

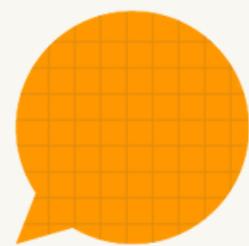


## Rumor Trend

*"We do not trust the organizations that provide the vaccination, and since a long time I prevented my wife from measles vaccination, and now we are fine"*

Man - Age: 40-60 - South Kordofan - Abu Karshola

Both the Measles and COVID-19 vaccines have undergone rigorous testing and have been proven to be safe and effective. The World Health Organization highlights that Measles vaccinations between 2000 and 2020, have prevented about 31.7 million deaths. According to the WHO Vaccination Dashboard, the COVID-19 vaccine has been distributed to 203 countries worldwide, including countries in Africa, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. By 30 May 2022, in Sudan, at least 6,651,268 had received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is about 20 percent of the population.



## Why is this important?

- Internews rumor data shows that many fear and mistrust the COVID-19 vaccines. Given that the vaccines are our first line of defense, such misconceptions could discourage people from seeking a COVID-19 vaccination which would make it harder for the community to fight off the disease.
- Measles vaccines are essential routine vaccinations for babies and if a child is not vaccinated against Measles they can become very sick and if not treated they could die. Also, Measles can spread very quickly from one child to another.
- Lack of information and misinformation about the vaccines delivery process can increase vaccine hesitancy in Sudan, which puts vulnerable groups at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Such misconceptions can cause some people to avoid all vaccinations, and increase their reliance on homemade and alternative treatments. This could put them at higher risk, as some of these remedies may be harmful for their health.



## FACTS

- COVAX facility is tasked with providing fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for every country in the world, especially low-income countries that have been most affected by the pandemic due to under-resourced health systems and the lingering economic effects of earlier lockdowns.
- Both the COVID-19 and Measles vaccines are very effective in protecting our communities. Salma Mohiuddin, Public Health Officer heading the Nutrition Administration in Abu Karshola, South Kordofan explains: "Vaccines strengthen our immune system against a particular virus or disease. Moreover, the Ministry of Health is responsible for vaccinations in the country, while humanitarian organizations are supporting partners in the health response, like the COVID-19 pandemic".
- Measles is a highly contagious disease, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, "If 1 person has it, 9 out of 10 people close to that person who aren't immune will also get measles". On the other hand, COVID-19 can cause severe symptoms, like shortness of breath or blood clots, which could result in hospitalization and even death. Doctors around the world recommend both the COVID-19 and Measles vaccines and consider them to be life-saving.