

# COVID-19 & HEALTH ISSUES

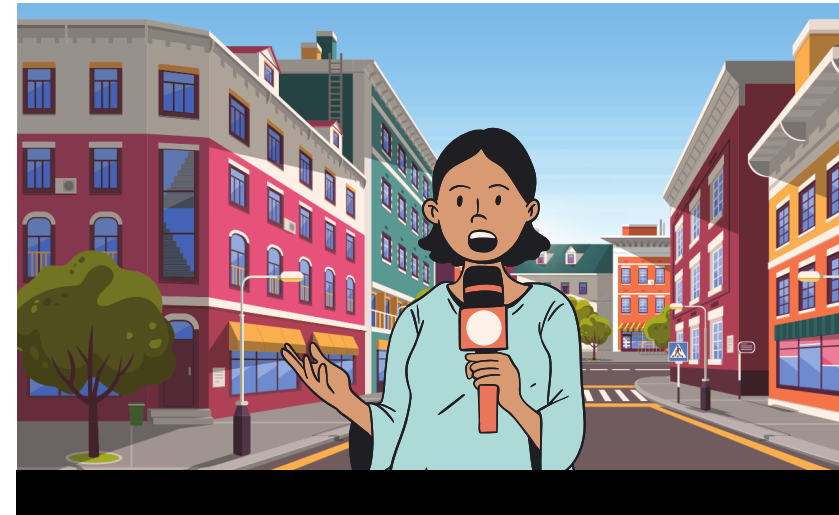
*A weekly snapshot of COVID-19 and other health topics in Zimbabwe*

## TOP STORY:

Zimbabwe records 320 Cholera cases in a week.

## TOP ISSUES:

- Zimbabwe rolls out third mass Polio vaccination.
- New law will hasten healthcare workers' exodus.
- Zimbabwe battling growing drug addiction among youths.



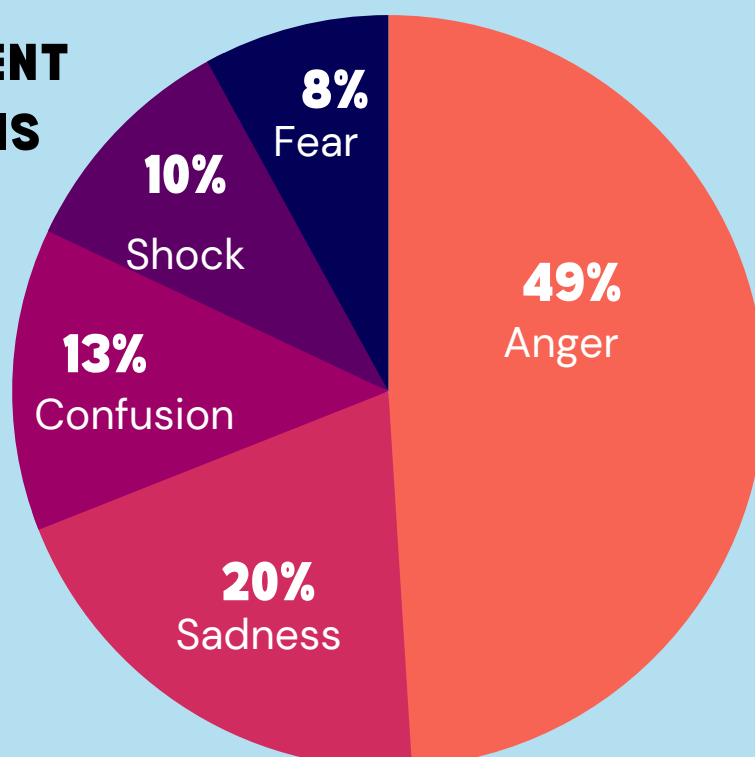
## TOP TRENDING POST

The post with the highest reach this week:

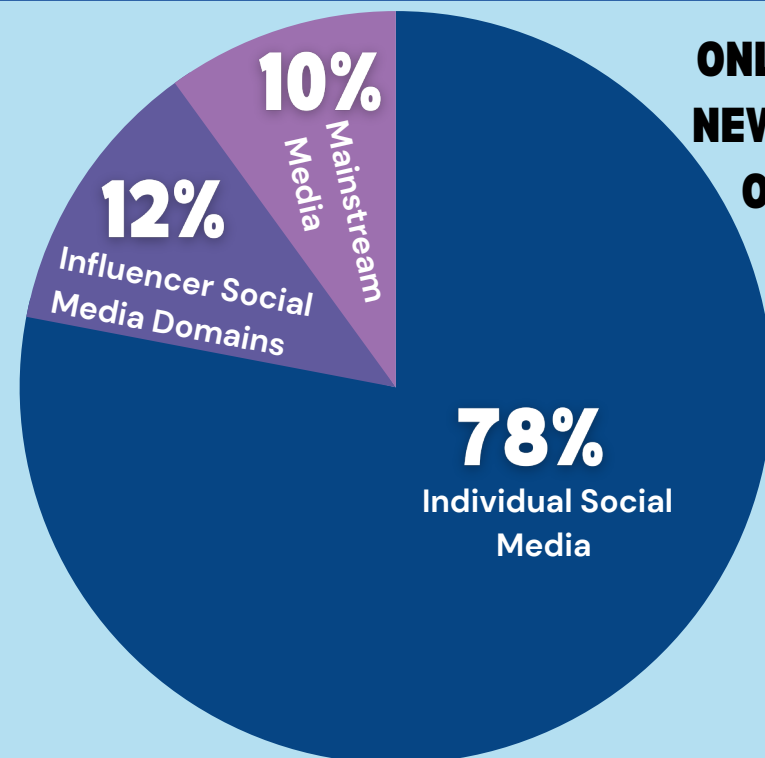
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- Potential Reach: 662.6K
  - Retweets: 296
  - Likes: 708
  - Comments 360

“Was there a tender for the helicopters? Are they able to make it public? Do we have the technical capacity to operate them? Can they make a difference in a dysfunctional public health ecosystem? What happens if you’re airlifted & there’s no heli-pad, no water & no paracetamol?” (English, Twitter)

## SENTIMENT ANALYSIS



## ONLINE HEALTH NEWS SOURCES OF THE WEEK



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by RiT 2.0 Global Rumours Dashboard

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# RUMOR

*"Polio campaigns are too much will that not harm our children?"*

## FACTS

- On May 23, 2023, the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) launched round three of the national Polio vaccination campaign targeting children aged five years and under, aimed at protecting them against Polio as part of a comprehensive response to Polio outbreaks reported in Malawi and Mozambique last year. The first and second vaccination rounds took place in October and December 2022 respectively.
- Dr Mayibongwe Mzingwane, a Medical Virologist at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s Faculty of Medicine observes that "as part of Polio vaccination, children receive four vaccine doses which are administered four weeks apart, and the detection of Polio cases last year has necessitated the campaigns as an attempt not to reverse the gains that had been made over the years of eradicating the disease".
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) notes that Polio can be prevented through immunisation and the Polio vaccine, given multiple times, almost always protects a child for life. Therefore, high levels of vaccination coverage must be maintained to stop transmission and prevent outbreaks.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- Hosting radio, television and podcast interviews with medical experts explaining the rationale behind the national Polio vaccination campaign and why children need to receive multiple doses of the vaccine.
- Producing documentaries, features and infographics explaining Polio causes, signs and symptoms and how vaccination helps children gain immunity from the disease.

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Rooted in Trust is collecting, analysing and responding to rumours in 13 countries with generous support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). We focus on equipping journalists and humanitarian communicators with tools they need, in languages they prefer, to combat rumours and misinformation in COVID-19 and other health issues of concern.



For more information on the project, visit: [here](#)

