



# THE HUMANITARIAN SNAPSHOT

July 7, 2022  
Issue 15

A product which provides a quick snapshot, on rumor data, analysis and recommendations (in Zimbabwe).

*“Vanamati  
vechokwadi  
chokwadi chaivo  
havarwari ne Covid,  
ndeye vatadzi iya,  
ishamhu chaiyo”.*  
(KOBO: Kwekwe,  
June 27, 2022:  
Language: Shona)

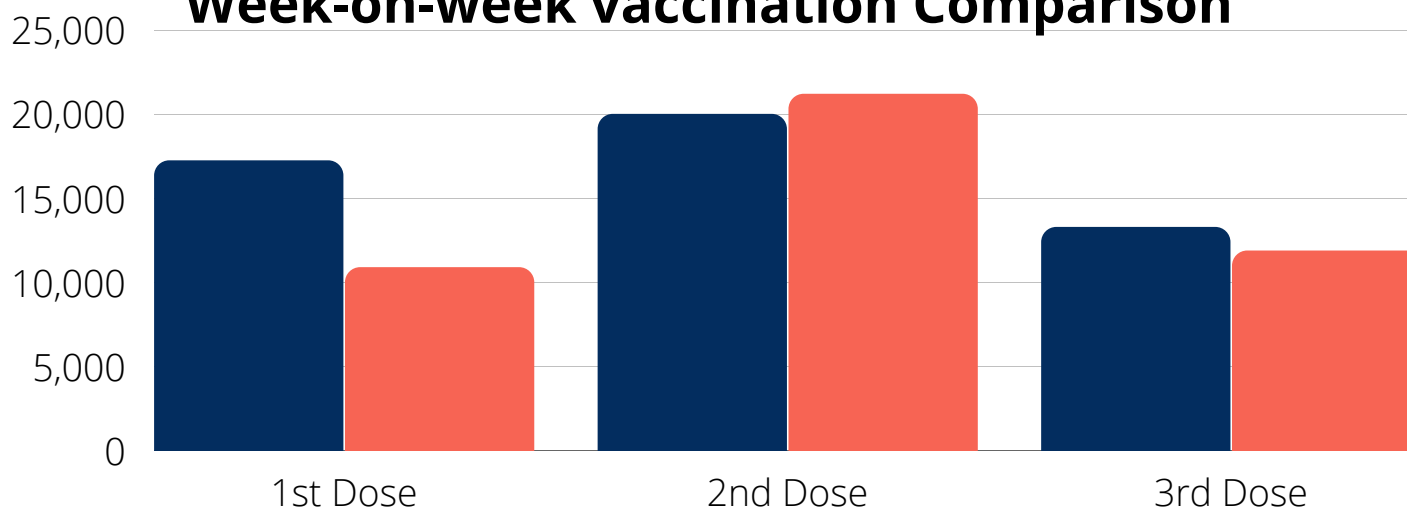
COVID-19 solely affects  
evildoers, it is the punishment  
not for time worshippers.



**RUMOR THEME: COVID-19 GENERAL**  
**SUBTHEME: RELIGION**

## Rumor trend / Trend Analysis

### Week-on-week vaccination Comparison



Visualization by RiT 2.0: Data from MoHCC

- Zimbabwe administered 10,904 first vaccine doses the week ending June 28, 2022, a decrease of 36% from 17,240 vaccine doses administered on week ending June 21, 2022. 21,193 people received the second vaccine dose, a 6% increase from 20,001 while the third vaccine dose uptake decreased by 10.5% to 11,886 from 13,286 vaccine doses administered last week from the time of publishing this Snapshot.
- COVID-19 active cases decreased during the reporting week to 1,433 cases, down from 1,777 cases reported last week. There were 12 COVID-19 related deaths compared to 16 deaths reported the previous week.
- As of June 28, 2022, there were 19 COVID-19 related hospitalizations, 5 hospitalized cases were vaccinated while 12 were unvaccinated.

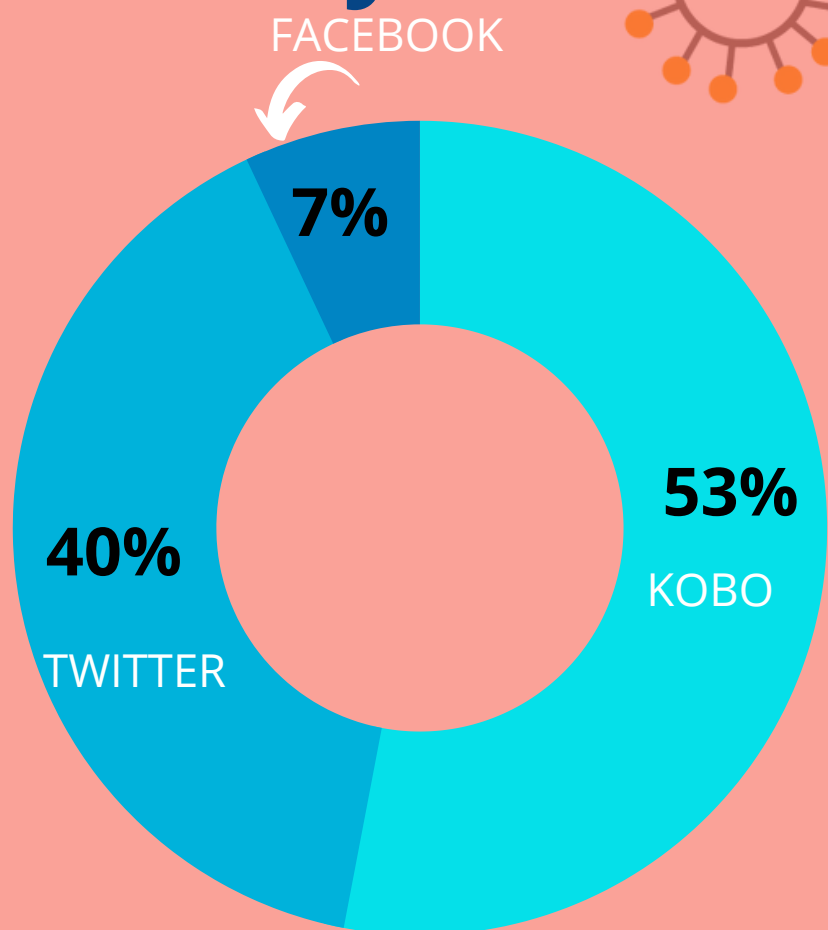




# Rumor Trend/Trend Analysis

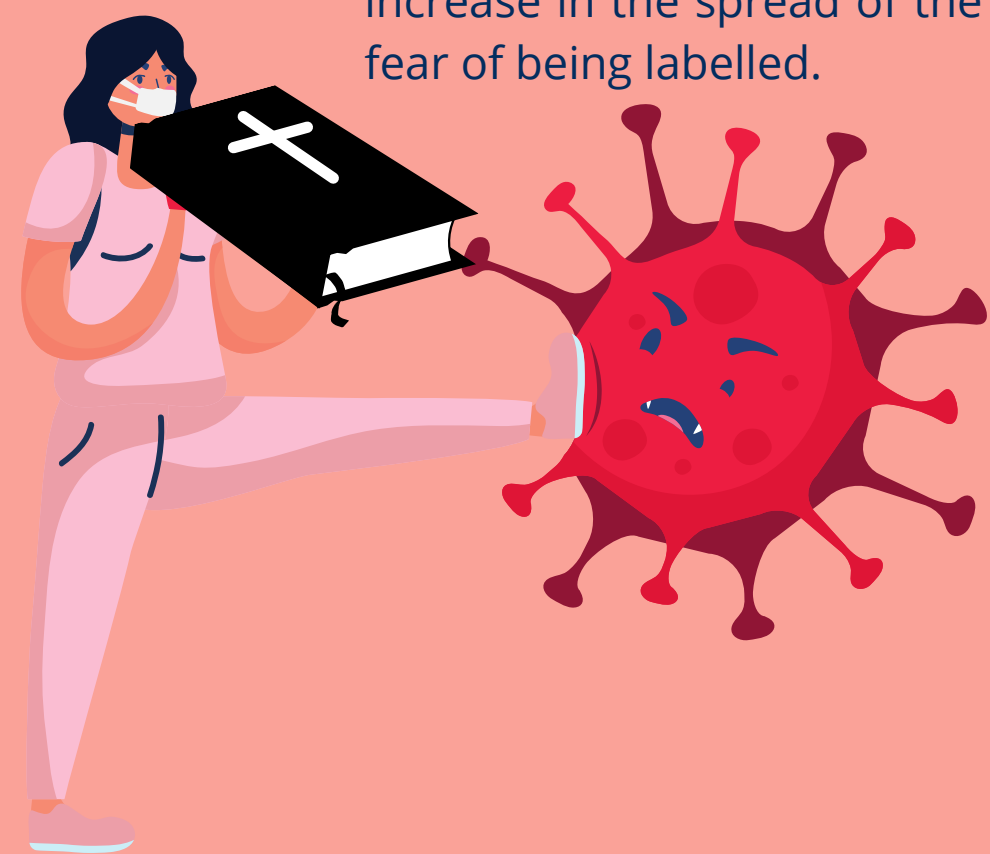


- Internews Zimbabwe collected 187 rumors in the week ending June 28, 2022. 53% of collected rumors were from communities in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, Bulawayo and Masvingo provinces using KOBO collect. 40% of the rumors collected were from Twitter and 7% from Facebook.
- Trending rumor themes included that 'COVID-19 masks are ineffective and must be abolished' (30%), 'government is using COVID-19 for corruption' (28%), 'COVID-19 vaccines cause death' (19%), 'COVID-19 is a Hoax' (12%) and that 'home remedies are more effective than COVID-19 vaccines' (12%).



## Why is this important?

The rumor emerged from Kwekwe, associating COVID-19 with demonic spirits that can be dealt with through prayer. The rumor particularly, shares the belief that if one has COVID-19 they are an evil doer and the prayerful will not get COVID-19. This rumor is important, as it is reflective of beliefs by some Zimbabwean Christian communities who make up 86% of the population. Some Christians believe that sickness is a result of sin, and this is supported by scriptures from the bible. This is a dangerous misconception as the cause of COVID-19 and how it spreads are not a result of sin. The rumor may lead to an increase in the spread of the disease as people will not disclose their status for fear of being labelled.



Further, there may be a disregard of Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) COVID-19 prevention protocols as infections are associated with evil doers. In addition, the rumor may fuel vaccine hesitancy in the Christian community, as COVID-19 will be associated with sinners, some may believe there is no need for those who "do not sin" to be vaccinated.

## What can we do as humanitarian organizations?

- **Humanitarian actors working in communities** can engage religious/faith leaders through organizations such as Apostolic Women Empowerment Trust, Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MEDRA), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and discuss the origins of COVID-19, how people get infected and MoHCC approved prevention protocols such as mask wearing, social distancing, hand sanitising and vaccination.
- **Humanitarian and health workers can engage women, men and youth** through their religious platforms such as youth, women conferences coming up in August and bring in health experts to discuss COVID-19 using role plays and dramatization on how COVID-19 is contracted and treated.