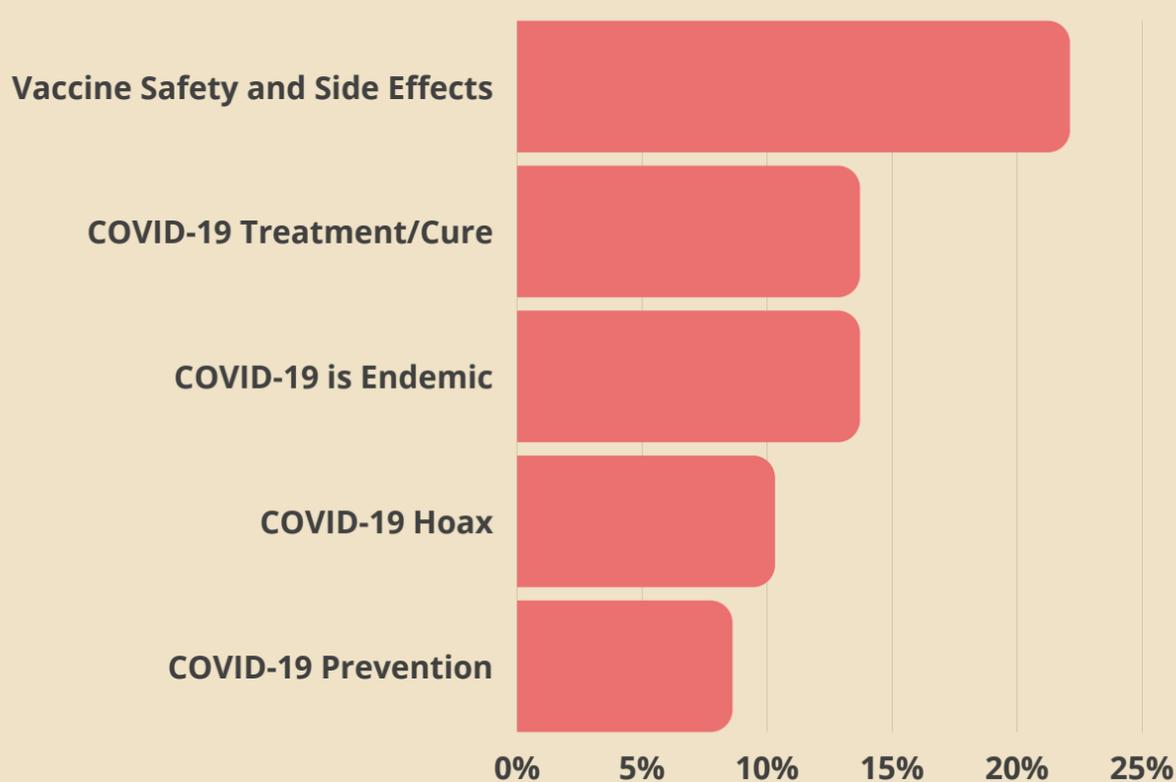


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

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

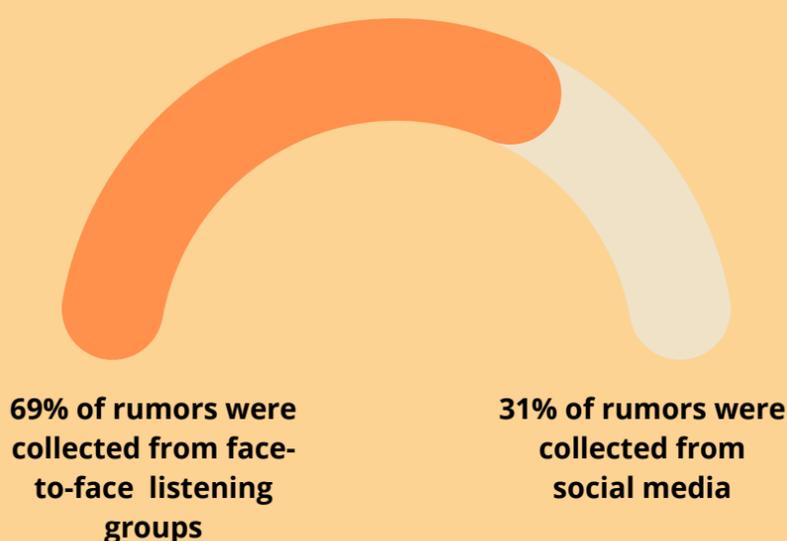
In September 2022, Internews collected **525 rumors, misconceptions, and community feedback from social media and via face-to-face listening groups in Arabic, Fur and Masalit about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines in Sudan**. During listening groups held in **South Kordofan, East Darfur, West Darfur, Central Darfur, Kassala, Al-Gedaref, and the Red Sea States, 360 rumors** were shared by displaced and conflict-affected people. Additionally, **165 rumors** were collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country, including Facebook and Twitter. The community feedback and rumors 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



COVID-19 vaccine safety remains a concern for many in Sudan, which implies a need for more information about the vaccines. Also, COVID-19 treatment rumors were mostly shared by displaced and conflict-affected people, and only a handful of social media users spoke of COVID-19 cures. People are relying on plant-based remedies as they are trusted and accessible remedies. Black tea, Acacia, Hibiscus and sour lemon are considered effective treatments.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS IN SEPTEMBER 2022



*Internews and its Rooted in Trust partners, collected a total of **525 COVID-19 and vaccine rumors in September 2022**. **Over 25% of the rumors were shared during listening groups held in IDP camps in Zalingi, Kerenik, Jebel Moon, and El Genina.***

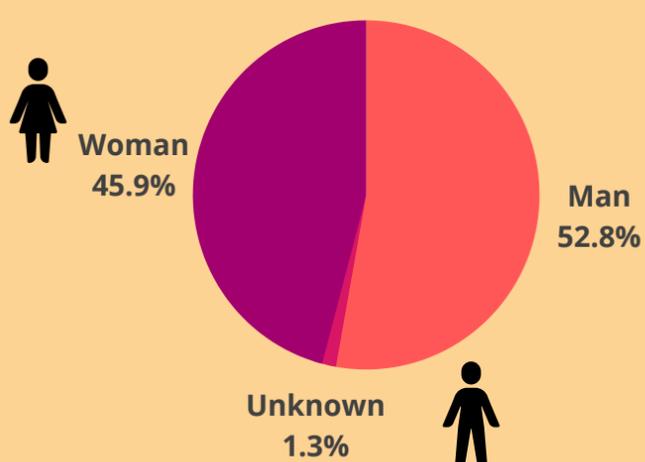
Please visit: [Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins](#)

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

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

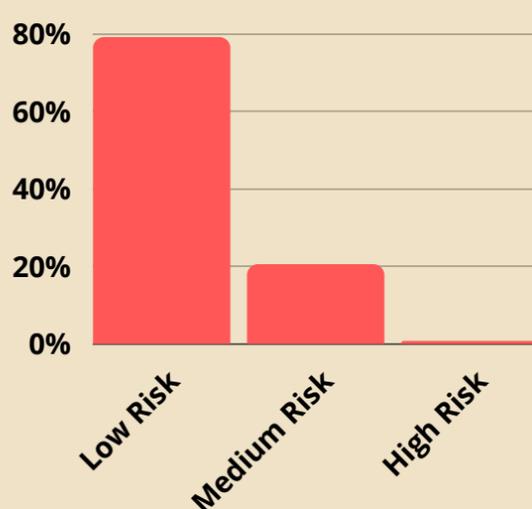
Rumors questioning the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines continue to dominate listening group discussions and social media posts, particularly amongst communities affected by conflict and displacement. For instance, some people believe that the vaccine has expired, and vaccines sent to Sudan from other states are ineffective. Others do not trust pharmaceutical companies developing the vaccine, nor the intentions of public health responders, and consider the pandemic as a means for accessing international funding sources or an experiment on Africans, or a form of population control in Africa. Meanwhile, many have genuine concerns about the safety of the vaccine, notably that vaccines are not safe for those with chronic diseases, can trigger paralysis, and lead to death.

RUMOR BY GENDER DISTRIBUTION



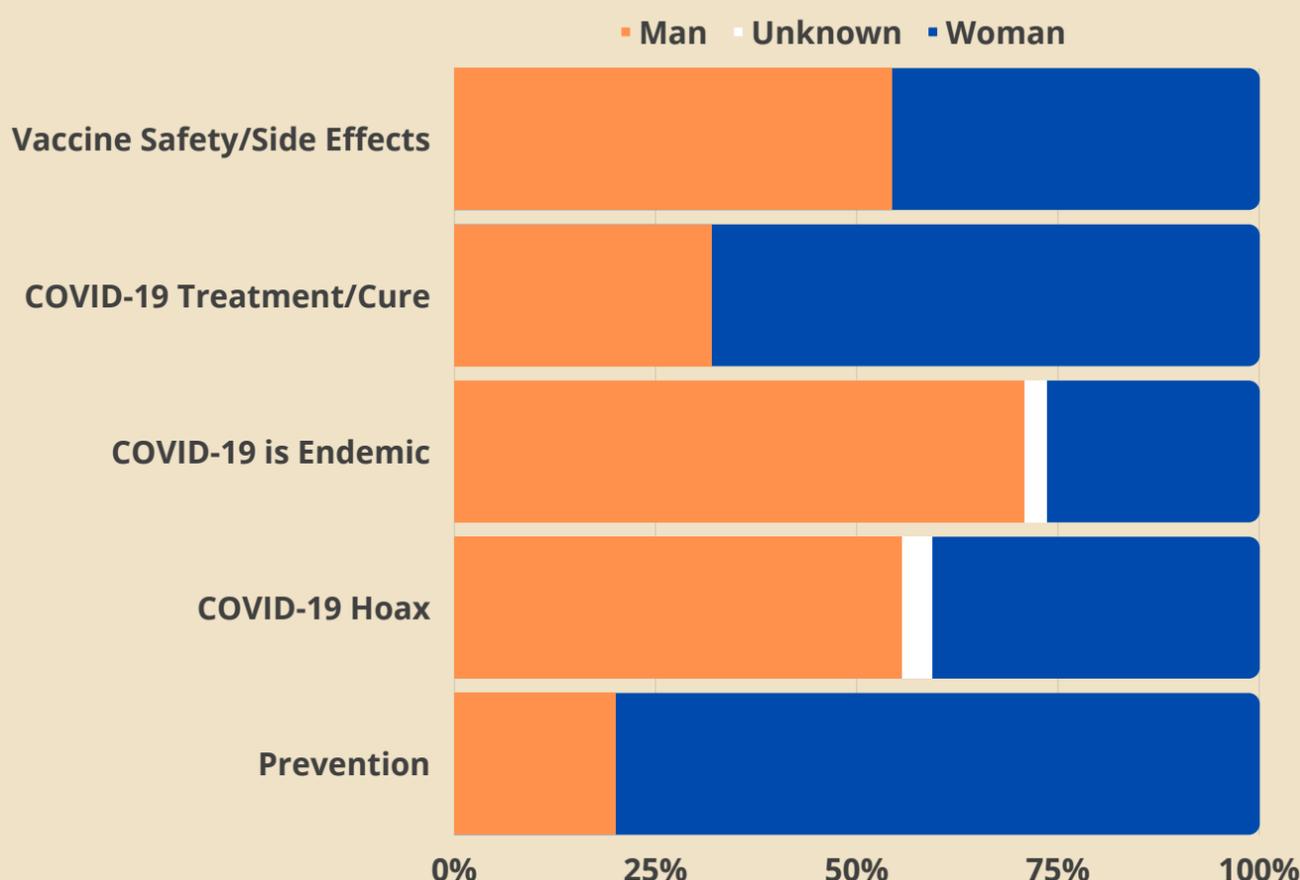
Men shared 53% percent of COVID-19 rumors, while 57% of rumors shared during face-to-face listening groups came from women.

RUMOR BY RISK LEVEL



Despite high risk rumors being the least common, they require our immediate response due to the potential harm they can cause. In September, one of the high risk rumors came from Abu Kershola in South Kordofan, citing that someone took the vaccine and as a result had Hemiplegia.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS THEMES BY GENDER



In September, the rumor data portrayed women as more concerned with protecting themselves and their families against COVID-19, as they shared 80% of COVID-19 prevention rumors. Women also shared 68% of rumors highlighting plant-based and ready-to-use remedies. Meanwhile, about 71% of rumors that minimized the severity and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were shared by men. Also, nearly 56% of rumors denying the existence of the pandemic were men, compared to about 41% shared by women.

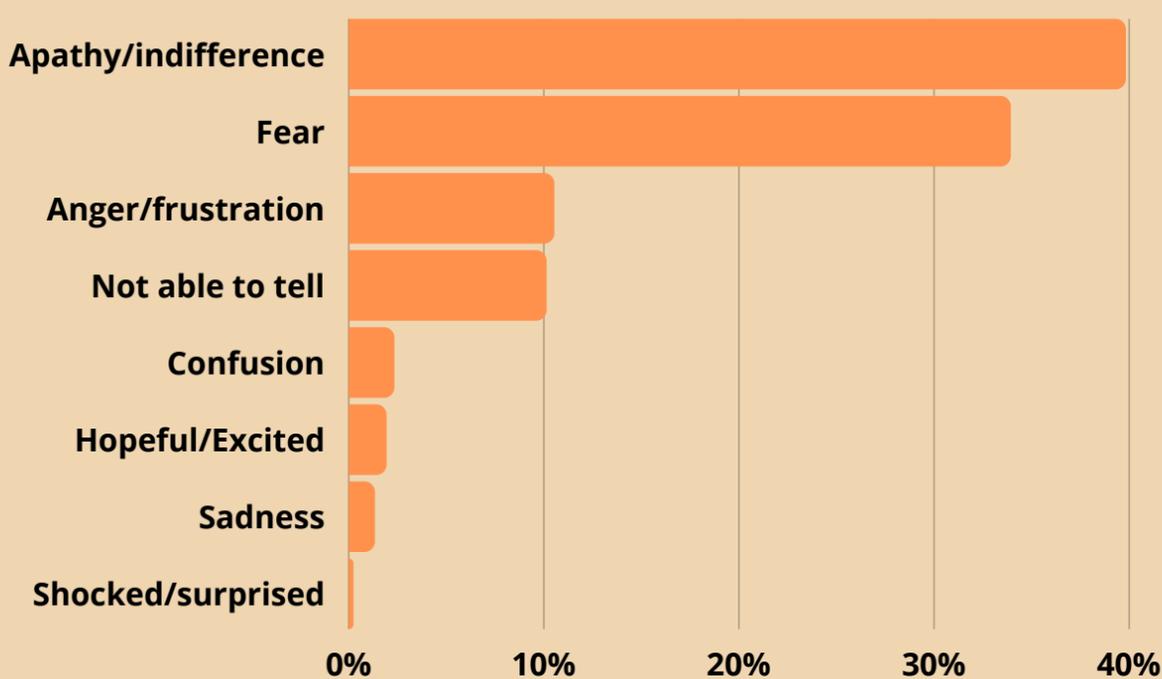
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SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES

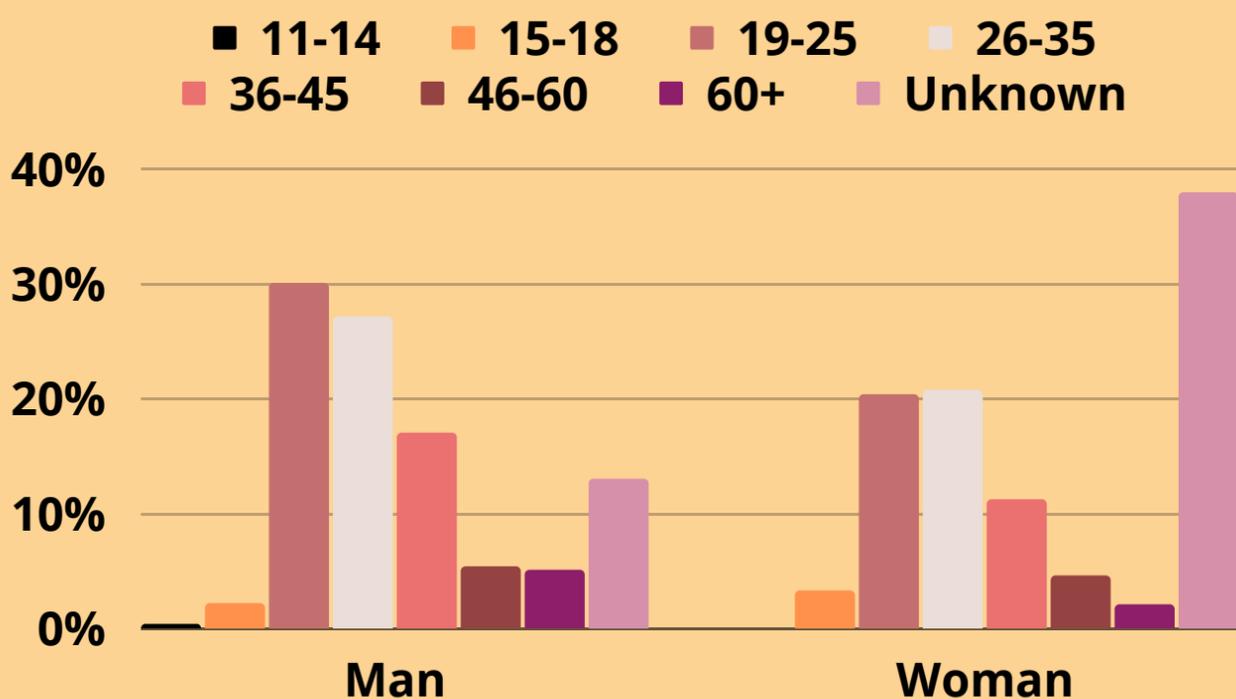
For communities affected by conflict and displacement, discussions about COVID-19 treatments remains popular. Many trust in plant-based and herbal remedies that have been passed down for generations, like Millet water, Neem leaf and Gum Arabic, rather seek immunization with a vaccine they consider to be experimental. Meanwhile, rumors on social media are positioned between denying the existence of COVID-19, and affirming the end of the pandemic. Some social media users have asked public health authorities to prioritize the Malaria response over COVID-19, as the pandemic is over.

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS: COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS



Most rumors collected in September 2022, expressed apathy and indifference, especially for those sharing that COVID-19 is a hoax, others minimizing the severity of the virus by citing the availability of plant-based and localized treatments for COVID-19, and those citing religious rituals as a form of protection. Also, Fear was the second most expressed sentiment in rumors. All of the rumors speaking about vaccine safety expressed fear.

COVID-19 AND VACCINE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY GENDER VS AGE



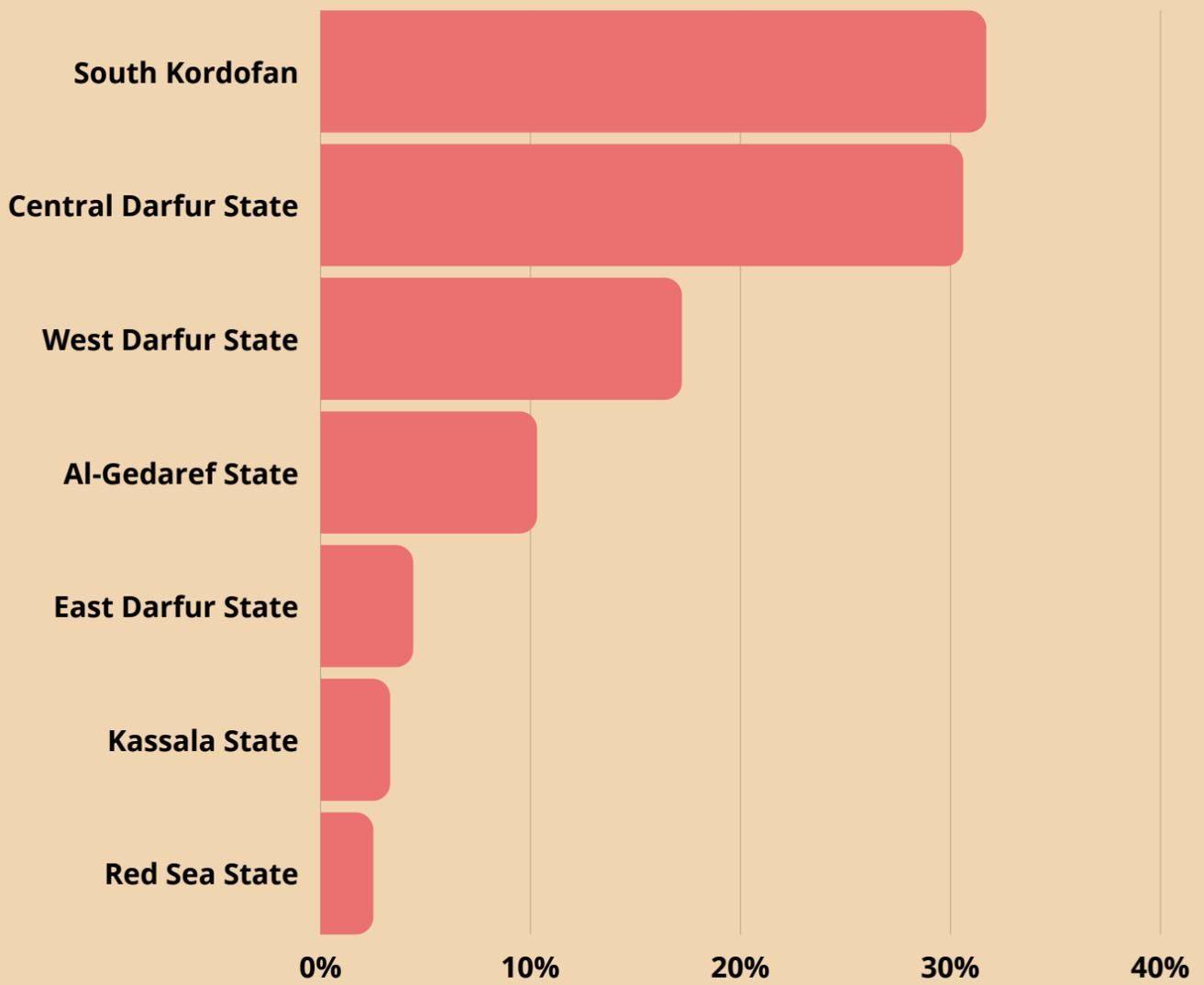
People between age 19 and 25, accounted for 25% of the rumor data, followed by those between ages 26 and 35 who account for 24% of the rumors. It is worth noting that 77% of social media rumors were shared by social media users that did not disclose their age, this accounts for 24% of the overall rumor data.

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

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2022

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

COVID-19 AND VACCINE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY STATE



In September 2022, 69% of COVID-19 and vaccine rumors were collected through listening groups. The above graph shows rumor distribution by state. Additionally, 25% of rumors collected during listening groups were gathered from IDP camps, including Alzareeba, Darti, Ardmata, Abuzar, Omdwayn, Khamsa Dageega and Tayba.

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](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please contact: Mustafa Omer, Data Analyst, momer@internews.org