

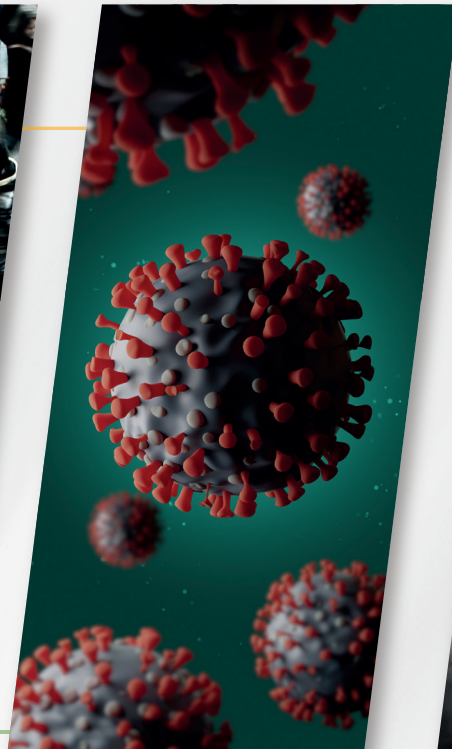


Rooted
in Trust

No. 2

IRAQ SITUATION REPORT

A monthly situation report aimed at combating
COVID-19 rumors to debunk the infodemic



June, 2022



USAID
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About Rooted in Trust

Rooted in Trust is collecting, analyzing, and responding to rumors in 10 countries with generous support from USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA). We focus on equipping journalists and humanitarian communicators with the tools they need in the languages they prefer, to combat rumors and misinformation during the COVID-19 crisis.

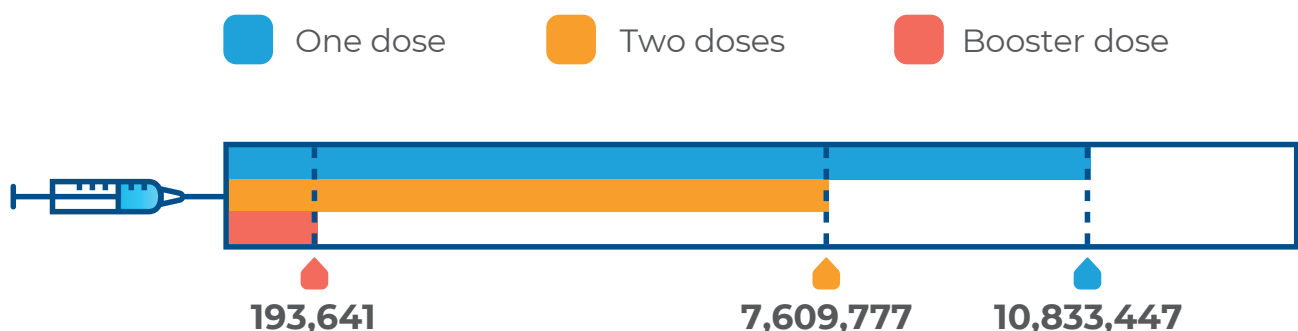
How do we do it?

We identify and analyze rumors to help humanitarian actors and health workers better inform their Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE) strategies.

Situation by the Numbers (WHO)¹

- Positive COVID-19 cases reported during June 2022: **17,874** - (471.4%) increased by comparing to the previous month.
- Number of total cases: **2,345,893**
- Total of vaccine doses administered until June 2022: **18,636,865** - (46.5%)
- Total number of fully vaccinated people: **7,609,777** - (18.9%)

Vaccination Uptake Per Dose Until May 2022



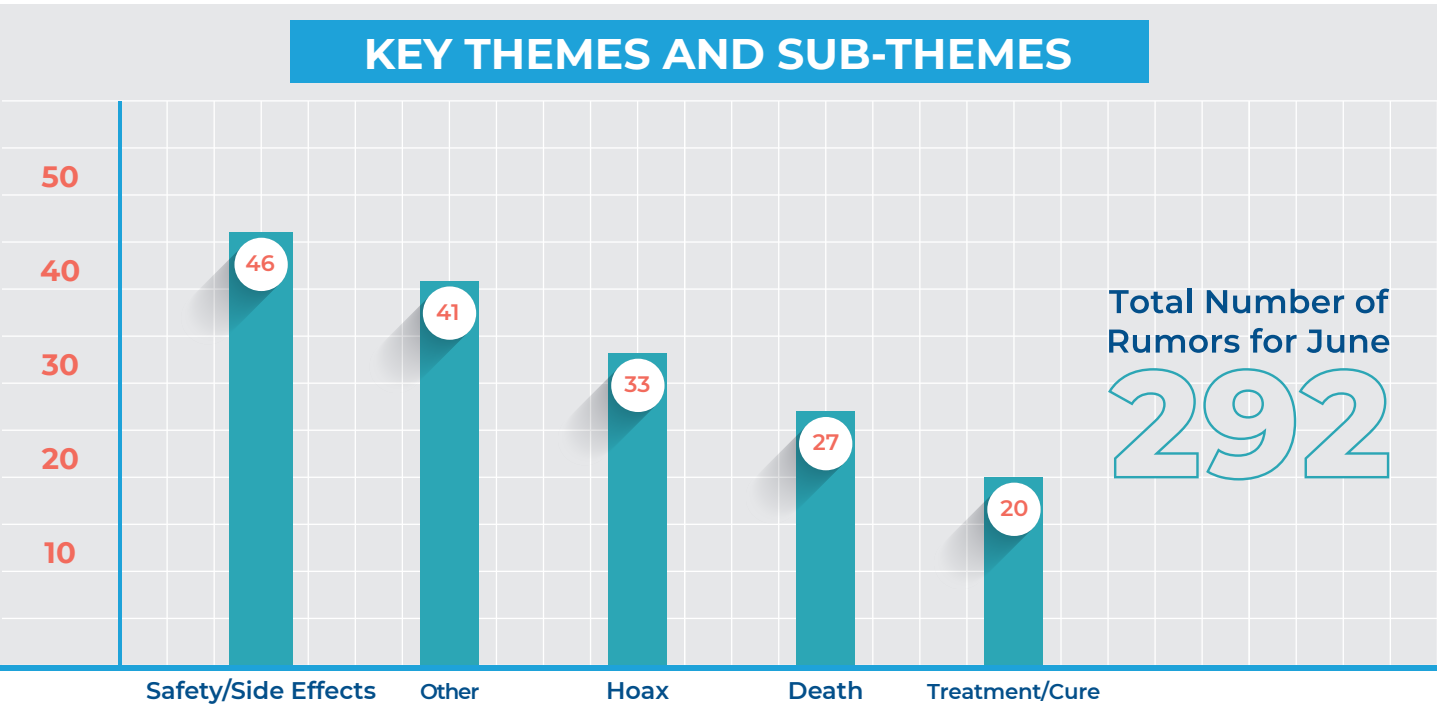
Introduction

In June 2022, the number of COVID-19 cases in Iraq is raised compared to April and May 2022. Only in June, 17,874 confirmed cases were recorded, while only 3,172 cases were reported in May 2022. Also, the number of deaths increased in June, as 20 deaths have been reported, while there were eight cases in May. There is still a low rate of vaccination in Iraq, in which by the end of June 2022, the rate is %18.9. It means that according to the WHO dashboard, out of more than 42 million of the Iraqi population, only 7,609,777 is fully vaccinated. On June 30, Iraq's Health Ministry said the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reached 2,348,662.

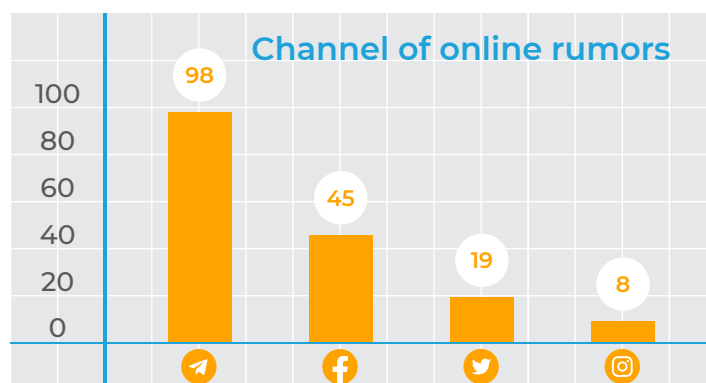
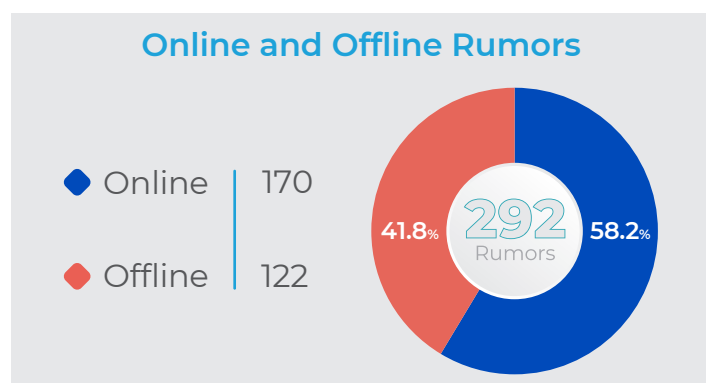
Furthermore, the number of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) cases increased during June, and the Ministry of Health announced on July 2nd that the cases toll of viral CCHF has risen to 227, including 36 deaths, and most cases were reported in Dhi Qar Governorate. Moreover, Iraq faced a Cholera outbreak starting from the second week of June. The Iraqi Health Ministry stated that 139 Cholera cases were confirmed until the end of June, mainly in Sulaymaniyah, Muthanna, and Kirkuk².

Data Overview

With a total of 292 rumors collected during June 2022, we have noticed that misinformation trends are revolving around the top subtheme of "Safety/Side Effects"; they mainly stated the risk and danger of taking the vaccines. Rumors linking to treatment/cure, hoax, and death also continue to circulate among different communities in Iraq, especially IDP communities in northern Iraq. Out of the 292 collected rumors, 122 of them were collected from IDPs inside and outside the IDP camps in Erbil Governorate. On the other side, Telegram is now one of the top online sources for spreading false information, as we collected more than %57 of the total online rumors on Telegram during June 2022.



Channels



Analysis

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health – Federal Government of Iraq, Saif Al-Badr, stated that Iraq is expecting a “new wave” of COVID-19. He also claimed that preventive measures against the pandemic are not strictly followed across the country, contributing to the rapid rise in infections. The Ministry urged Iraqis to get vaccinated and go back to using preventative measures on the individual and community levels³.

To combat the CCHF disease, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture prepared various materials that outlined prevention and control measures for CCHF. They shared the materials with case contacts and the local community, especially butchers and animal barns owners. Moreover, in response to the Cholera outbreak, the WHO sent “an urgent consignment of medicines and medical supplies” to help local health authorities to deal with the situation.

Sources

1. <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>
2. <https://ina.iq/eng/20457-227-total-cases-and-36-deaths-of-vhfs-in-iraq.html>
3. <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/28715-Iraq-warns-of-new-COVID-19-wave-amid-rising-infections>

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For more information on the project, please visit:

<https://internews.org/resource/rooted-in-trust-iraq-rumor-bulletins/>