%



Public
88%

TYPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Internews' data analysts were able to access rumor data in private groups and accounts.



TYPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DATA

Community posts and comments collected in May consisted mostly of rumors, and other posts, such as perceptions and concerns reflecting people's hopes and fears during the pandemic.

ABOUT ROOTED IN TRUST

The Rooted in Trust project aims to promote a healthy information ecosystem, by dispelling rumors and misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines by collecting and analyzing community feedback found on social media. We aim to address the information needs of vulnerable communities impacted by armed conflict and other humanitarian crises, such as people with disabilities and displaced people. By collecting community feedback and sharing people's questions, complaints, and comments, together with humanitarians and public health responders we can address information voids and cater our programs and activities so that they are relevant and responsive to communities' needs.

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

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