

FISOROKA

Community bulletin

Madagascar

January-February 2023

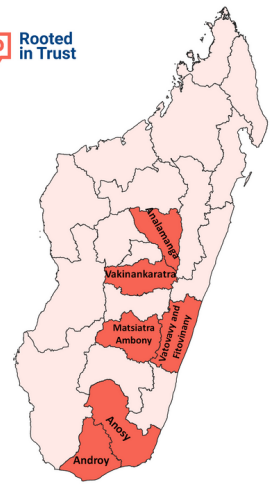
The Rooted in Trust project by responding to information needs aims to:

- Strengthen the information ecosystem;
- Mitigate the risks of disinformation for vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Introduction

Rooted in Trust 2.0 is implemented in 6 regions in Madagascar, including Androy, Analamanga, Vakinankaratra, Haute Matsiatra, Vatovavy and Anosy. Four local partners are involved in the project for rumour collection and listening, namely the NGOs Communication Idea Development and ILONTSERA; the Coalition of Radios and finally VIAMO.

The Rooted In Trust 2.0 project focuses on listening to and collecting rumours around COVID-19 and issues of public health, vaccination and COVID-19 response by putting communities and individuals at the centre of concerns. Through this listening, the project seeks to give more trustworthy information to communities, media and humanitarians so that they can make decisions that will benefit them.



About this bulletin

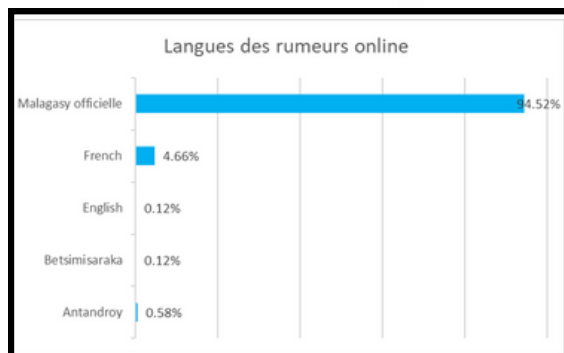
This rumor bulletin, will be keen to give communities, source of rumors, additional information for better decision-making. Among the rumors collected, some will be analyzed and accompanied by recommendations for all those who need them. The period of collection of rumors as well as the collection of information contained in this bulletin extends from January 1 to February 28, 2023. 1022 rumors were collected, including 858 on social media and other online platforms and 164 offline through listening groups.

RUMOR STATISTICS

The RIT 2.0 project has two data collection methodologies: collection of offline rumours through partners who are located in the 6 regions of intervention and online rumors through the monitoring of information circulating on social network platforms. The most accessible of which for the majority of the community is Facebook. Thus we were able to collect through our partners rumors in local dialect specific to each region.

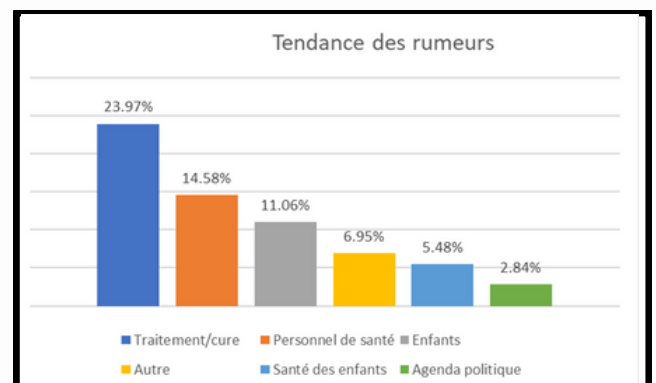
Languages of rumors collected

Of all the data collected between January and February, the majority of rumors collected are in local language more than 95% mostly online, including 88.8% in official Malagasy (83.8% online 5% offline). The other local dialects correspond to dialects spoken respectively in each region.



Rumor trends

Between this period, rumors and/or misinformation circulating at the level of online and offline communities talk / share practices on the effectiveness of the use of traditional remedies for the treatment of diseases that represent 23.97% of the data. Based on what have been collected, there are rumors and online discussions about poor treatment of patients in public hospitals. On the other hand, discussions and rumors about COVID-19 are starting to be discreet on social media platforms. According to our database, only 18% refer to COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccine while more than 60% discussions are focused on other health topics such as: tuberculosis, typhoid fever, etc.



Rumor #1

Disease treatments

Why it's important ?

This rumor was started by an influencer on social networks who is followed by more than 561,000 people, to talk about the use of medication for the treatment of tuberculosis to slim down.

This rumor can promote self-medication of tuberculosis and could influence people to do the same treatment as this person who is not a health professional.

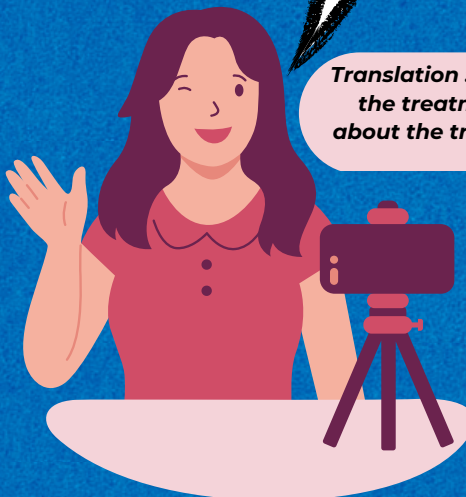
Being sick with tuberculosis could be perceived as positive by people who are overweight and trying to lose weight.

Some overweight people may think that tuberculosis is more lifesaving than it is dangerous and deadly. This would lead them not to pay attention, to protect themselves or even to contract the disease by rubbing shoulders without paying attention to people affected by the disease.

In the long run, this rumor could promote the spread of this disease.

Misy manontany hoe
"inona ilay treatment".
traitement tuberculose
ilay arahiko sy tantaraiko
eto ry malala an!

Translation : Some people ask what
the treatment is?(...) I'm talking
about the treatment of tuberculosis
my loves.



Context : A female influencer talks about weight loss and shares that she lost weight while contracting tuberculosis

Source: Facebook

Fact checking

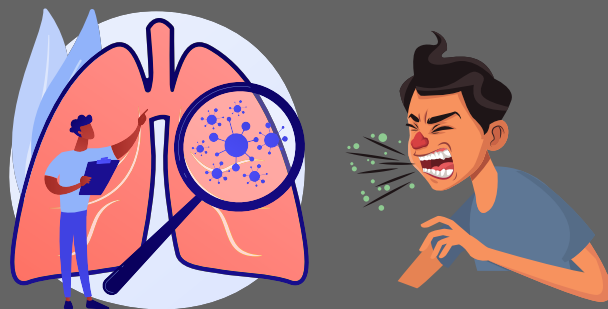


- Tuberculosis is a respiratory disease in most cases. It is highly contagious (by air, when a carrier coughs, sneezes or spits) and is responsible for the deaths of 20 million people worldwide each year, according to Vidal, which is a reference site for health professional and knowledge base is updated by a team of health professionals, pharmacists, physicians, specialists in clinical pharmacology and therapeutics.
- For Madagascar, the figures on deaths from tuberculosis infection are not precise, but there are currently 41,000 people who are detected carriers of this disease (Source : MALADIE TRANSMISSIBLE - La tuberculose en forte propagation à Analamanga (lexpress.mg))
- According to Vidal (Symptoms of tuberculosis – VIDAL), if the disease is not treated, it causes death in 50% of cases.
- Tuberculosis is treated by taking four antibiotics in combination (rifampicin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide and ethambutol). Its care is free in Madagascar.
- People who use drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis without follow-up are at risk of developing resistance to the main drugs used to treat the disease.
- According to the website of the World Health Organization, tuberculosis itself causes weight loss that can be significant

For more information on tuberculosis; follow the link:
[Tuberculosis\(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/tuberculosis)

Recommendations

- Health workers need to remind people that TB can be cured . Its care is free in Madagascar. It is recommended, however, that standard TB treatment be accompanied by information and patient support from a trained health worker or volunteer. Without this support, it is more difficult for patients to adhere to their treatment.
- Community health workers should remember that TB is a disease that can be fatal and that it is imperative to consult a doctor at the first symptoms.



Rumor #2

Another health theme on hospital workers

Why it's important ?

Such a rumor will discredit health facilities and reduce trust in the medical profession. This could have an impact on hospital attendance.

According to a military doctor in the Soavinandriana's Hospital, in Madagascar, most people tend to go to hospitals only because of complications of illness. This rumor could, therefore, delay the management of certain urgent cases because of the hesitation it would generate.

Patients come to hospitals to see health professionals so if this rumor grows, it could reduce the rate of hospital attendance and still promote self-medication or other illegal medicines that cost less.

Fact checking

- According to a military doctor at the Homi University Hospital in Antananarivo, trainee doctors, medical interns as they are called, are students who have completed theoretical courses for 6 years. They have a program that they must complete during the seventh-year internship. They are assisted by regular doctors who supervise and accompany them through the curriculum.
- They are authorized to make consultations and prescribe medications, always with the validation of the doctor who supervises them or the doctor on duty.
- In this case, medical interns cannot direct surgical procedures. They must be accompanied by the doctor who supervises them.
- For the paramedical profession, trainees must have completed three years of theoretical studies before being eligible for an internship in a hospital environment.
- Trainee nurses are supervised by a regular nurse. In most cases, it is the nurse major on duty.
- Trainee nurses must be accompanied by their supervisor to carry out the operations, as long as it is deemed necessary by their supervisor.
- Hospital trainees are 3rd to 6th year medical students who are assigned to observe and monitor patients but in no case can decide on their diagnosis and treatment. Trainees report and accompany health professionals in any medical activity. However, interns who are 7th year medical students preparing their thesis can prescribe prescriptions to patients as an intern but each decision is always sponsored by a graduate doctor. Dr Harilalaina RAJOEL-State graduate doctor in the South.

Le tena manampahaizana ao zao no tena tsy mivaky loha anle olona marary fa stagiaire no ampanaoviny asa

EN: The real experts in the hospital don't care about patients' health, they make the trainees do their job.



Source: Facebook

Recommendations

- It is important that health workers communicate to the public the difference between the roles and responsibilities of doctors, interns and trainees.
- Most hospitals in Madagascar have an idea box and a reminder in case of malpractice. In addition, the order of journalists and the union of paramedics are also listening to patients who have complaints to make.
- Health care providers must be able to enable patients to differentiate between physicians and interns and trainees face-to-face during consultations.



Rumor #3

Other health theme on traditional healers

Why it's important ?

Such a rumor suggests that it only takes 3 months of training for a person to cure all diseases.

The title is too vague, so we don't know what kind of medicine we're talking about. Indeed, in Madagascar, the population use both modern medicine and traditional medicine. Indeed, people prefer ease and turn to traditional medicine. It is only when traditional medicine fails to treat their disease that they turn to modern medicine.

It also undermines the credibility of (modern) medical studies, which generally last nine to twelve years.

Fact checking



- Posting on his Facebook page, he claims to give training in traditional medicine and not in modern medicine.
- According to Article 96 of Law 2011-002, on the Public Health Code, Traditional Medicine: the sum total of all knowledge and practices, used in diagnosis, prevention and elimination of physical, mental and social imbalances and based exclusively on practical experience and observations transmitted from generation to generation, orally or in writing, to prevent, cure diseases and alleviate suffering.
- According to Andriandrinarivo Rasamivelona Joséphin, president of the National Association of Malagasy Traditional Healers, the transmission of knowledge in traditional medicine can take fifteen or even twenty years.



15 mins

Misy olona mampiofana ho mpitsabo : "3 volana no faharetany ary mivoaka ho mpitsabo manasitrana ny aretina rehetra ireo mpianatra"

EN: There is a person who trains to become a doctor. The duration is 3 months and students become doctors who cure all diseases.



Like



Comment



Share

Source: Facebook

Recommendations

-It is necessary to get information on the list of traditional practitioners approved by the National Association of Traditional Practitioners of Madagascar in your town or neighborhood.

-The fokontany leaders and the medical inspector can inform the decisions of those who need trusted traditional practitioners. They are part of the traditional medicine advisory committee and are able to provide this information.

