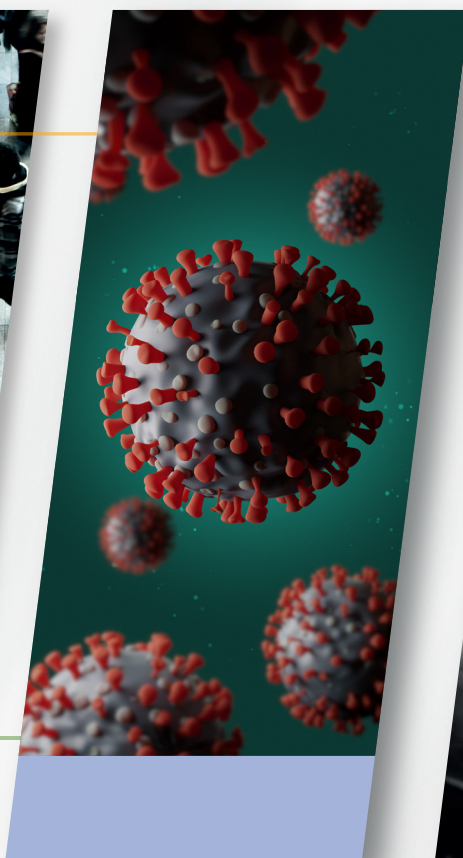


IRAQ SITUATION REPORT

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



MAY, 2022

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.

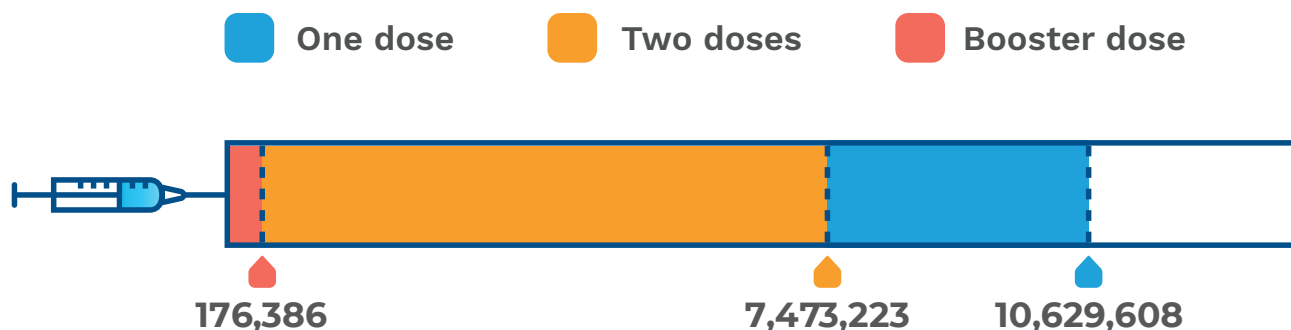
How do we do it?

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)

- Positive Covid-19 cases reported during May 2022: **3037** / (0.006) decreased by comparing to the previous month.
- Total number of cases: **2,328,019**
- Total of vaccine doses administered until May 2022: **18,279,217 (45.6%)**
- Total number of fully vaccinated people: **7,473,223 (18.6)**

Vaccination Uptake Per Dose Until May 2022



Introduction

In Iraq, the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordination with Iraqi Ministry of Health initiated a COVID-19 vaccine rollout process including Kurdistan region, beginning from March 2nd, 2021, continuing to this day.

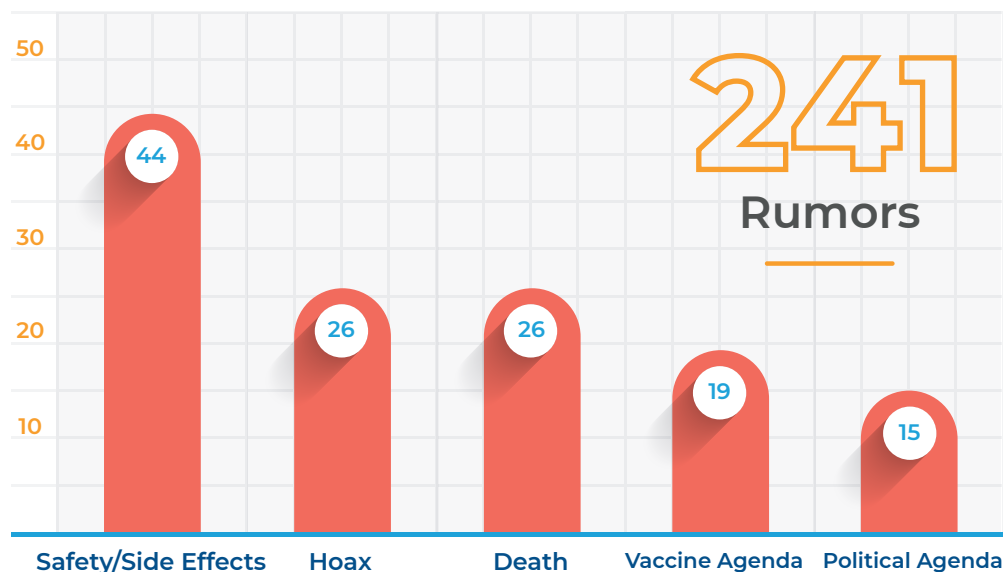
Based on the WHO Iraq COVID-19 dashboard, 18.64% of total population are fully vaccinated, and 26.6 % have received at least one dose. Additionally, 0.45% have received a booster or additional dose.

The Ministry of Health in Iraq including Kurdistan region and WHO is urging everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Data Overview

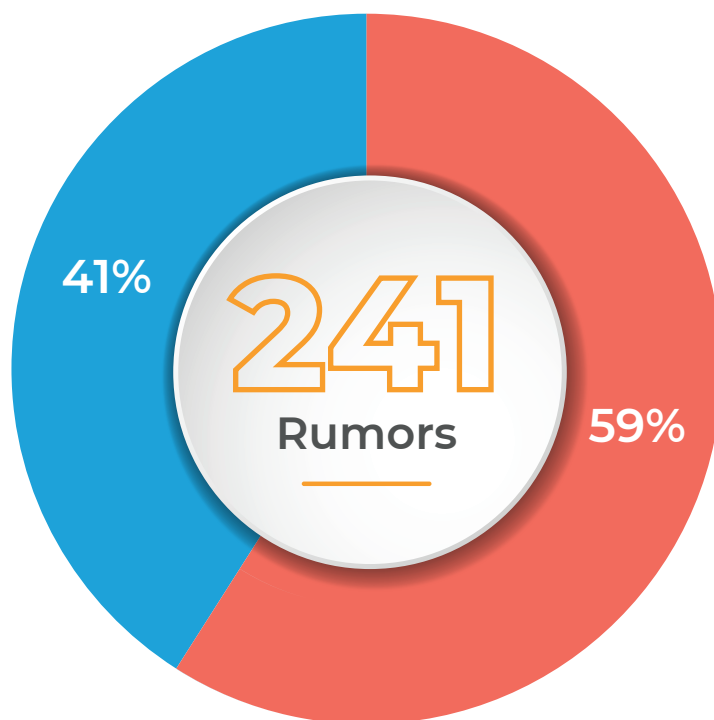
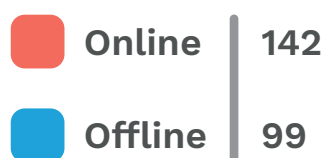
In May 2022, Internews collected rumors, misinformation and community concerns and beliefs about COVID-19 virus and vaccines through social media platforms and offline through listening group activities. The fluctuation of rumors was dependent on daily health trends on social media, which mainly focusing on safety / side effects of COVID-19 vaccines. For instance, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)² cases have been reported in different areas of Iraq, and some communities linked it with COVID-19 vaccines claiming that is a side effect. A similar situation was observed with Monkeypox³ disease after a report of some cases in other countries such as UK. Additional claims, that any new disease appears are nothing, but a hoax and it is part of vaccine/political agenda to control the population. The risk levels of the reported rumors ranged from mild from low to medium.

KEY THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

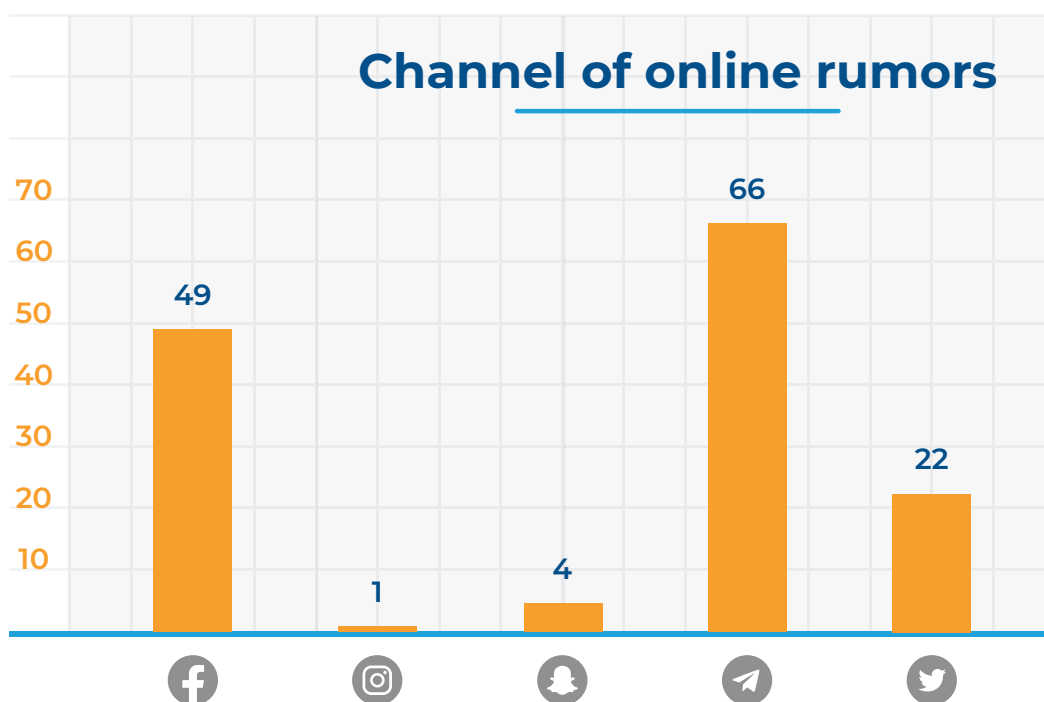


Channels

Online and Offline Rumors






Channel of online rumors



Risk Levels

Risk Levels

	Low Risk	142	164
	Medium Risk	77	
	High Risk	0	



Analysis

The government continues COVID-19 vaccination campaign⁴ across Iraq, stressing the importance of people to be fully vaccinated with at least 2 doses.

Contact

Project Manager
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Sources

1- COVID-19 Vaccine data: <https://covid19.who.int/table>

2- Hemorrhagic fever:

[https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/about.html#:~:text=Viral%20hemorrhagic%20fevers%20\(VHFs\)%20are,to%20function%20on%20its%20own.](https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/about.html#:~:text=Viral%20hemorrhagic%20fevers%20(VHFs)%20are,to%20function%20on%20its%20own.)

3- Monkeypox disease: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about.html>

4-

<https://gds.gov.iq/ar/an-interview-with-who-emro-regional-director-dr-ahmed-al-mandhari/>

For more information on the project, please visit:

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