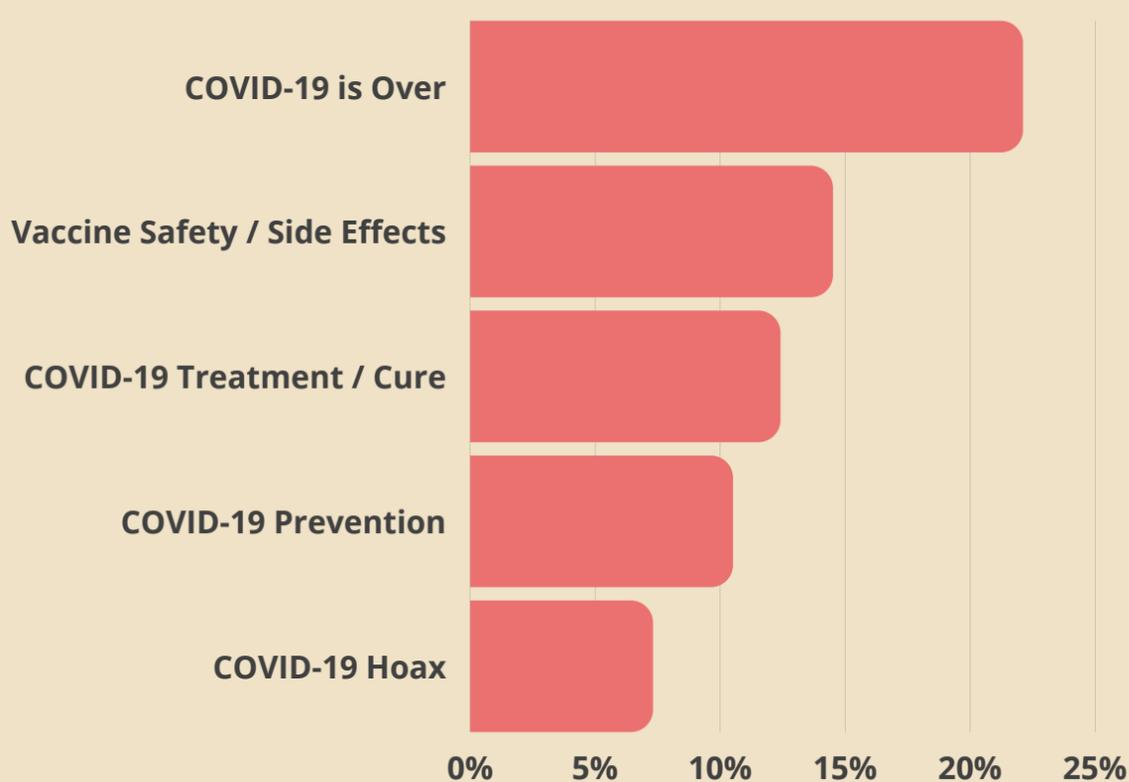


# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2022

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

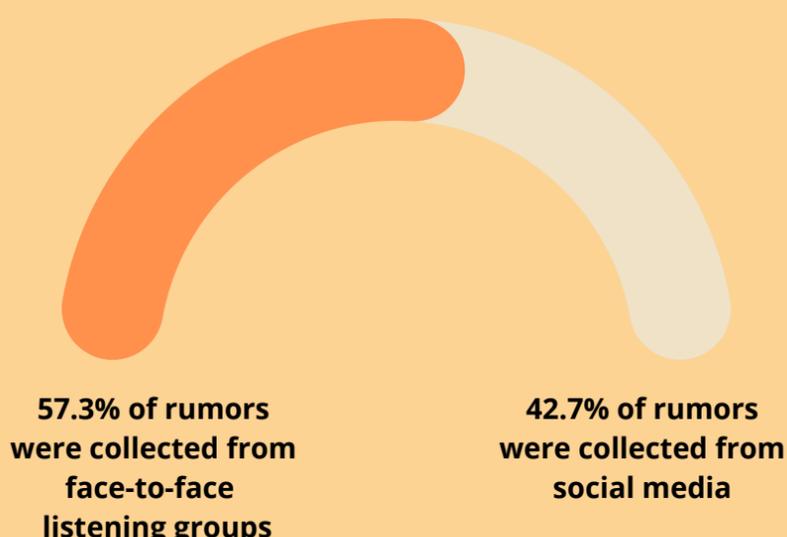
In October 2022, Internews collected **524 rumors, misconceptions, and community feedback from social media and via face-to-face listening groups, in Arabic and English, about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines in Sudan.** During listening groups held in **South Kordofan, Central Darfur, East Darfur, West Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur, Kassala, and Al-Gedaref States, 300 rumors** were shared by displaced and conflict-affected people. Additionally, **224 rumors** were collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country, including **Facebook** and **Twitter**. The community feedback and rumors were selected based on a risk analysis which identifies misinformation that could potentially impact vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project.

### TOP COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMOR THEMES



*In October, all rumors citing that COVID-19 ended were shared only on social media, and not during listening group discussions. Vaccine safety and side effects remained as one of the top concerns among conflict-affected people, especially considering some related subthemes, such as effects on pregnancy and fertility or that 'the vaccine is a global political tool to control births'. Focusing on the displaced at IDP camps, around half of the rumors were related to COVID-19 plant-based cures and traditional prevention practices.*

### COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS IN OCTOBER 2022



*Internews and its Rooted in Trust partners, collected a total of **524 COVID-19 and vaccine rumors in October 2022. 18% of the rumors were shared during listening groups held in IDP camps in Zalingi, Beida, and Azum in Central Darfur and West Darfur.***

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

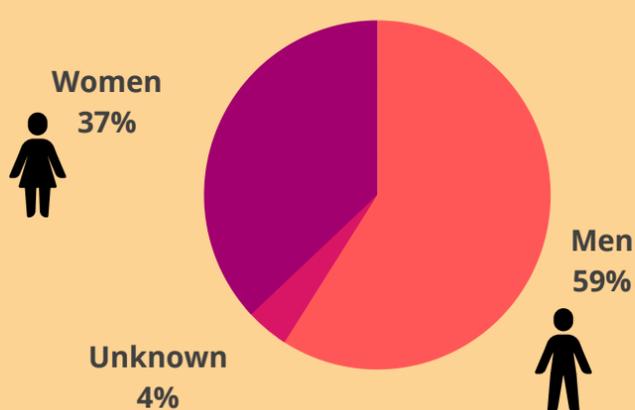
# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2022

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

In October, 21 percent of collected rumors questioned the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. A high-risk rumor shared by a healthcare worker warned: "Don't vaccinate people the vaccines are harmful all over the world there are demonstrations and scientists have been killed their licenses have been revoked only because they hid the truth".

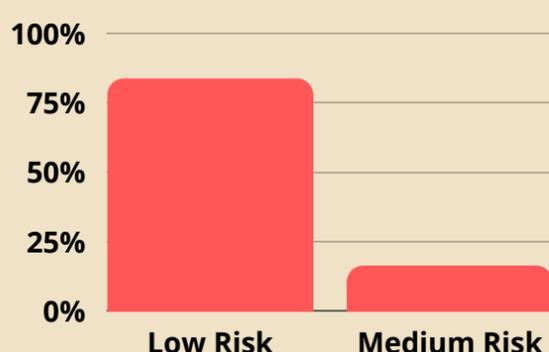
Internews analysts found that 85 percent of rumors concerned with vaccine safety exuded fear. The above post could instill fear in others and is especially risky as it comes from a healthcare worker and may be taken more seriously by others. Rumors collected during listening groups cited that the vaccines are a form of birth control, a way to instill infertility, cause miscarriages, constrict libido, and stop menstrual periods. Some referred to the vaccine as deadly or poisonous, while others said the vaccine can cause kidney failure, diarrhea, and heart palpitations.

### RUMOR BY GENDER DISTRIBUTION



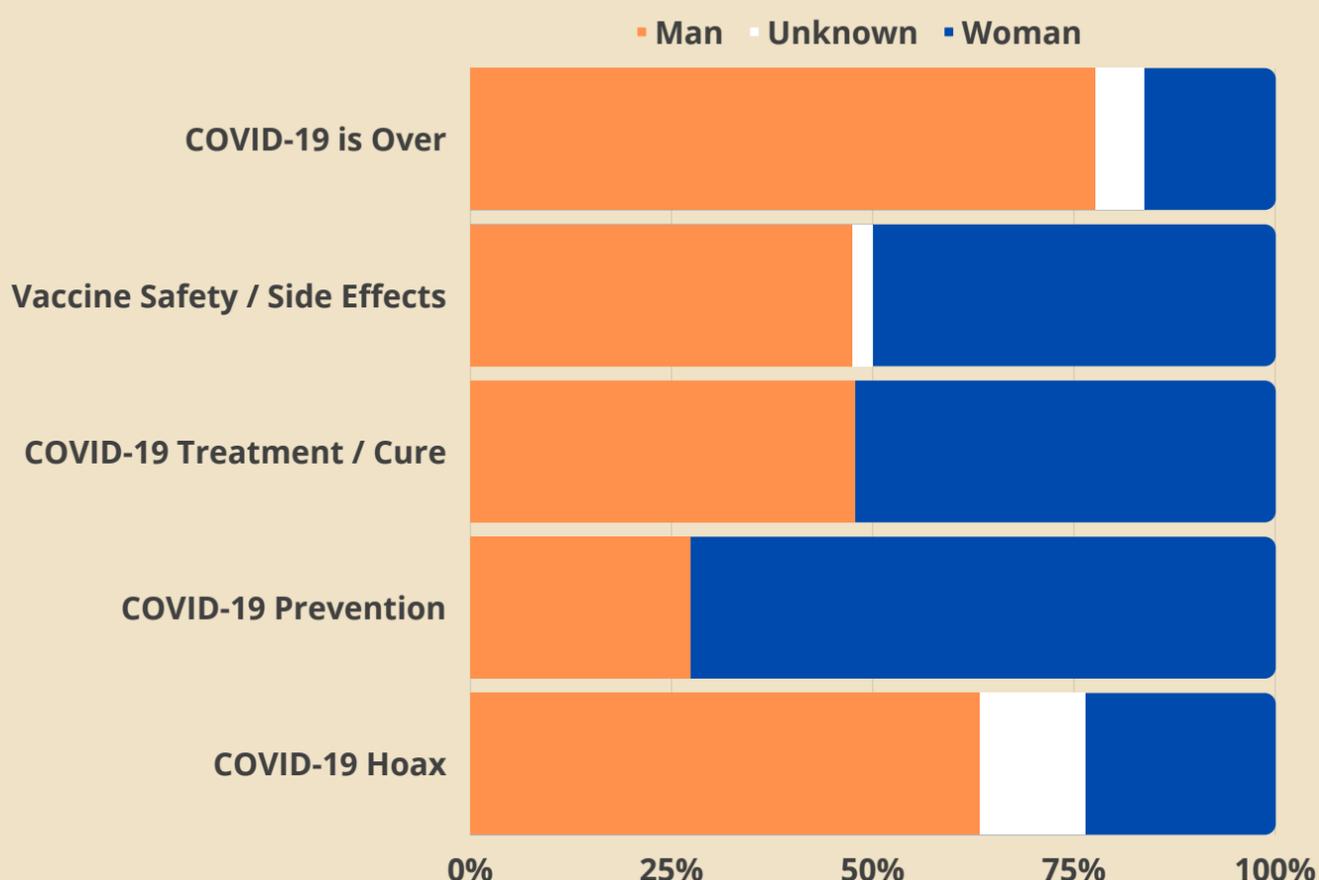
In total, men shared 59% of the COVID-19 rumors from both social media and face-to-face listening groups, while 51% of the rumors shared during listening groups came from women.

### RUMOR BY RISK LEVEL



Medium risk rumors are those that have a medium to high level of believability and can cause potential harm on the community/person. In October, a medium-risk rumor noted "whiskey" as a treatment for the COVID-19, and another cited that the vaccine can cause birth defects for pregnant women.

### COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS THEMES BY GENDER



In October, rumor data showed women are more concerned with protecting themselves and their families against COVID-19, as they shared 73% of COVID-19 prevention rumors. Women also shared 52% of rumors highlighting plant-based and ready-to-use remedies. Meanwhile, about 76% of rumors that minimized the severity and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were shared by men. Also, more than 63% of rumors denying the existence of the pandemic were men, compared to 24% shared by women. Unknown stands for social media users that did not identify their gender.

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

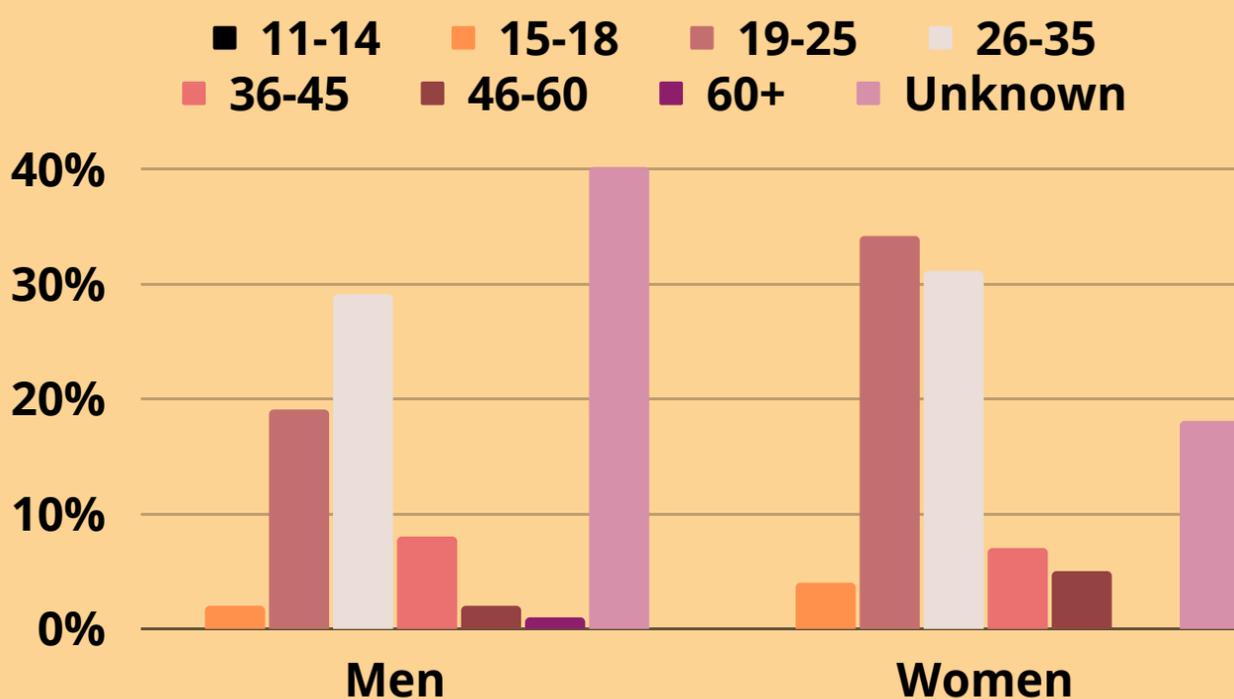
In October, there were 116 Facebook posts and Tweets citing that COVID-19 is over, including 7 posts coming from healthcare workers. One doctor said: "Corona and vaccines have become from the past", while another healthcare worker said, "Honestly there is no Corona". As many consider healthcare workers as trusted sources of information and rely on them for health guidance, these types of comments may affect the COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Sudan. Furthermore, some noted during listening groups ulterior motives for COVID-19 immunization, such as a man in Alfasgha locality, Gedaref who said: "They brought the vaccine to try on us", or another comment coming from a teenage boy in Rashad, South Kordofan, citing "There is no Corona in Sudan they're using the vaccines to bring in the disease".

### SENTIMENT ANALYSIS: COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS



Most rumors collected in October 2022, expressed apathy and indifference, driven by those sharing that COVID-19 is over or a hoax, and others minimizing the severity of the virus by citing the availability of plant-based and localized treatments for COVID-19. Fear, Anger, and frustration on the other hand were the most expressed sentiments in rumors about the vaccine, accounting for 89% of the sentiments on social media. During listening sessions, fear alone accounted for 86% of the expressed sentiments around the vaccine.

### COVID-19 AND VACCINE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY GENDER VS AGE



People between age 26 and 35, accounted for 28% of the rumor data, followed by those between ages 19 and 25 who account for 24% of the rumors. It is worth noting that 79.5% of social media rumors were shared by social media users that did not disclose their age, this accounts for 34% of the overall rumor data.

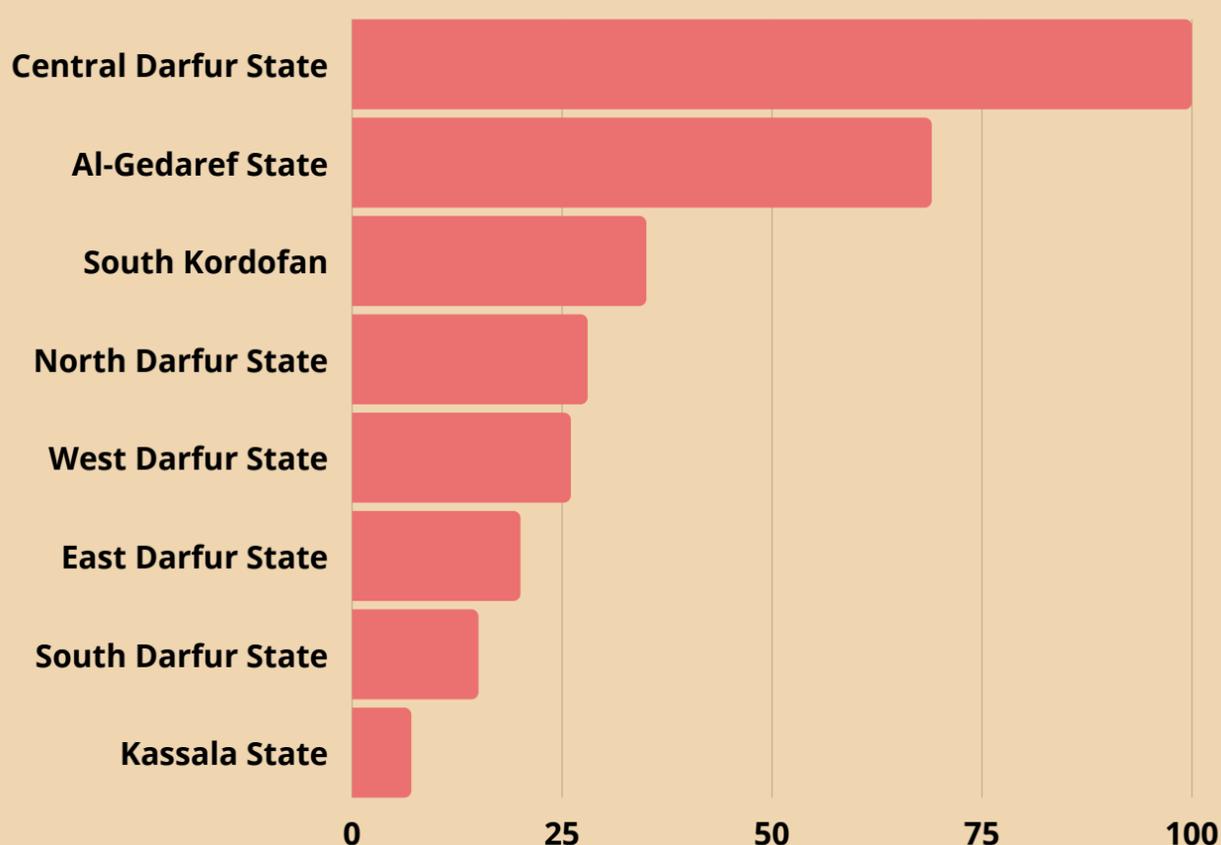
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# HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2022

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

Community feedback citing COVID-19 cures and prevention remedies accounted for 40 percent of listening group data. Tamarind, acacia, cardamon, and black tea were among the favored COVID-19 treatments. Some shared that consuming onion, garlic, hibiscus juice, and heated food can prevent a COVID-19 infection. A couple of people shared that reciting the Qur'an can both prevent and treat COVID-19.

### COVID-19 AND VACCINE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK BY STATE



*In October, 300 of COVID-19 and vaccine rumors were collected through face-to-face listening groups. The above graph shows rumor distribution by state. Notably, 95 out of the 300 rumors were gathered from IDP camps alone, including 40 rumors at Alhesahisa Camp in Central Darfur, and 26 rumors at Goubi Camp in West Darfur.*

### 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](mailto:momer@internews.org)