



Internews

The world is not only fighting a deadly virus, but an information crisis. Sudanese journalists work in sometimes unclear and challenging conditions, so this bulletin aims to help them address rumours and misinformation by providing them with facts that combat fake news.

CHALLENGES COVERING COVID-19

In this age of rapid social and economic change, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists must adhere to ethical and professional standards when covering the pandemic i.e. respect for others, transparency, acknowledging mistakes, and working to gain the public trust.

Journalists are exposed to tremendous stress and risk of infection while covering COVID-19. So, it is very important to follow the recommended preventative measures to protect oneself from contracting COVID-19. Journalists should avoid shaking hands and hugging as much as possible. While doing interviews, it is recommended to stand at an angle from the interviewee, rather than face-on, and maintain a minimum distance of one meter.

ANOTHER LOCKDOWN?

Sudanese social media users have widely commented on the possibility of a renewed government lockdown and additional preventative measures. The Facts At the time of releasing the bulletin, the Sudanese government had not announced any planned lockdown or additional measures. The Council of Ministers issued an official statement on 1 November, saying: "High Committee for Health Emergencies is the only authority determining decisions and procedures related to the pandemic...and this authority has not issued any new verdicts".

SUGGESTED CONTACTS

Muawiya Al-Tayeb, Sudanese government spokesperson,
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Al-Buraq Al-Nazir, Sudanese prime minister's press secretary,
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REPORTING TIPS

- The journalist's task is to ask relevant questions, search for accurate facts, and present the verified information to audiences in a professional, objective and compelling manner.
- Misinformation and conspiracy theories are common on social media and often shared on news websites without proper verification. So, it is essential that journalists research claims, uncover fake news and provide clear sourcing.
- Journalists should not mislead audiences with potentially sensationalist headlines and sacrifice the facts, especially during times of crisis. The headline must be factually accurate, easy to understand and in-line with the article's content

JUST FLU?

With the onset of winter, social media users have been discussing the differences in COVID-19, influenza and cold symptoms, with some concluding that COVID-19 is a hoax and symptoms are merely those of a common cold or flu. The Facts COVID-19 and flu symptoms are very similar, and therefore it is tricky to distinguish between them. Both COVID-19 and flu cause respiratory complaints that range from very mild to severe, or even death. But there are several key differences that differentiate the illnesses. One of the key differences is that flu is more easily transmitted than COVID-19, children tend to exhibit less severe symptoms than adults and most obviously COVID-19 patients tend to lose their sense of taste and smell.

Symptoms		COVID-19	FLU	COLD
	Fever- 37.8C or above	Common	Common	Rare
	Cough	Common (dry)	Common	Mild
	Loss of taste/ smell	Common	Rare	Sometimes
	Fatigue	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
	Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Rare
	Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
	Runny/ stuffy nose	Rare	Sometimes	Common
	Sore throat	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
	Sneezing	No	No	Common
	Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
	Diarrhea	Sometimes in children	Sometimes in children	No

REPORTING TIPS

- It is recommended to contextualise information about potential COVID-19 treatment and avoid referring, or hinting at, unproven treatments or medications. It is important to highlight reputable sources of information and ensure that any advice given is in-line with international and national medical authorities, such as the World Health Organization and the Sudanese Health Ministry.
- It is essential that journalists provide accurate information and use clear language. It is important to be objective, provide weighted evidence and balanced coverage.

PANDEMIC?

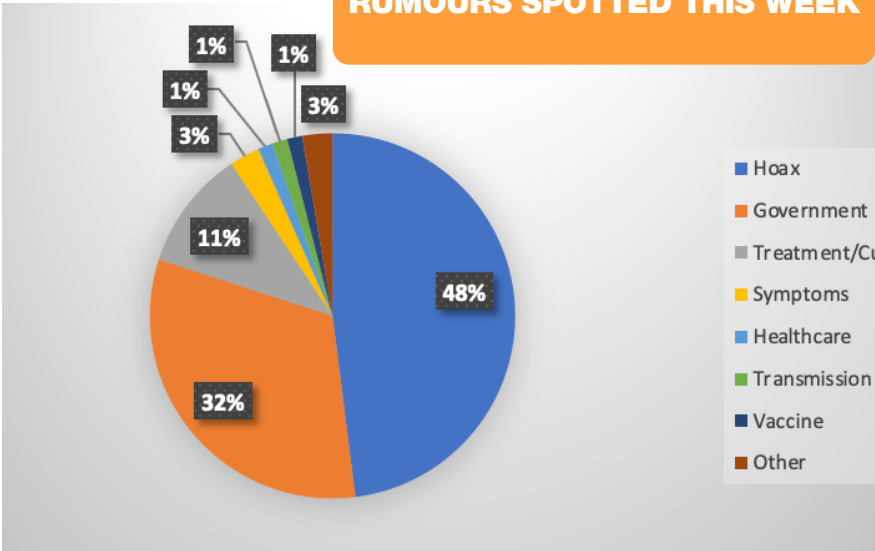
A pandemic means a rapid and sudden increase of an infectious disease in more than one place in the world that affects a large number of people with difficulty controlling it. As for the epidemic, it is the emergence of cases of infectious diseases in a specific place or in specific countries and it spreads quickly among people, reaching a large number of residents of the specific region or country.

MEDIA BULLETIN

Combatting rumours is an important step in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

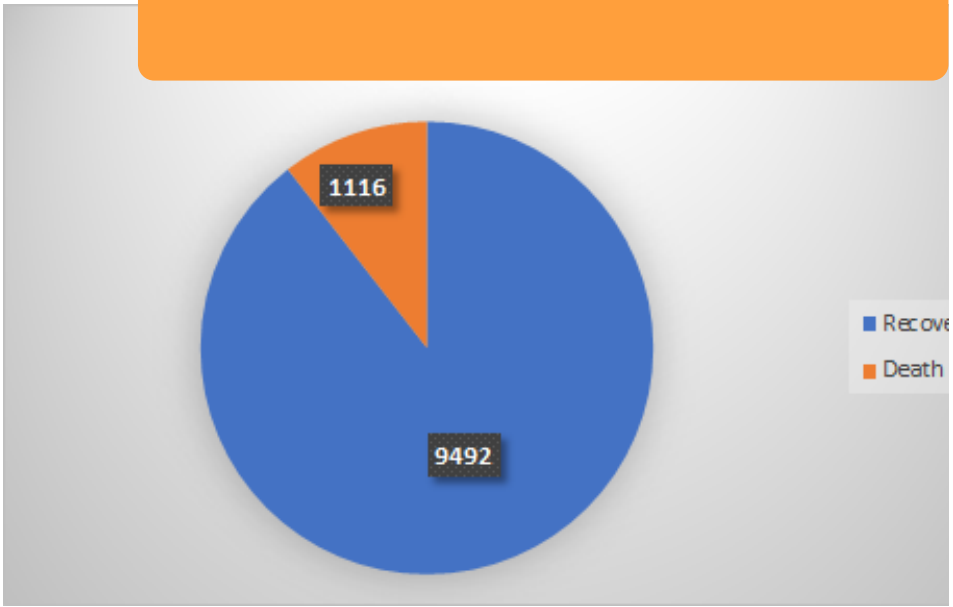
RUMOURS SPOTTED THIS WEEK




Thematic breakdown of 45 COVID-19 social media rumors collected between 5 and 22 October, 2020.

- [Sudan Health Observatory](#)
- [Federal Ministry of Health](#)
- [Pandemic or Epidemic?](#)
- [How to Write a Catchy Headline?](#)
- [Media Handbook for Communication in Public Health Emergencies](#)

COVID-19 IN SUDAN





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Please contact Internews' Media Liaison Officer Mr. Hassan Ahmed Berkia (hberkia@internews.org) for support and further information.