HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT - JUNE 2022
Social Media Listening on COVID-19 and Vaccines

In June 2022, Internews collected 279 rumors, misconceptions, and community concerns on social media about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines in Sudan. The rumors were collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country (Facebook and Twitter) and were selected through a risk analysis that identifies misinformation that may potentially impact vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project. In June, social media users continued to post that the pandemic had ended, with the lifting of COVID restrictions around the world. Some cited that Saudi Arabia receiving Muslims from around the world for the Hajj pilgrimage is proof that the pandemic is no longer with us.

Rumors that fall under the endemic theme highlight perceptions that COVID-19 is endemic, and is no longer a concern. Hoax rumors say that COVID-19 is not real, while political Agenda is for overarching conspiracy theory content, such as an international agenda to decrease global population.

The majority of rumors collected in June 2022, expressed anger and frustration, sometimes associated with rumors downplaying the COVID-19 pandemic or denying its existence.
Despite, three years into the pandemic, the COVID-19 hoax persists, with some citing that Sudan's hot weather is intolerable for the existence of the virus. Meanwhile, rumors questioning the safety of vaccines, continue to spread, such as posts saying the vaccines are trying to poison us, trigger strokes, and some posts expressing outright fear of the vaccines. Other rumors spew stories about the pandemic and vaccines acting as a guise for political gains.

**RUMOR BY RISK LEVEL**

- Low Risk, 91%
- Medium Risk, 9%

**RUMOR BY GENDER DISTRIBUTION**

- Man 59%
- Woman 36%
- Other 5%

The majority of rumors shared by men, were shared in public groups, while women shared 38% of rumors in private groups.

**SOCIAL MEDIA USERS SHARING RUMORS DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND GENDER**

While men shared more rumor posts on social media in June 2022, both men and women between ages 26 and 35 accounted for most rumors shared when compared to other age groups.

**TYPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**

- Private
- Public

Internews’ data analysts were able to access rumor data in private groups and accounts.

**TYPE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DATA**

- Rumor 94.9%
- Other community posts 5.1%

Social listening data collected in June, consisted mostly of rumors, and other posts, such as perceptions and concerns reflecting people’s hopes and fears during the pandemic.

**Please visit: Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins**

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please contact: Mayada Mahdi, Information Management Officer, mibrahim@internews.org