In November 2022, Internews collected 255 rumors, misconceptions, and community feedback from social media and via face-to-face listening groups, in Arabic and English, about the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, and Dengue Fever in Sudan. During listening groups held in Central Darfur and Al-Gedaref States, 42 rumors were shared by displaced and conflict-affected people. Additionally, 213 rumors were collected from social media sources most commonly used in the country, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp. The community feedback and rumors were selected based on a risk analysis which identifies misinformation that could potentially impact vulnerable people, which are the target communities of the Rooted in Trust Sudan project.

In November 2022, we collected more than 100 rumors from Facebook, and around 10 rumors from WhatsApp. It is worth mentioning that the most used social media platform in Sudan is Facebook, while the most used messaging app is WhatsApp.

In November, 28% of rumors spoke about the COVID-19 vaccine, mostly questioning the safety of the vaccine as some shared that “The vaccine will kill you in a couple of years”, while another rumor shared by a woman from Alhesahisa IDP camp says “The vaccine causes miscarriage”. Additionally, 33% of rumors shared on social media were saying that COVID-19 is over, for example a rumor shared on Facebook noted, “Where is Corona...all countries forgot something called Corona”. Moreover, 8% of the total rumor data spoke about other health topics such as Dengue Fever and ways to cure or prevent the disease.

Please visit: Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins
In November 2022, 71 rumors were shared on social media citing the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few posts noted that COVID-19 vaccinations were no longer necessary since COVID-19 was over. By mid-November, the health authorities announced a Dengue Fever outbreak in nine Sudanese states, and social media users began to share posts about Dengue Fever in North Kordofan state. Internews and its partners noted a rise in Dengue Fever treatment rumors, citing high risk treatments for the disease, like rubbing the body with vinegar and consuming malaria medication. With news about the outbreak, one social media user said there was no COVID and that it was better to focus on "spraying mosquitos and bugs".

**Rumor by Gender Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In total, men shared 56% of the COVID-19 rumors from both social media and face-to-face listening groups, while 90% of the rumors shared during listening groups came from women.

**Rumor by Risk Level**

Although high risk rumors were few in November, it is important to respond to these types of rumors swiftly as they can harm people. For example, some people cited that cutting skin with a razor or burning skin with hot steel can treat Dengue Fever.

**COVID-19 and Vaccine Community Feedback by Gender vs Age**

People between age 26 and 35, accounted for 18% of the rumor data, followed by those between ages 19 and 25 who account for 9% of the rumors. It is worth noting that 77% of social media rumors were shared by social media users that did not disclose their age, this accounts for 65% of the overall rumor data.

Misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine safety remains one of our top rumor themes. In November, people in social media and in Alhesahisa IDP Camp considered the effects of the vaccine on fertility as a key concern, with one man on Twitter referring to the COVID-19 vaccines as "sterility vaccines". During a listening group in Al Fao Locality in Al Gedaref, a woman between age 26 and 35, said "The vaccine stops the blood (menstrual period)".

Please visit: Internews Sudan COVID-19 Rumor Bulletins
In November, men were sharing most of the rumors on social media saying that the COVID-19 pandemic is over or COVID-19 is a hoax. Meanwhile, women were more concerned about sharing ways to treat COVID-19, as 77% of rumors that fall under the Treatment/Cure theme were shared by women. Also, some women shared that the use of homemade remedies such as “Moringa tea” and “Watermelon peels” can cure a COVID-19 infection. Both men and women are concerned about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine as it accounted for 40% and 52% of rumors shared under the Safety/Side Effects respectfully.

People continue to question the intentions behind COVID-19 vaccinations, citing they are experimental or part of a global conspiracy. A man on Facebook said COVID-19 vaccinations are an “international conspiracy to reduce the global population”, while another noted that organizations and institutions “involved in vaccine distribution are already working for international intelligence”. Another man on Facebook noted: “We will not be laboratory mice for vaccines that will not protect us”.

Most rumors collected in November, expressed apathy and indifference, driven by those sharing that COVID-19 is over or a hoax, and others minimizing the severity of the virus by citing the availability of plant-based and localized treatments for COVID-19. While fear remained second in rumor data where people expressed their concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines with some saying that the vaccine can cause Malaria, and others citing that taking the COVID-19 vaccine will not allow you to have children.