

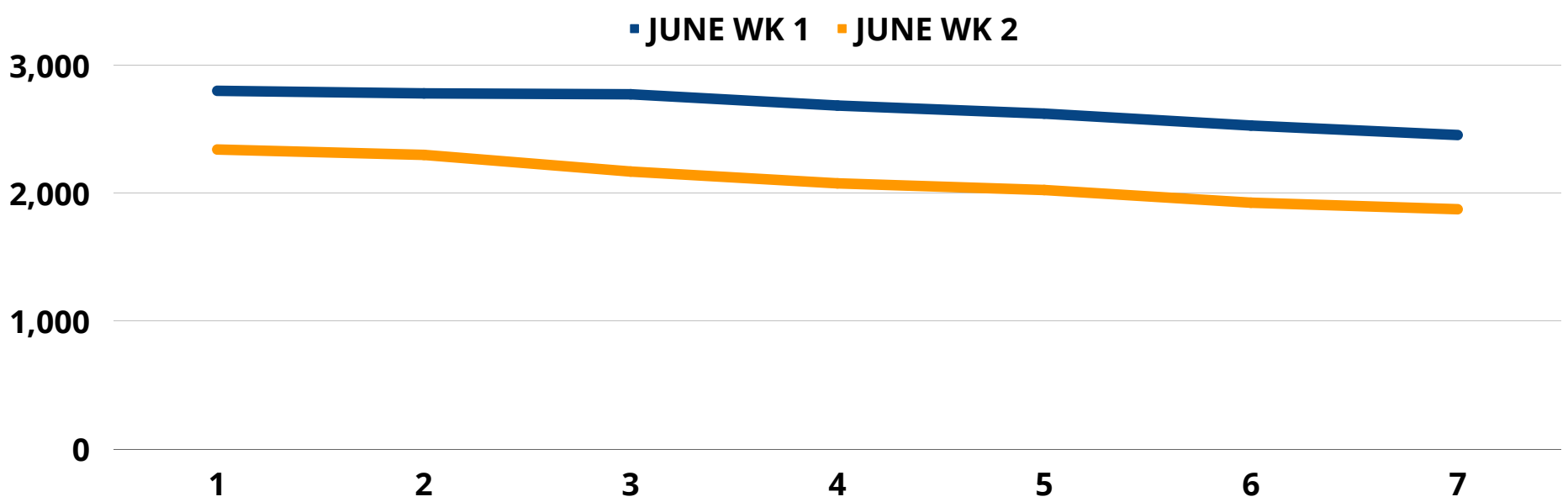
A product which provides a quick snapshot, on rumor data, analysis and recommendations (in Zimbabwe).

*Covid19 is your headache I personally know how to keep it away, whenever I feel like I'm being attacked by a nasty flue I simply mix Broncleer and Benylin and drink. It has helped me several times.
(Community)*

**Rumor theme:
Treatment/Cure**

Rumor trend / Trend Analysis

Week-on-week COVID-19 cases Comparison



Zimbabwe COVID-19 active cases dropped from **2,455 to 1,876**, a decrease of 24% in the week ending June 15, 2022. 610 COVID-19 cases were recorded in the week, a 32% drop from 905 cases recorded in week ending June 8, 2022.

Harare province had the highest active cases at 369 while Matabeleland South had the lowest active cases at 98. There are currently 41 COVID-19 related hospitalizations, 34% having been vaccinated against COVID-19 while 66% were unvaccinated. 12 COVID-19 related deaths were recorded during the week.



Rumor Trend/Trend Analysis



Zimbabwe recorded **an increase of 28% and 25%** in the first and second vaccine doses respectively in the week ending June 15, 2022. Third vaccination dose uptake dropped by 32% to 12,531 in the week ending June 15, 2022.

Internews in Zimbabwe collected 55 online rumors and 86 offline rumors using KOBO collect tool. Offline rumors were collected through listening groups across 5 provinces of Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, and Bulawayo.



Why is this important?

This rumor is important as it's a depiction of drug and substance abuse that has become rampant in Zimbabwe society and is affecting the youth. It infers that the community should move to learning to coexist with the COVID-19, however it promotes the use of substance abuse as a way of managing the virus. It also promotes drug and substance abuse in youths at a time where it is a great problem with 70,7% of males and 55,5% females in Zimbabwe involved in drug and substance abuse. The rumor is likely to downplay the COVID-19 prevention protocols such as vaccination, social distancing, masking up and sanitising that are being promoted by the government.

Local research posits that bronclear is among substances mostly abused in Zimbabwe. Findings reveal that common active ingredients found in over-the-counter cough syrups, capsules and lozenges appeared to boost replication of the SARS-CoV-2 virus when tested under laboratory conditions thus cough sufferers who might be infected with coronavirus were advised to avoid these medications.



What can we do as humanitarian organizations?

- **Humanitarian actors working in communities** can engage the youth in collaboration with youth organizations such as Active Youth in Zimbabwe, National Youth Development Trust (NYDT) and Youth Dot.com, to facilitate community dialogues and understand youths' perceptions on COVID-19 prevention protocols and share correct and accurate information through edutainment.
- **Partners working with communities can target community-based** organizations that have youth drop-in centers, adolescent corners at health institutions and those offering reproductive and sexual health information to the youth, can engage health experts to give health promotion sessions on the impact of substance abuse and consequences of self-medication through abuse of medication.