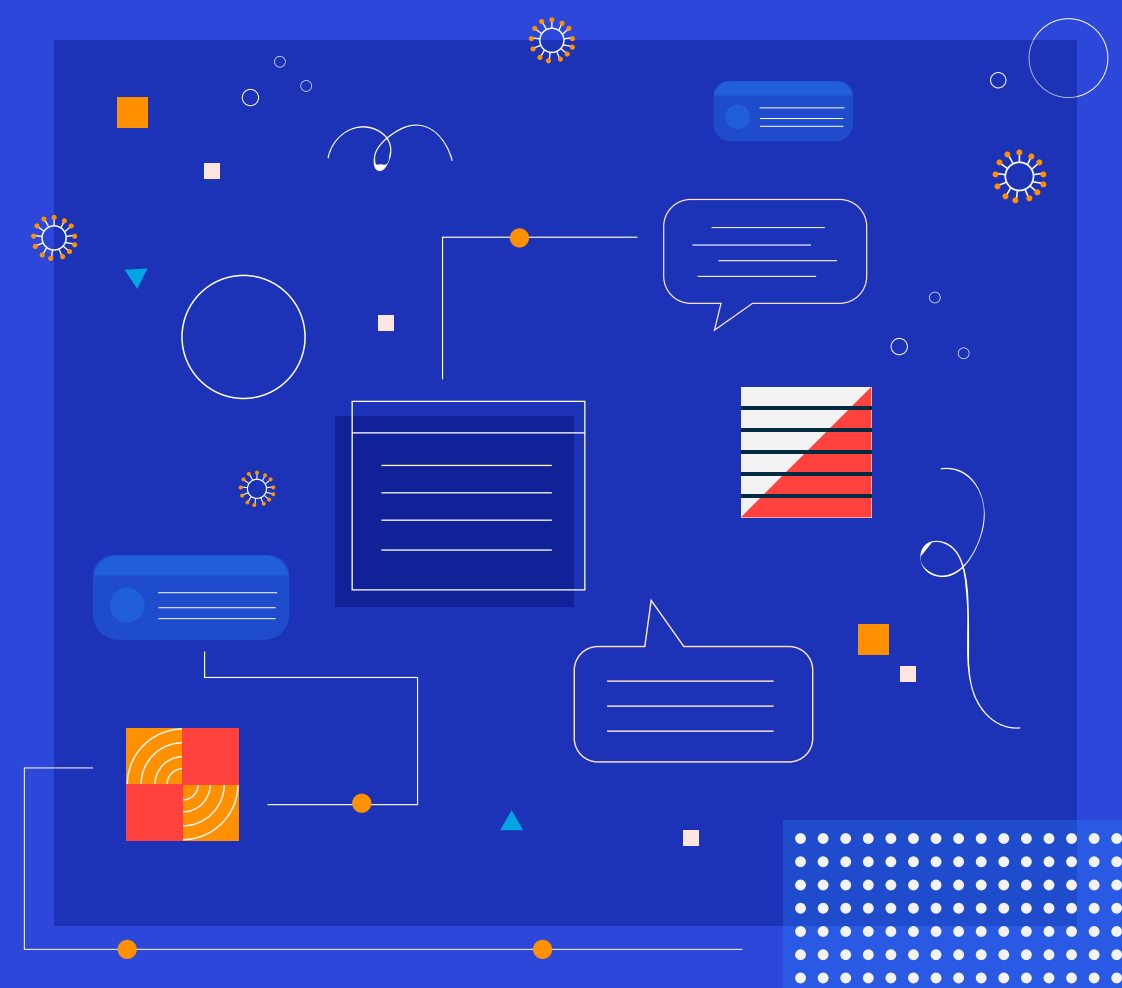




# Hello

## ► Humanitarian Rumor Bulletin

#3 | APRIL 2022



If you have questions, suggestions, or information, please contact us: **Isadora Starling** (istarling@internews.org), Project Manager, ou **Samilly Valadares** (svaladaresses@internews.org), Community Engagement and Accountability Officer.

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### PARTNERS:



## ROOTED IN TRUST

Rooted in Trust (RiT), facilitated by Internews, seeks to strengthen information ecosystems and carry out activities to listen to and engage with communities in themes related to means of communication, rumor analysis, COVID-19 and vaccination. Rooted in Trust works alongside Indigenous and Quilombola communities in the states of Amapá, Pará and Roraima in an effort to respond to the 'infodemic', seeking to enhance existing communication networks to make them safer and healthier.

## ABOUT THIS BULLETIN:

This bulletin aims to provide humanitarian and health partners with information about rumours identified among Indigenous communities in the states of Amapá, Pará and Roraima and Quilombola communities in the states of Pará and Amapá in the last month. Our main objective is to provide information regarding risk communication and community engagement efforts in the response to the current public health crisis. This bulletin presents two rumors mapped in Pará and Roraima. The first rumor was found in Telegram groups and the second, on Facebook. Below, we present the rumors' content and naanalysis of their impact on the region.

## MAIN RUMOR SUBTHEMES



**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**WOMEN**



**UNEMPLOYMENT**

# COVID-19 CONTEXT IN BRASIL

• **30.355.919** CASES

• **662.722** DEATHS

COVID-19 data in Brazil shows 23,171 new cases and 76 new deaths since the last record on April 25, 2022. Mortality is 315.4 per 100,000 inhabitants. According to data published by the news portal G1, the 14-day moving average of COVID-19 deaths is at -27%, showing a downward trend. In the states we operate, we have Pará with an average of +15% and showing a trend towards stability. In Roraima and Amapá, the trends are respectively 0% (stable) and +100% (upward trend).

## INDIGENOUS

• **71.209** CASES

• **1.303** DEATHS

Data from APIB (Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil) consider both Indigenous people who are in traditional territories and those who live in an urban context.

• **374.979** 1ST DOSES

• **355.517** 2 ND DOSES AND SINGLE DOSES

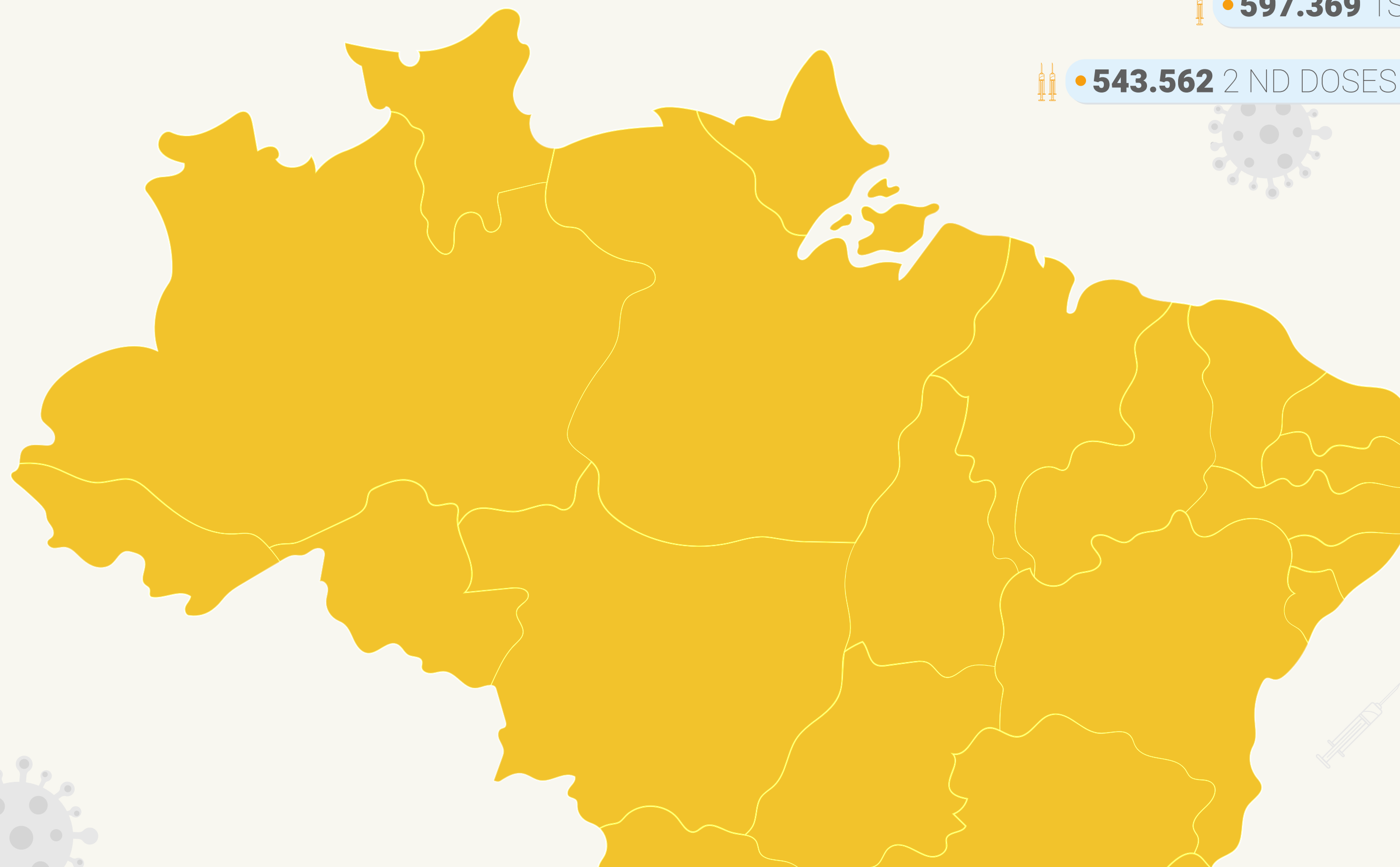
## QUILOMBOLAS

• **5.666** CASES

• **301** DEATHS

• **597.369** 1ST DOSES

• **543.562** 2 ND DOSES AND SINGLE DOSES



### SOURCES:

Ministério da Saúde (25/04/22) | APIB (26/04/22) | Conaq (12/01/22)

# RUMOR#1

## VACCINE AND ADVERSE REACTIONS



The receptionist, an outsourced worker, at the public building where I work, up to her neck in debt and with two children to raise, had a stroke and is hospitalized, depending on the help of friends. I imagine the number of people who made the naive decision to get vaccinated, and will go through the same situation.



THE RUMOR WAS IDENTIFIED IN TELEGRAM GROUPS

### SOURCES:

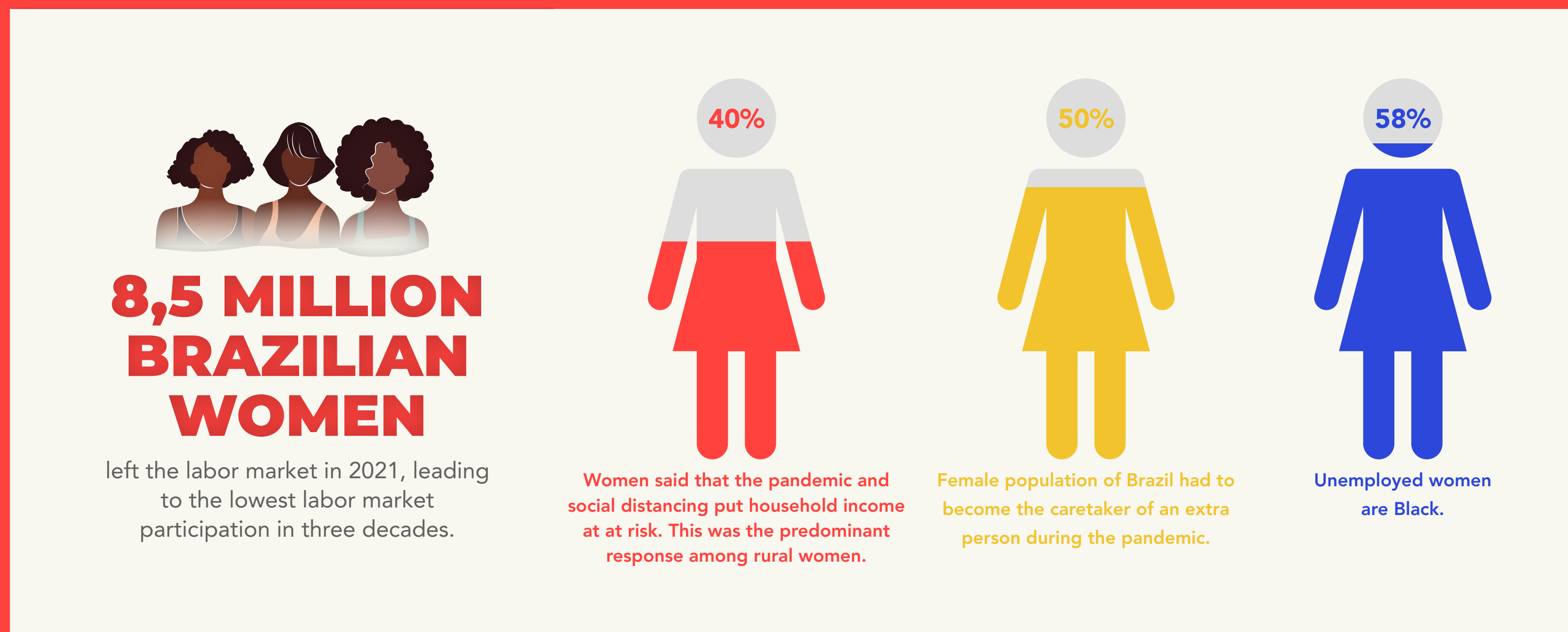
ICAN - Informed Consent Action Network

## WHAT IS BEHIND THE RUMOR? T

The rumor presents the vaccine as the cause for the stroke suffered by the receptionist. Mothers may feel insecure about getting vaccinated, fearing they might have a stroke and be unable to work or take care of their children and family. This rumor associates the vaccine with not only health risks but also risks to one's livelihood. A significant part of low-income women have precarious employment, with no economic or social protection, and have fewer rights than people with formal

employment, hired according to the Consolidated Labor Laws (CLT, in Portuguese).

**Brazil is the second country with the highest number of deaths caused by COVID-19 and the third country with the highest number of cases.** In addition to the more visible effects on the health of the population, the pandemic also brought economic, social and environmental impacts, highlighting social inequalities, especially damaging for women.





# FACT CHECKING

Research and clinical studies prove the safety and efficacy of vaccines. The Transparency Portal of Civil Registry Offices in Brazil provides data on natality and mortality and shows that the number of stroke and heart attack-related deaths has remained stable since 2019, with minor variation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cardiovascular injury is among the possible sequelae of COVID-19, present in **20% to 30% of people who were hospitalized with the disease**. The most common cardiovascular problems identified during and after infection are myocardial injury, arrhythmias, myocardial inflammations, and congestive heart failure.

Strokes are considered an extremely rare adverse event of vaccines, and there are no cases of sudden illness related to vaccination. The Brazilian Society of Exercise and Sports Medicine (SBMEE) released a statement emphasizing the lack of evidence for the correlation and confirming the safety of vaccines. Additionally, there was no increase in stroke cases in the country. According to DataSus, an average of 25,000 people die from strokes each year in Brazil – and this number remained stable between 2018 and 2021.

READ MORE: [SAUDE.ABRIL.COM.BR](https://saude.abril.com.br)



## WHY THIS MATTERS, IMPACT ANALYSIS

The first COVID-19 death in Brazil is a good starting point for understanding the seriousness of this rumor. It was of a woman, mother, and worker. *At the age of 57, Rosana Urbano was a domestic worker and died in March 2020, but her COVID-19 infection was only recognized as the first in the country in June of that same year.*

The pandemic highlighted historical social inequalities experienced by Brazilian women who were/are more likely to be exposed to the coronavirus, and who are often caretakers in their communities.



*The pandemic didn't affect everyone in the same way. It increased and widened social inequalities and gender inequalities. I observed an increase in the levels of stress, anxiety, and depression among women. Feelings of guilt for playing several roles and not being able to handle all of them. When it comes to quilombola women, the situation worsens; inequalities appear even more. When this woman gets sick, who will she turn to? There are no investments in mental health networks, the difficulties in accessing health services are blatant, there are difficulties in accessing the internet to access free services, and they are often not able to pay for other services.*

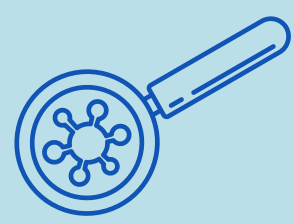
Quilombola Psychologist- Quilombo Médio Itacuruça Abaetetuba/Pará



Vaccines, with proven efficacy and safety, are vital to control the pandemic and care for women's health, considering the impacts of COVID-19 on their lives. However, while some people see vaccination as part of the solution, a portion of the population still sees it as part of the problem. This has been enhanced by the discourse of negationist and anti-vaccine groups. Given this context, it is necessary to analyze context and verify the facts.







# MOBILIZATION & POSSIBLE ACTIONS

*In addition to analyzing rumors, Internews considers it relevant to reflect on actions in response to the "infodemic." Here we suggest some coping responses, such as:*

01.

Continue to co-create and facilitate spaces for the promotion of well-being, as has been suggested and implemented by some organizations. This can be built alongside low-income women in cities and in Indigenous and quilombola communities and with partner institutions, to strengthen the debate and contextualized action in the pandemic scenario.

02.

Following an intersectional approach, it would also be interesting to strengthen and/or co-create a Gender network that encompasses ethnic-racial and socioeconomic topics, in which institutions can dialogue and create strategies. In addition, providing support services to women, mothers, prioritizing the demands of Indigenous and quilombola women. We indicate the dialogue with the following institutions:

- The Gender and Race Relations **Commissions of the Regional Council of Psychology - CRP 10 Pará and Amapá and the National Articulation of Black Psychologists and Researchers - ANPSINEP** that seek to address the ethnic-racial and gender debate in different areas of psychology.
- The **Articulation of Brazilian Women**, which is a feminist, anti-racist, anti-patriarchal, anti-capitalist and non-partisan movement that works in different Brazilian states in favor of women's issues.



## VACCINE AND DEATH



Another victim of the experiment. Pietra Giulia, 11, had a silent seizure while sleeping, a few days after getting vaccinated. Distraction makes us forget what is still around us. Rest in peace Pietra.t



THIS RUMOR WAS IDENTIFIED ON FACEBOOK

## WHAT IS BEHIND THE RUMOR?

Pietra, the girl who appears in the rumor, represents two groups made vulnerable for being a child and Black. **In Brazil, the Black population is**

**more likely to die because of COVID-19.** Racism in the country affects several aspects of access to health: the Black population is more affected by chronic diseases, by the deterioration of the Universal Health System (SUS), as it depends more on it, and by economic and work insecurity, which exposes them to more health risks.

This scenario was worsened by the pandemic, as economic inequality and lack of good public policies make social distancing, access to protective equipment and other prevention measures difficult. Finally, **childhood vaccination in Brazil faces resistance,** a situation driven by government attacks and delays by the Ministry of Health.

Racism is a Social Determinant of Health (DSS) that enhances the situation of vulnerability of Black, quilombola and Indigenous children. When the rumor presents vaccination as the cause of the child's death, it can lead parents to make the decision to not vaccinate their children, motivated by doubts and concerns.

## FACT CHECKING

- The rumor misrepresents a post about the death of a child, unrelated to the vaccine, taking it out of context and claiming that there was some relationship between the seizure and the vaccine - which does not appear in the original post made by the community to which the girl belonged. In addition, studies and research carried out on COVID-19 vaccines and possible adverse reactions have proven that there is **no evidence of an association between vaccines and seizures.**
- All vaccines approved by the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), responsible for the inspection and approval process of vaccines in Brazil, were tested before being released to the population. **COVID-19 vaccines approved for children have proven safety and efficacy through research and clinical studies. Failure to vaccinate children may pose a greater risk than with adults. Vaccines can cause some adverse reactions, which are usually mild or moderate, such as: pain at the injection site, tiredness, and headache.**



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

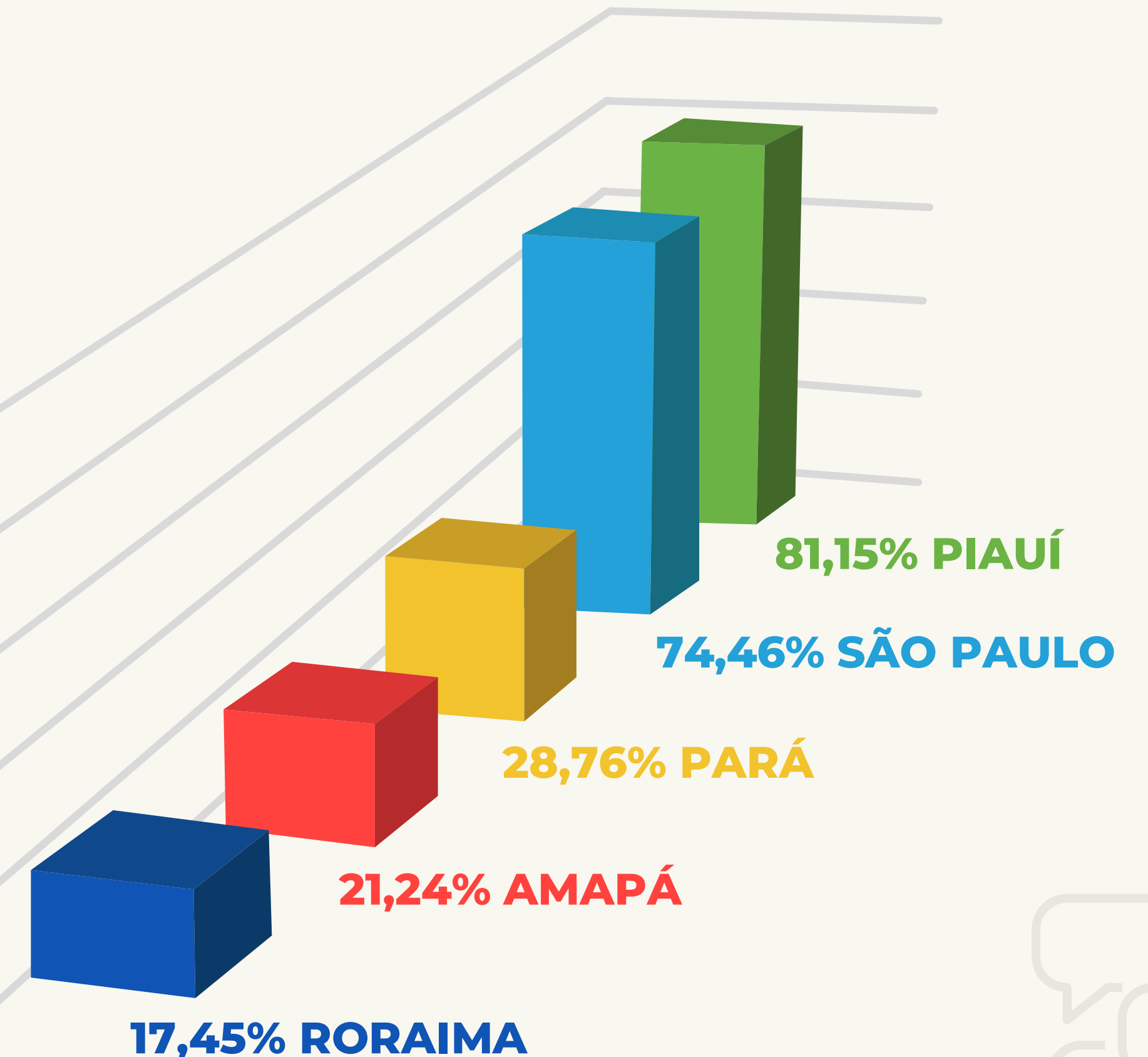
The use of a photo and a testimonial from someone who knew her can generate a greater impact than just a text post, as experiences that invoke emotions, such as this post, can generate *longer-lasting memories*. The rumor gets a face, a story beyond the text touches the reader and can lead them to believe the information in it.

A *recent survey* also showed that people who produce anti-vaccine content tend to target mothers and caregivers, mobilizing the 'maternal instinct' to discourage vaccination. The concern to protect children makes this group more susceptible to doubts or questions that rumors ignite. In the states where we operate (Roraima, Amapá and Pará) childhood vaccination happens at a slow pace: *only 17.45% of children between ages 5 and 11 in Roraima received the 1st dose of the vaccine; in Amapá, 21.24%; and in Pará, 28.76%.*

Black quilombola and Indigenous children suffer the most from the impacts of racism and social inequalities in Brazil, and the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies their situation of vulnerability. In this context, fake or distorted information about children vaccination can prevent children from having access to this valuable tool that, beyond protecting Indigenous and quilombola children, is an important right.

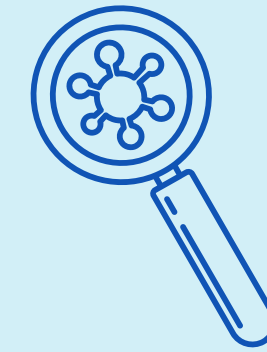
## Children between ages 5 and 11 who received the 1st dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

SOURCE: G1 - MATO GROSSO





# MOBILIZATION & POSSIBLE ACTIONS



*In addition to analyzing rumors, Internews considers it relevant to reflect on possible actions in response to the “infodemic”. Here we suggest some possible responses, such as:*

As has been encouraged by some organizations, we encourage the promotion of groups where parents and caregivers can share concerns, questions, and perceptions about childhood vaccination through face-to-face or online listening mechanisms and the promotion of information about vaccines.

Creation and facilitation of health education

projects, with dynamic and interactive activities to address health content for the Black, quilombola and Indigenous population, as well as emphasize the importance of caring for and protecting Indigenous and quilombola children.

It is essential to remember the importance of producing culturally-adapted content aimed at parents and care about COVID-19 and vaccination.

## SOURCES:

- Portal Fio Cruz - Metade das mulheres passou a cuidar de alguém na pandemia, revela pesquisa
- UOL Notícias - Médica rebate Janaina Paschoal: 'Vacina não causa AVC nem infarto'
- Folha de São Paulo - Há dois anos, morria a primeira vítima da Covid-19 no Brasil
- A Gazeta - Vacina contra Covid não causa AVC ou problemas de coração. Entenda
- Folha Uol - A extenuante tarefa de contabilizar mortes
- O Globo - Influenciadores miram em mães para propagar conteúdo antivacina
- Correio Braziliense - Cientistas demonstram como as emoções influenciam nossa memória
- G1 - MT é o 6º estado do Brasil que menos vacinou crianças de 5 a 11 anos contra a Covid-19