

LEBANON SITUATION REPORT

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

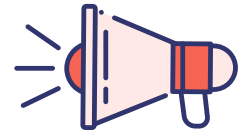
31/3/2022 | #1

About RiT

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 we do it

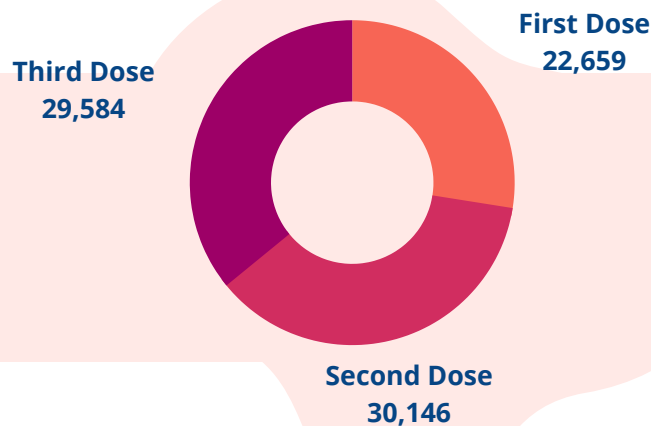
We identify and analyze rumors to help humanitarian actors and health workers better inform their Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE) strategies.



Situation by the Numbers (WHO)

- Positive Covid-19 cases reported during March 2022: **19,717**
- Number of quarantined cases: **8,305**
- Latest reported cases per day: **198**
- Vaccine doses administrated during March 2022: **22,603**

Vaccination Uptake Per Dose in March 2022 (IMPACT/MOPH)



Introduction

The above chart and numbers are a reflection of the COVID-19 situation during the month of March 2022. According to WHO, Lebanon has now transitioned to a Level 3 of community transmission -- down from Level 4 last month -- nevertheless, high vigilance continues to be recommended with a focus on abiding by social distancing measures and increased vaccine coverage.

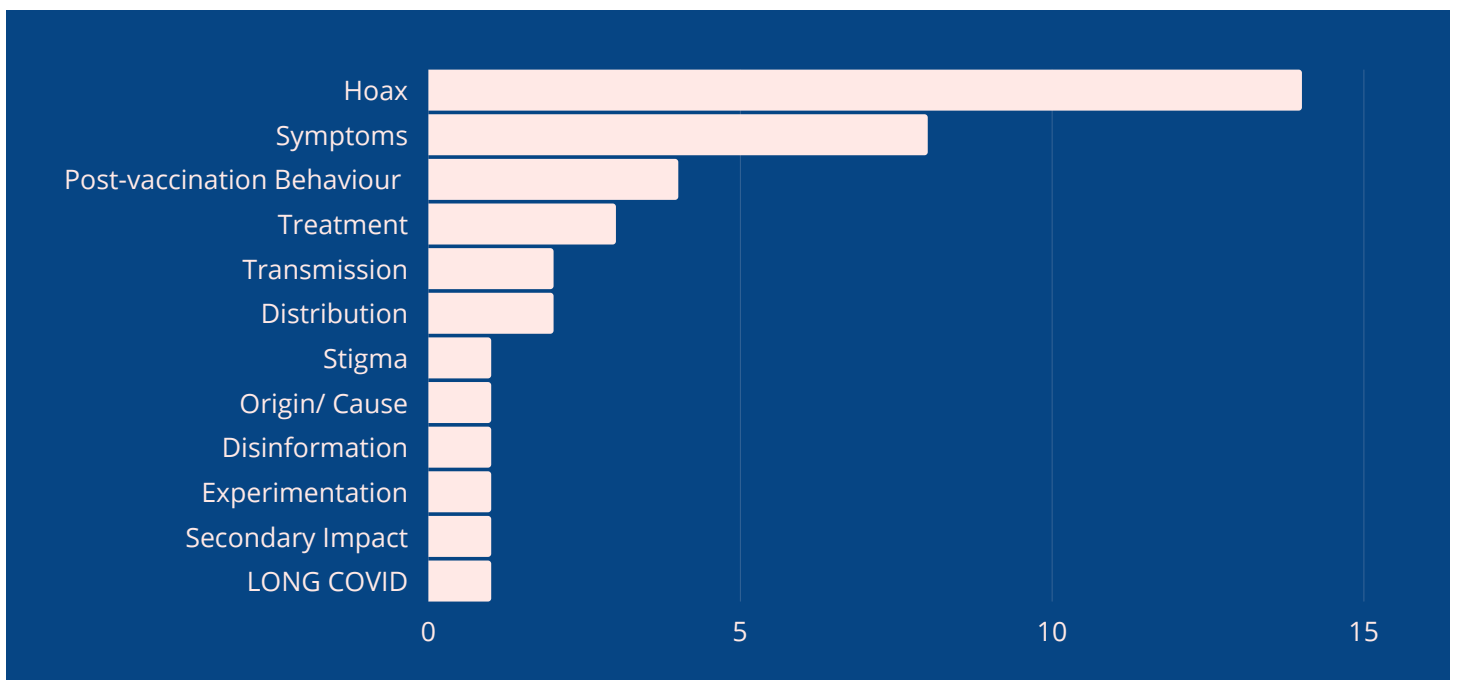
Data Overview

With a total of 40 unique rumors collected for March 2022, we have noticed that rumors around Covid-19 are revolving around the top subtheme of "Hoax" with many reporting that Covid-19 is a lie. Many rumors also mention false statements from Russian health professionals as the media has shifted towards the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

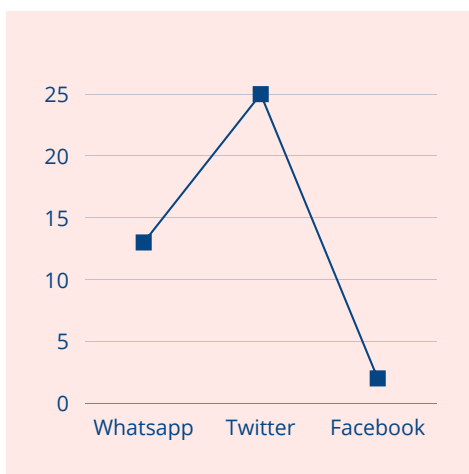
Additionally, "Post-Vaccination" subtheme rumors are on the rise as more people are getting vaccinated and reporting symptoms. Lastly, there was no rumors that were classified as high risk, most were classified as low risk which could be due to the national shift of focus towards more socio-economic issues due to the ongoing economic crisis.

KEY THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

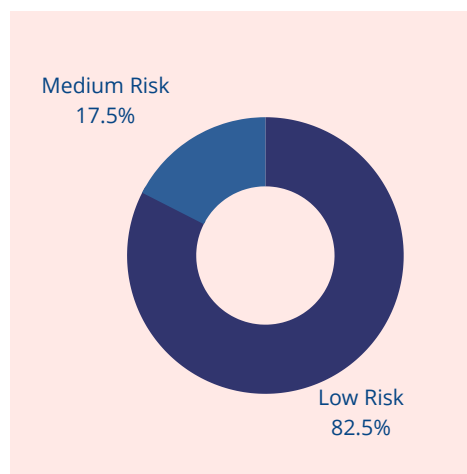
Total Number of Rumors for March 2022: 40



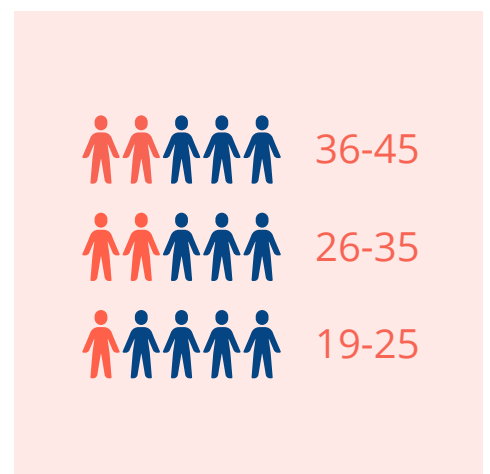
Channels



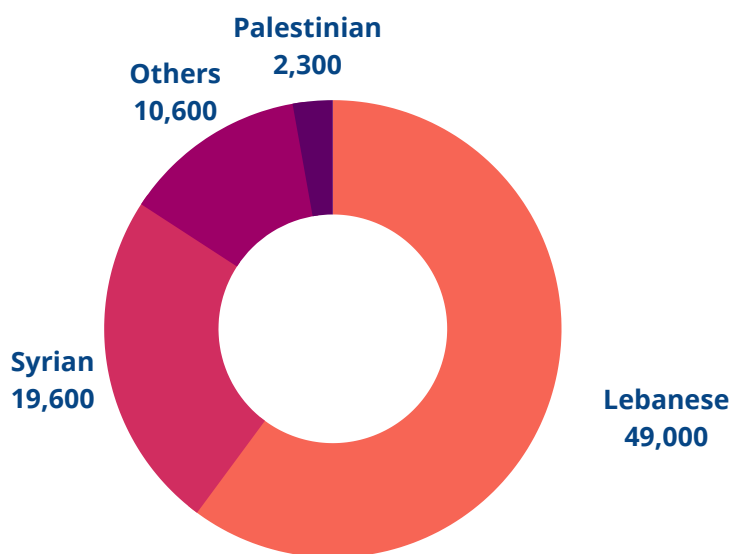
Risk Levels



Age Group



Administrated Doses by Nationality (IMPACT/MOPH)



Analysis

With the government's easing of Covid-19 regulations, particularly travel restrictions, the number of high risk rumors have naturally dropped. There has also been an uptake of vaccination from refugee and migrant worker population groups thanks to NGO-led awareness campaigns and support with transportation costs in previous months.

Nevertheless, we have also logged a dozen rumors claiming that COVID-19 is a hoax, which links back to the early days of the pandemic when many people questioned the existence of the virus itself.

This could be linked to the lower number of cases and easing of restrictions. In addition, rumors linked to natural remedies have also begun circulating again. This could be linked to the deteriorating socio-economic situation in the country which has particularly hit the public health sector and impacted vulnerable groups' capacity to access health services.

Contact

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For more information on the project, visit

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