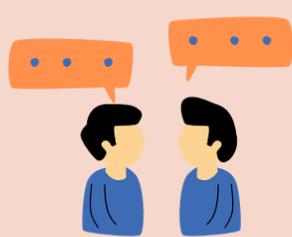


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES, AND OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

In February 2023, Internews collected **625 rumors, misconceptions, and community feedback** from social media and via face-to-face listening groups, in Arabic about COVID-19 and vaccines, and other health issues in Sudan. During listening groups held in **Al-Gedaref, Blue Nile, Central Darfur, North Darfur, Red Sea, South Darfur, South Kordofan, and West Darfur States**, **546 rumors** were shared by displaced and conflict-affected people. Displaced people living in **El-Azazah camp and Al-Wihda camp** in Blue Nile, **Rongatas camp** in Central Darfur, and **Abu Shouk camp** in North Darfur shared **106 rumors**. Additionally, **79 rumors** were collected from social media platforms most commonly used in the country, including Facebook and Twitter. The community feedback and rumors were selected based on a risk analysis that identifies misinformation that could potentially impact vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project.

Quick Statistics



Total Number of rumors
625



Number of online rumors
79



Number of offline rumors
546



Number of listening groups
40



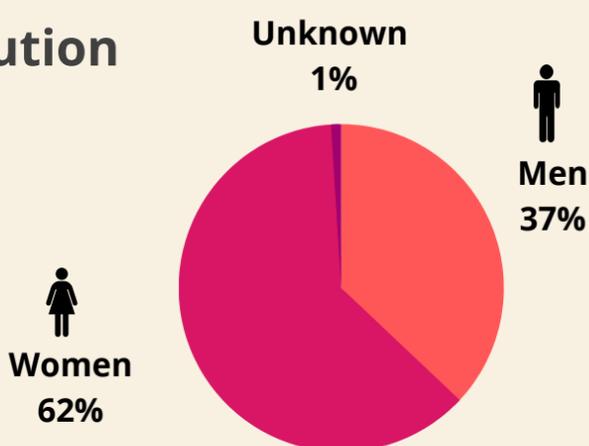
Number of listening group participants
559



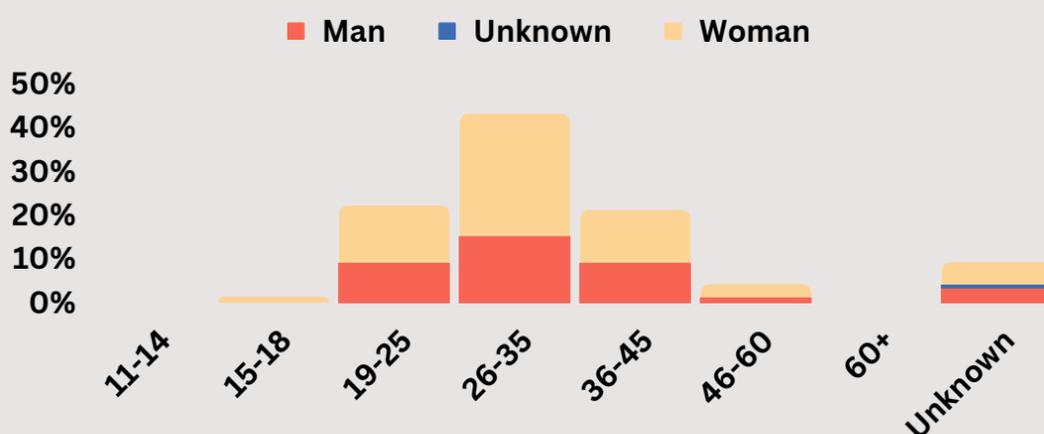
Number of IDP camps
4

Rumors by Gender Distribution

People between the ages of 26 and 35 accounted for 43% of overall rumor data, with a majority women representation (66%) within this age range.



Rumor breakdown by Gender and Age



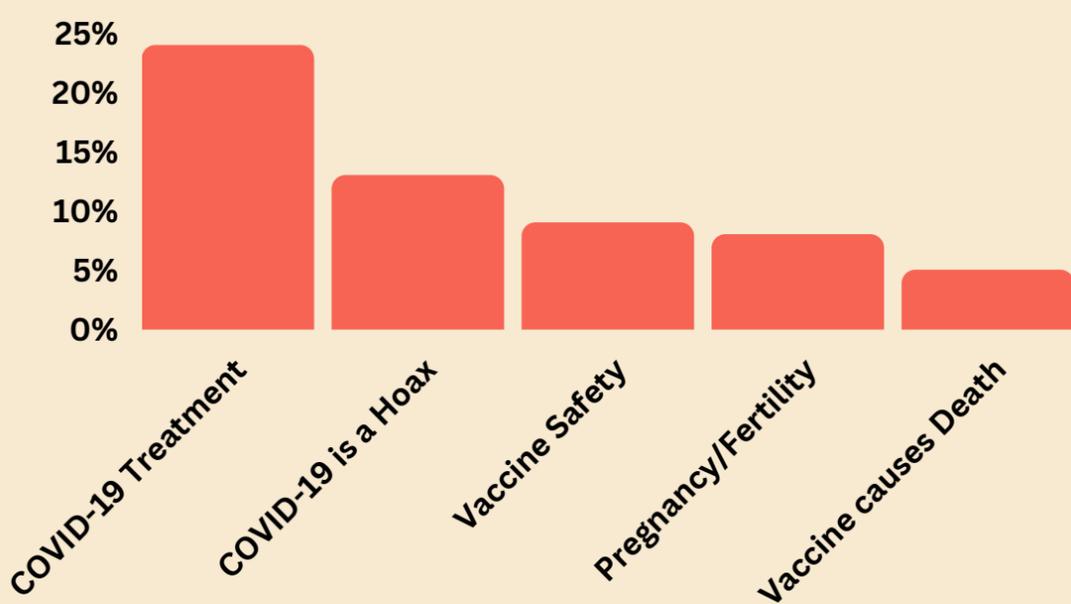
Those who are between ages **19-25** (**59%** are women, **41%** men), and **36-45** (**59%** are women, **41%** men), accounted for **22%** and **21%** of the overall rumor data, respectively. It is worth noting that **66%** of social media rumors were shared by users that did not disclose their age, as this accounts for **8%** of the overall rumor data. Also, **1%** of the overall data has no gender disclosure, all from social media.

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

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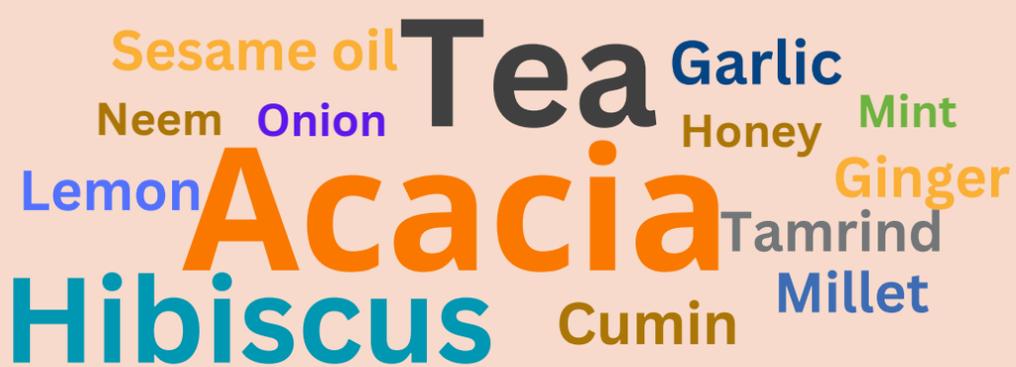
In February, **herbal** and homemade **remedies** for COVID-19 were among the top rumor themes. For example, in Central Darfur, some people shared during listening groups that local **trees** are a cure for the virus like *Joghan*, *Gashgash*, and *Altako trees*. A woman between the ages of 25 and 36 in Rongtas IDP Camp in Central Darfur said: "*The kardala **root** treats Corona (kardala is a treatment with a bitter taste)*". While rumors saying Corona is a **hoax** increased in comparison to the previous month to become the second-highest rumor theme, accounting for 13% of rumor data. For example, a woman between the ages of 26 and 35 in El Geneina, West Darfur shared: "*This Corona has neither happened nor will it happen. It is a heavy flu, and its treatment is very simple, normal Panadol and good food*". On social media, most people said Corona is a hoax. A man between ages 26 and 35 asserted: "*[Corona is] the global lie*".

TOP COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMOR THEMES

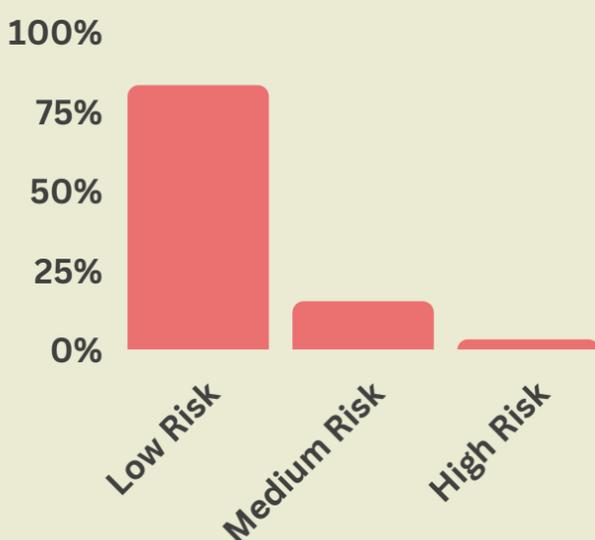


In **February**, **9%** of rumors spoke about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines, and **8%** of rumors cited side effects of vaccines on pregnancy and fertility. Some people went so far to say that the vaccine causes death. Meanwhile, **24%** of rumors spoke about **COVID-19 treatments as** herbal and homemade remedies, followed by **13%** of rumors citing **Corona is a hoax**.

TOP COVID-19 TREATMENTS



RUMORS BY RISK LEVEL



In February, **92 medium-risk** rumors were recorded, and **15 high-risk** rumors surfaced among **625 rumors** in total. It is essential to respond to high-risk rumors swiftly, as these types of rumors may harm people. Fourteen high-risk rumors considered cauterization as a treatment for some diseases like Jaundice. A man on Facebook cited: "*The treatment is a dose of honey or cauterization by fire*".

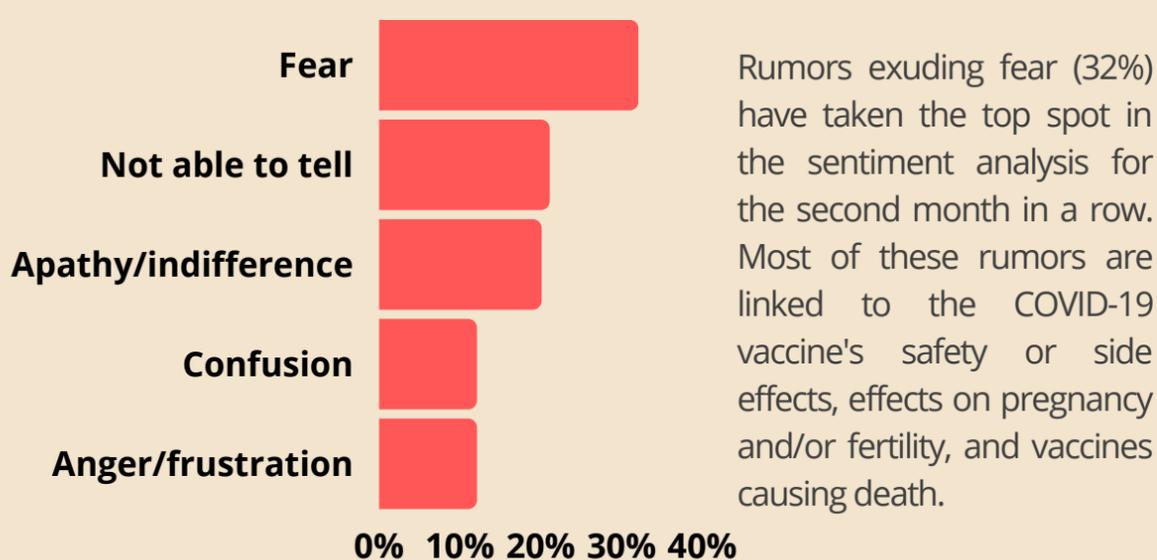
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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023 SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 AND VACCINES, AND OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

In February, Internews and its partners collected **29 questions, complaints, and rumors on other humanitarian concerns**. During listening groups held in Central Darfur, some people spoke about pollution in Zalingei, while others cited it was increasingly difficult to access **water**. A woman between the age of 36 and 45, said *"We suffer from the problem of **water** availability in the neighborhood, sometimes for days we don't have water, we don't even have water for our children..."*.

Moreover, some social media users had concerns about **dengue fever, jaundice, malaria, polio, and yellow fever**. One person wanted to know about the availability of polio and yellow fever vaccines for children born in 2022, while another asked about the cure for dengue fever. One social media user had other concerns about Dengue Fever: *"You didn't find a solution for the **teachers**; you brought the **fever** so you can close the **schools**."* Lastly, some people complained *"there is no clear protocol to treat **malaria**"*, while one social media user emphasized: *"**Malaria** is due to mosquitoes – fight them"*.

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS: COVID-19 AND VACCINE RUMORS



In February, most people who expressed **fear** spoke about the COVID-19 **vaccine safety** and side effects. Some cited that the vaccine causes *fever, headache, and paralysis*. For example, a woman between the ages of 19 and 25 from Areif Ashargi, South Kordofan said, *"Corona injection causes arm swelling and causes intense fever"*. While some people shared that the vaccine leads to **infertility**. A woman between the ages of 36 and 45 also from Areif Ashargi said, *"The Corona vaccine causes **infertility** for both men and women"*. Other people spoke about the vaccine causing **death**. For example, a man between 36 and 45 from Damazine, Blue Nile said, *"There are people that got vaccinated and died"*.

SUDAN ROOTED IN TRUST

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



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

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please contact:
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