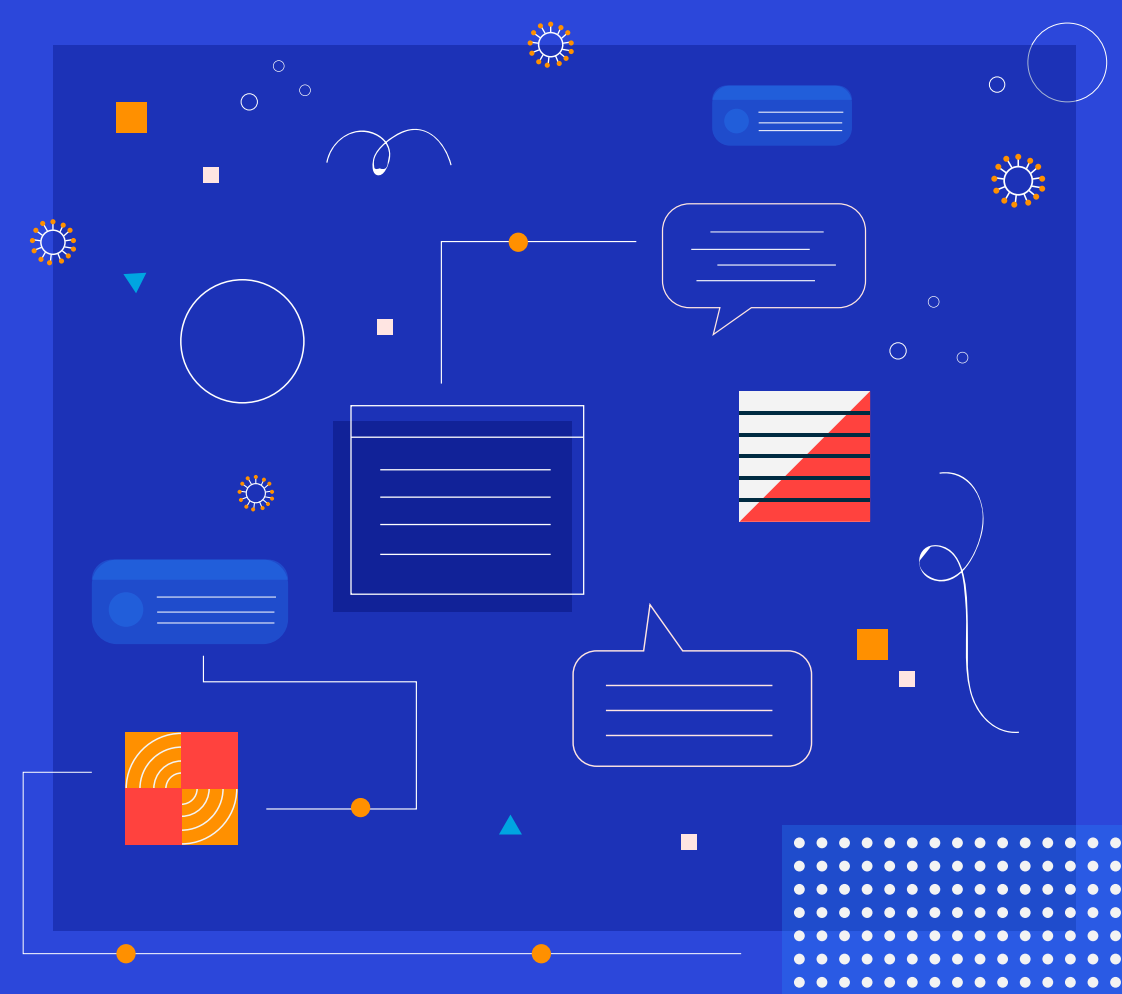


Hello

► Humanitarian Rumor Bulletin
#6 | JULY 2022



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

LEARN MORE: www.INTERNEWS.org

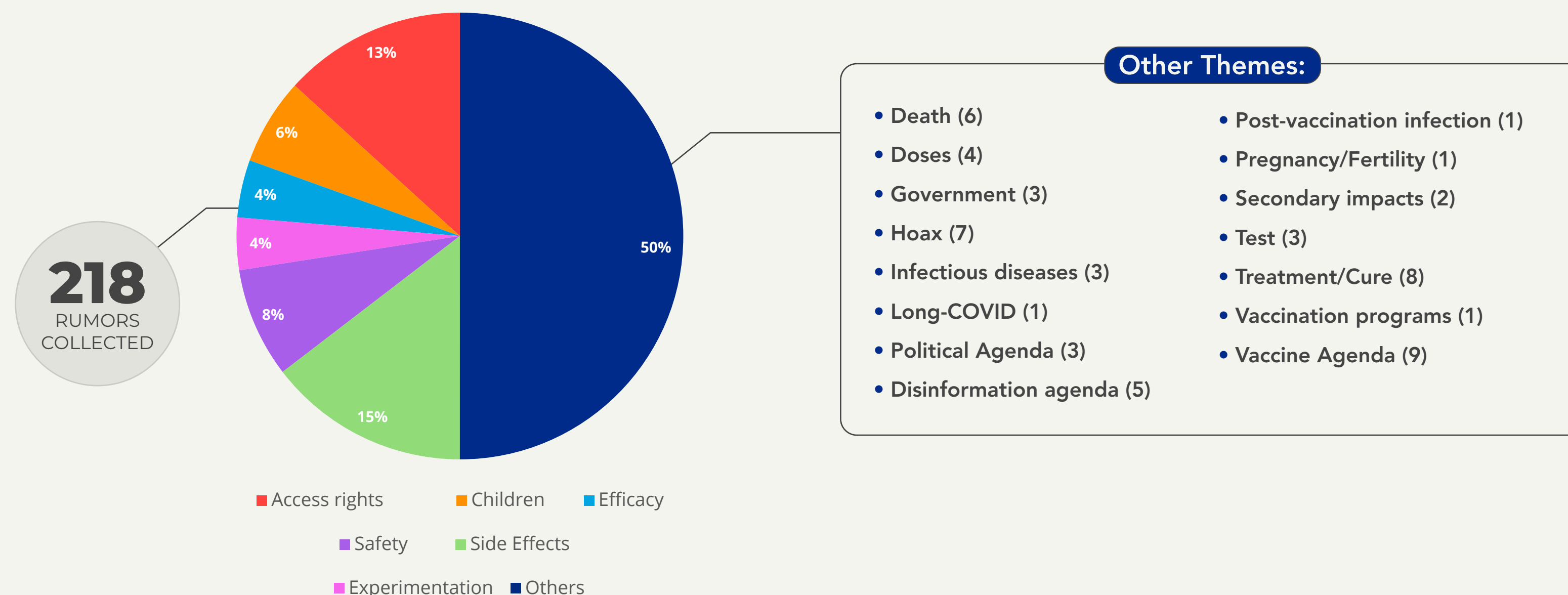
Rooted in Trust

O projeto **Enraizado na Confiança** atua junto às **comunidades indígenas e quilombolas dos estados do Amapá, Pará e Roraima** em um processo de resposta à ‘infodemia’, buscando potencializar as redes de comunicação existentes para que se tornem mais seguras e saudáveis.

About this bulletin

Este boletim apresenta rumores identificados entre comunidades indígenas dos estados de Roraima, Amapá e Pará e comunidades quilombolas dos estados do Amapá e Pará, com o **objetivo de orientar e informar a respeito do risco e possíveis ações de endereçamento.**

Dois rumores foram selecionados no total de 218 coletados entre os dias 24 de maio e 24 de junho. Confira a seguir, análise sobre impacto dos rumores:



COVID-19 CONTEXT IN THE COUNTRY

• **32.940.507** CASES

• **673.758** DEATHS

• **179.390.049** 1ST DOSE

• **168.091.094** 2ND DOSE/SINGLE DOSE

• **100.530.077** REINFORCEMENT DOSE

PARÁ

• **787.809** KNOWN CASES

• **18.482** DEATHS

In the last 14 days, the moving average of deaths is at -42% and indicates a downward trend

AMAPÁ

• **164.422** KNOWN CASES

• **2.141** DEATHS

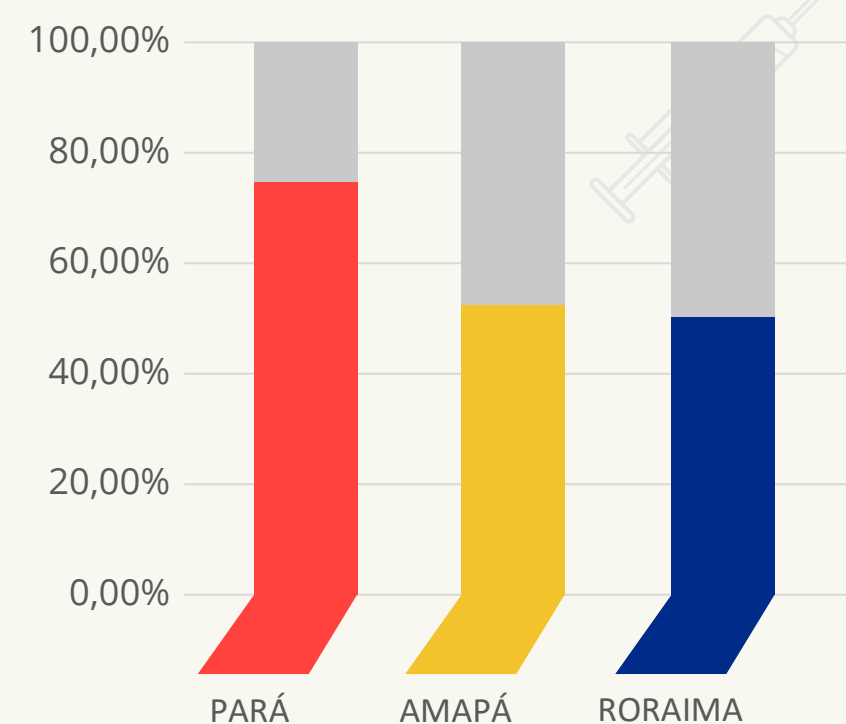
RORAIMA

• **166.494** KNOWN CASES

• **2.154** DEATHS

In the last 14 days, the moving average of deaths is at 0% and indicates a stability trend.

VACCINATION



RORAIMA, WORST INDEX IN THE COUNTRY

Percentage of population vaccinated with the first complete vaccination course (two doses of Pfizer, Astrazeneca or Coronavac, or one dose of Janssen) on 7/10/2022.

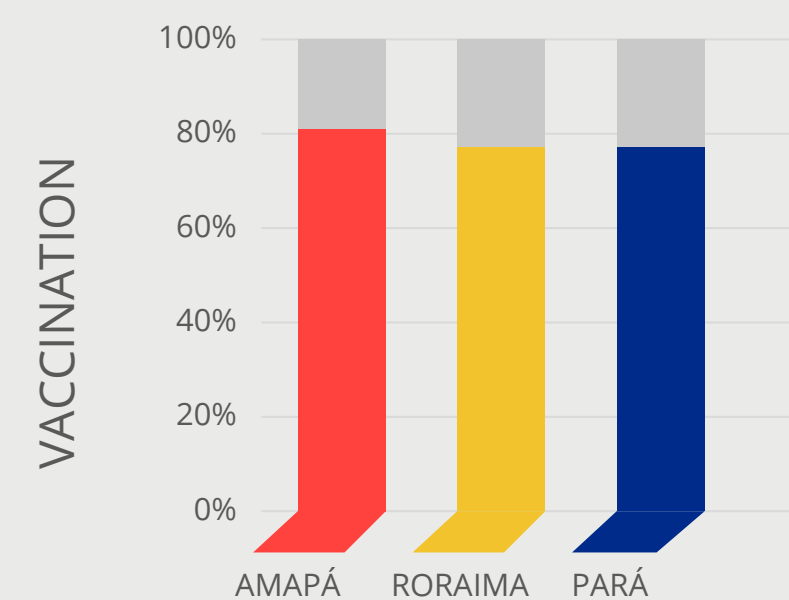
INDIGENOUS

• **72.367** CASES

• **1.315** DEATHS

• **376.505** 1ST DOSE

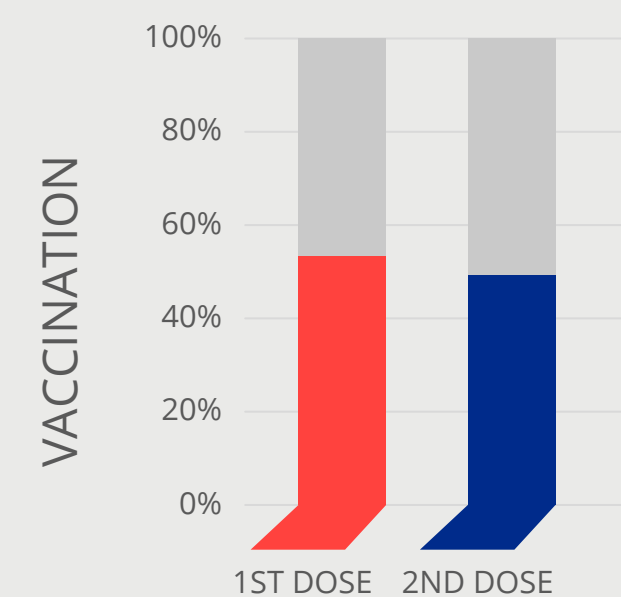
• **358.246** 2ND AND SINGLE DOSE



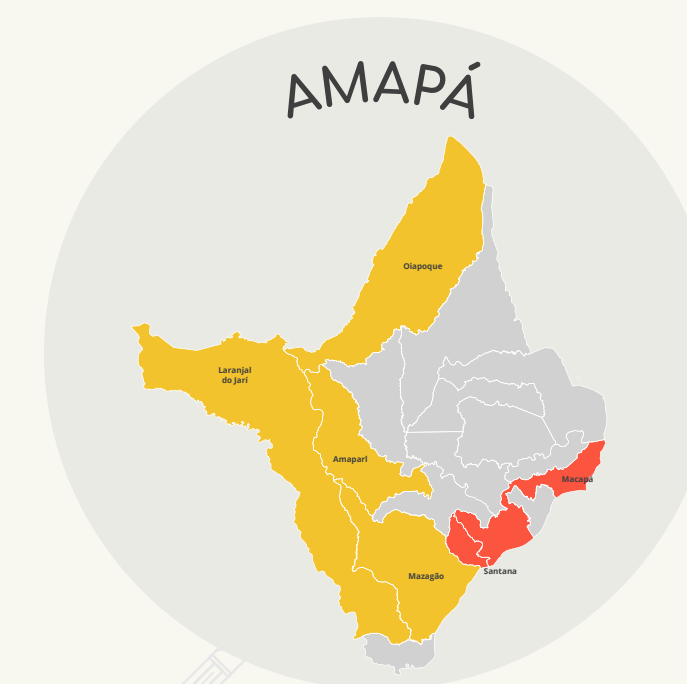
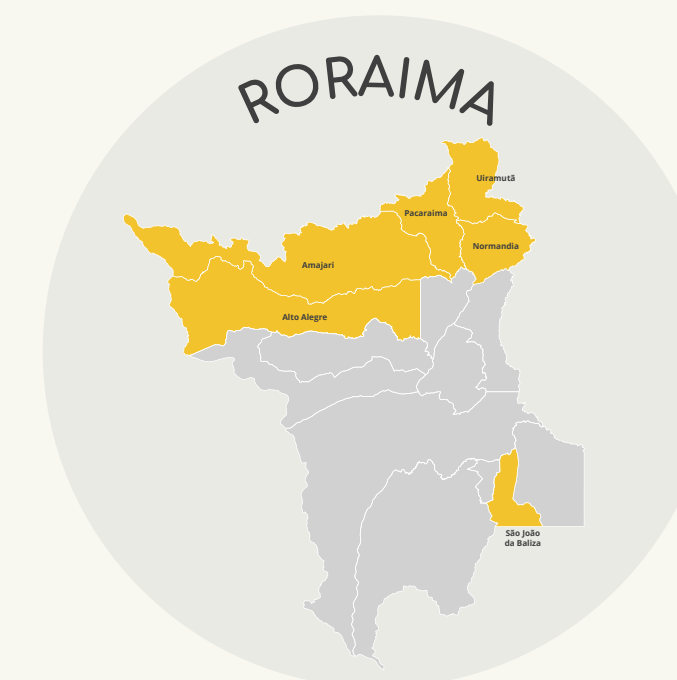
QUILOMBOLAS

• **5.666** CASES

• **301** DEATHS



Target Audience



● INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ● QUILOMBOLAS

RUMOR#1

EARLY TREATMENT



"I and more than 60 million Brazilians are not in mourning for Bruno, Dom etc. we are sorry about the fact that it happened but zero mourning. I'm mourning the dead teacher, the children killed in abortions and the poor people who didn't use preventive treatment and died of COVID."



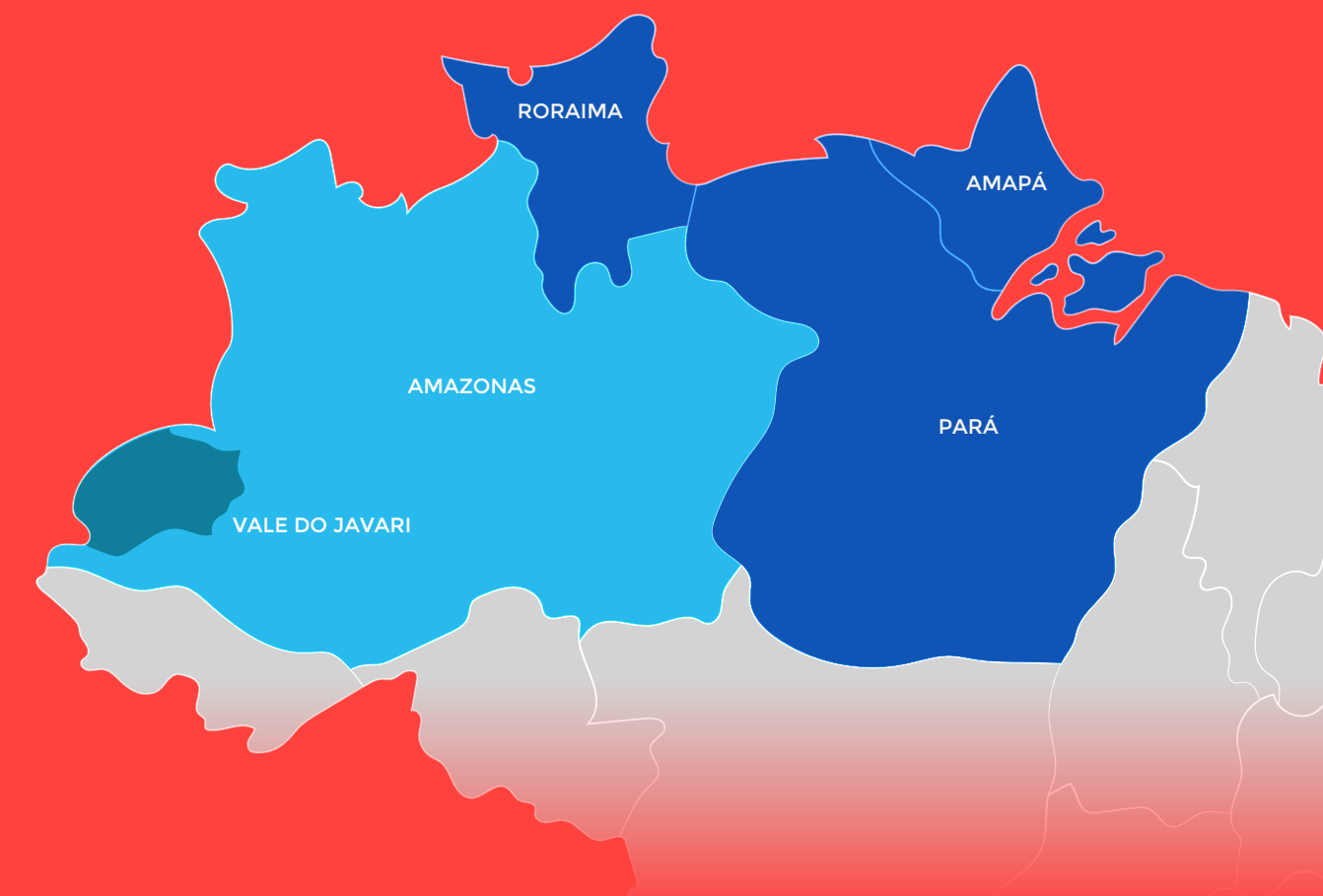
TWITTER, JUNE 2022

WHAT'S BEHIND THE RUMOR?

- On social media, especially in right-wing circles, the mention of "60 million Brazilians" usually refers to voters of President Jair Bolsonaro, who **received approximately that amount** of votes in the second round of the 2018 elections. The rumor establishes a connection between the political choice of Bolsonaro supporters at the polls and other politicized and polarizing themes. Among them, the death of Bruno Pereira and Dom Phillips.
- Beyond encouraging the use of drugs with no proven effectiveness against COVID-19, the rumor relativizes the deaths of Bruno and Dom, by stating that other deaths are more important, and neglects the risk faced by defenders of environmental causes and the need for protection of these agents.
- Indigenist Bruno Pereira and journalist Dom Phillips disappeared on June 5 while on an expedition in Vale do Javari, the second largest Indigenous Land in the country. They were heading to Atalaia do

Norte, but never reached their destination.

- After days of searching, on June 15th, a fisherman from the region known as "Pelado" confessed to the crime and took investigators to the place where the remains of Bruno and Dom were found.
- The murders took place at a time of increasingly common invasions of the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land, confirming a scenario of lack of protection and violence in the region. **According to Univaja (União dos Povos Indígenas do Vale do Javari)**, the suspects in the crime are part of groups of fishermen who constantly invade the indigenous land.
- **Conflicts in the region are not new.** In 2021, one of the headquarters of Funai's Ethnoenvironmental Front was attacked by bullets. In 2000, a group of fishermen created the Movimento dos Sem Rio ('Movement of the Riverless') and attacked Funai facilities with Molotov cocktails.



- In addition, according to indigenous leaders, due to the COVID-19 pandemic Indigenous entities are functioning more precariously, **facilitating the invasion of territories and protected areas.**



BRUNO PEREIRA was an indigenist serving Funai and was on leave from the position and advising Univaja. He worked training indigenous people to use drones to monitor the territory.



DOM PHILLIPS was a contributing reporter for The Guardian. He had been living in Brazil for 15 years. He was writing a book on how to save the forest.

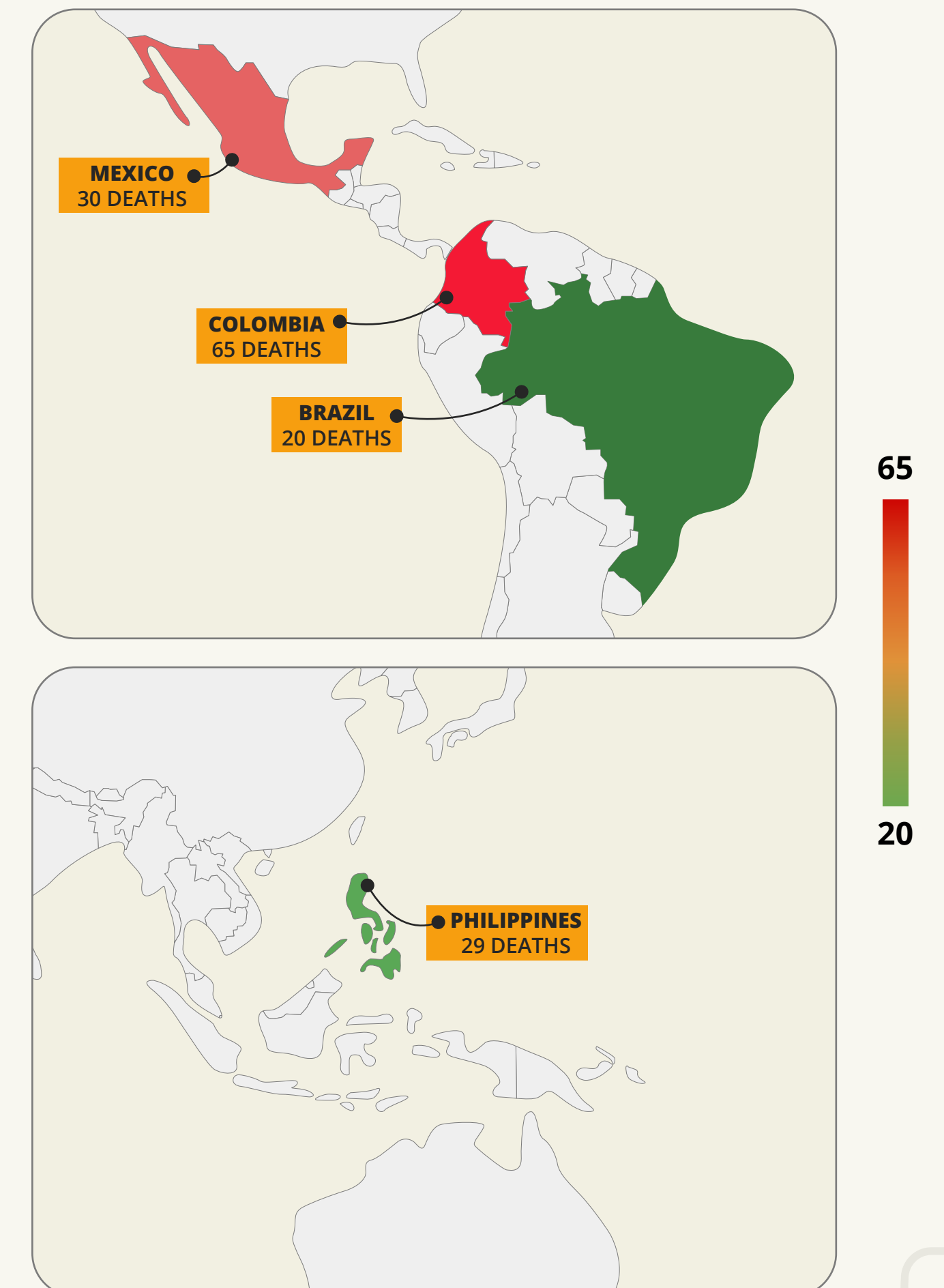
FACT CHECKING

- ✓ The **Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases (SBI)** and the **Brazilian Medical Association (AMB)** stated that there is no early treatment against COVID-19 so far.
- ✓ According to the **Brazilian Society of Pulmonology and Tisiology**, the use of medication for **early treatment** generates a false sense of security that can make people delay seeking medical attention.
- ✓ In addition to that, the indiscriminate use of drugs can present risks, according to the Federal Council of Pharmacy. Concomitant consumption of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, for example, can potentiate the occurrence of cardiovascular damage.
- ✓ There is still a specific concern about the use of azithromycin. Ingestion of the drug without need can accelerate the process of resistance of microorganisms to treatment.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT IMPACT ANALYSIS

- By combining several politicized and politicizing themes, the rumor propagates the idea that early treatment is effective against COVID-19 while relativizing the murder of Pereira and Philips, and the violence against defenders of environmental rights, creating a false narrative that some deaths are more important than others.
- The case of Dom and Bruno gained national and international repercussion, especially since it was the death of a British journalist. However, this case is not isolated. In the same region, in 2019, the unsolved murder of **Maxciel dos Santos**, also a Funai employee, took place.
- According to a report by the international **NGO Global Witness**, since 2012, Brazil has recorded 317 violent deaths of human rights defenders. The report was released at the end of last year and counted the deaths until the year 2020.

A SURVEY PUT BRAZIL IN FOURTH PLACE IN THE RANKING, ACCOUNTING FOR 20 DEATHS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN 2020.



The anthropologist and indigenist from CIMI (Indigenous Missionary Council) North Regional I, Gilmara Fernandes, worked in Vale do Javari for five years. She explains that recent events in the region are an example of the lack of protection against indigenous people and forest defenders throughout the Amazon.

“If in Atalaia do Norte, in Vale do Javari, there is this situation that has been worsened much more by the government's indigenist policy, imagine in the other states of the Amazon that are also geographically gigantic regions and where the State is totally absent”.

According to Gilmara Fernandes, the murders of Bruno and Dom reveal a scenario of lack of protection of Indigenous Lands in the Brazilian Amazon.

“We are experiencing a very complicated situation that has worsened a lot. For this reason, many indigenists are finding themselves in a very difficult situation, with a lot of threats to their ability to carry out their work.”.

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 coping responses, such as:

▶ The murders of indigenist Bruno Pereira and journalist Dom Philips show the need to support those who fight against the invasion of Indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon.

▶ In this sense, in response to the escalation of violence, it is important to encourage initiatives to clarify to the public what environmental rights are and how to defend them.

▶ In addition, it is important to articulate strategies to combat invasions of Indigenous and quilombola territories, as well as reinforce the protection of these peoples.

We bring some points that can be helpful:

▶ The free and online course **“Environmental Crimes in the Amazon: roots, dynamics and solutions”**, proted by Plataforma **CIPÓ**. Training provides an overview of the main challenges associated with environmental crimes in the Brazilian Amazon.

▶ **Caci** is a platform that maps the murders of Indigenous people in Brazil. With the systematized georeferencing of murders, provided by **Cimi**, starting in 1985, the platform provides information on the cases, helping to develop strategies to combat violence in each region.

VACCINE AND SIDE EFFECTS



Good morning guys. Does anyone happen to have any reports on HPV vaccine-related infertility? I know a lot of girls who took it at the time and today they can't get pregnant. Even a daughter of a friend, left her career of as a child model, after she got this vaccine, because she was all deformed".



TELEGRAM, PARÁ, JUNE 2022

WHAT IS BEHIND THE RUMOR

- The hesitation to get vaccinated against Human Papillomasvirus (HPV) is not an isolated phenomenon and is influenced by **social factors**: personal experience, family history, the opinion of friends, beliefs and ideologies.
- Anti-vaccine movements have grown in Brazil, often sustained by the spread of incorrect and widely shared health information, particularly on the internet.
- The implementation of HPV vaccination for girls between ages 9 and 14 mobilized divergent opinions. There was a wave of resistance to it, supported by the moral argument that it was **sexualizing children at an early age**.

However, this age group was strategically selected for gaining greater benefits:

Greater immune response against lesions caused by HPV (which can cause cancer)

Greater production of antibodies

Less exposure to the virus through sexual intercourse

- Vaccination against HPV highlights the debate on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and the importance of prevention.
- Many parents decide not to vaccinate their children for **fear of side effects** or for personal and/or religious reasons, as the vaccine was seen by some people as a way of encouraging early and **risky sexual relations**.

FACT CHECKING



Human Papillomasvirus (HPV) is a diverse group of viruses capable of infecting the skin and mucous membranes of the human body, such as those present in the vulva, vagina, cervix, penis and perianal region.



The vaccines against HPV, **Gardasil** and **Cervarix**, have their efficacy and safety certified by the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA).



Like any other medication, the HPV vaccine can cause short-term **side effects** such as pain, swelling, redness, headache, and fever.



Contrary to the rumor, vaccines do **not cause infertility**, nor do they cause deformation, paralysis or other long-term side effects. They **protect** against HPV and, consequently, against cervical cancer and its effects, such as infertility.



A study published in the scientific journal The Lancet showed a **drop of almost 90%** in cervical cases among people vaccinated against HPV.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Vaccination is an important public health strategy. However, rumors about side effects and the sexualization of childhood can provoke fears, doubts and interfere with people's decision-making to get vaccinated.
- Even though Brazil is a reference on the topic and has one of the largest Immunization Programs in the world, vaccination against HPV **is below the target** established by the Ministry of Health.
- When the rumor associates HPV vaccination with infertility and deformation, it can contribute to resistance to vaccines.
- Many **rumors that mention infertility** have also been linked to COVID-19 vaccines.

Eliane Putira, an Indigenous woman of the Baré ethnic group and a biomedical professional, says that the pandemic and misinformation intensified vaccine

hesitancy.

“The COVID-19 situation ended up bringing resistance to other types of vaccines, such as the HPV vaccine. Fake news brought great impacts to Indigenous territories. It's all very complex. Some fake news cross our cosmogenies and it is necessary to dialogue with the leaders, explain to the elders, share safe information”.

- Considering the high prevalence of HPV infections and cervical cancer in the North region of Brazil, the refusal to be vaccinated can have great impacts on the general population, especially for traditional communities that are vulnerable due to difficulties in accessing services, preventive exams and clinical treatments.

By 2020, only 55% of girls in the target audience had completed all doses of the vaccine.

According to the National Cancer Institute (INCA),

cervical cancer **is more frequent in the North Region** – 26.24/100 thousand.

It is estimated that in 2022 the incidence rates in the states where the project operates will be:

**Pará – 22/100 thousand Roraima – 29,45/100 thousand
Amapá – 33/100 thousand**

The high incidence of cervical cancer reinforces the importance of vaccination against HPV.

The nurse Luma de Oliveira, from the Family Health program, emphasizes the need for safe information to expand vaccination coverage.

“Unfortunately, even with all the benefits, there are still those who reject [vaccines]. Many parents do not allow children or adolescents to be immunized because they think the vaccine will cause some kind of side effect. The more correct information is disseminated, the greater the access to reliable and informative content.”.

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 coping responses, such as:

▶ The infodemic has major impacts on Indigenous peoples and Quilombolas. It is necessary to strengthen action networks through health education strategies and dialogue with communities about their doubts and demands.

▶ Train leaders and health agents so that they can pass on safe information about vaccination (composition, importance, possible side effects, **differences between each type of vaccine**) always respecting the specificities of communities.

▶ Prioritize the debate and contextualized interventions on the health of Indigenous and Quilombola girls and women. Provide guidance

on care and prevention services for HPV, cervical cancer and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

We bring some recommendations:

▶ Practical guide on HPV – booklet with questions and answers for health professionals about the Human Papillomasvirus (HPV) and its implications.

▶ Website of the National Cancer Institute (INCA) that provides information about HPV, cervical cancer and provides access to information, publications, campaigns and courses related to professional practice in different contexts.





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