## COVID-19 Infodemic Trends in the African Region

This report seeks to communicate **operational recommendations** based on social media monitoring from June 14-20, as well as relevant information on current mis/disinformation.

Target countries include Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa (ENG), Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Niger (FR). We have outlined what we mean by “engagements” and how we gather information in the methodology section at the end of this report.

**CONCERNING TRENDS**

* Ongoing concerns around vaccine safety and side effects
* Questions about the vaccine’s purpose and efficacy

**OBSERVED TREND**

* Frustration with pandemic and vaccine management & government corruption

**Ongoing concerns around vaccine safety and side effects**

**Where have we observed this trend?**

Last week, we noted news of **myocarditis incidences (heart inflammation)** due to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Content and engagement on the topic has significantly decreased.

* In South Africa [here](https://www.facebook.com/104156461244518/posts/324148005912028) and [here](https://www.facebook.com/1466819006981406/posts/2832984837031476) (Facebook)
* Nigeria [here](https://www.facebook.com/388110801791171/posts/851781228757457) (Facebook)
  + Little to no engagement on these posts

Other content

* Kenya
  + Post about Australia revising its use of Astrazeneca due to thrombosis incidences [here](https://www.facebook.com/1598931003741499/posts/2588750111426245) (Facebook) (also reported in regional news [here](https://www.facebook.com/422898847759660/posts/4183404398375734))
* South Africa
  + Also on Australia’s restriction of Astrazeneca [here](https://www.facebook.com/eNCAnews/posts/2359192487550736) (Twitter and News)
  + Post about people having died due to “experimental” vaccine [here](https://twitter.com/MariskaSchalek1/status/1405040529700704256) (Twitter)
  + Rumours about British Airways pilots dying after being forced to vaccinate [here](https://twitter.com/JakeKolnik/status/1405838387588866052) (Twitter)
* Nigeria
  + First death in India directly linked to adverse vaccine reaction [here](https://independent.ng/india-confirms-first-death-directly-linked-to-adverse-reaction-after-covid-19-vaccine/) (News)
* DRC
  + Post about president claiming that Astrazeneca poses and continues to pose problems [here](https://www.facebook.com/1945429219052628/posts/2962272157368324) (Facebook)
* Burkina Faso
  + Post about European Medicines Agency (EMA) senior official suggesting to abandon the Astrazeneca vaccine [here](https://www.facebook.com/901938753267814/posts/3866454123482914) (Facebook)

**Why is it concerning?**

* Concerns over safety and side effects drive vaccine hesitancy & refusal in the region
* Reports of serious adverse side effects are now been associated with several vaccines
* Comments on these and other posts in the region illustrate increasingly prevalent links between news on side effects and vaccine hesitancy & refusal
* Vaccine acceptant people also appear to be changing their minds about vaccination in response to the content listed above
* Reports of blood clots and side effects are particularly associated with AZ and J&J; AZ is the most widely used vaccine in Africa

**What can we do?**

* Create clear, consistent messaging about vaccine developments and communicate often about what is known and unknown (from US-CDC J&J Rapid Report)
* Emphasize [**hopeful messages**](https://theconversation.com/covid-19-public-health-messages-have-been-all-over-the-place-but-researchers-know-how-to-do-better-150584) highlighting vaccines are crucial ending the pandemic
* Share solidarity messages around protective measure and safe behaviours, such as the ones circulated by the [UN’s Zwakala “I do it for you” campaign](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wb35cr1df5oihtg/AABW2exDPExGngRxemaY66aca?dl=0)
* Expand content related to cases of myocarditis/ pericarditis after vaccination. Include information about the conditions, their seriousness, signs and symptoms, when to seek medical care, and what is known about who might be at increased risk (US-CDC SoVC Special Report Recommendation)
* Produce content explaining **why vaccines are considered safe and effective**

↪ Viral Facts example [here](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1380085301641682945)

* Consider emphasizing that **rollout pauses are precautionary measures**. The fact that health institutions are transparent and implement them show that they are thorough. This could help reinforce rather than undermine trust

↪ Viral Facts example [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1393079891533484033)

* Consider providing **country-specific vaccine safety information** based on the vaccine being disseminated nationally, particularly in relation to the AZ vaccine
* Produce video content **outlining ongoing monitoring and risk management processes** (*WHO EPI-WIN report recommendation)*

↪ Viral Facts example [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1393178071876911105)

* Clarify **indicators of potential side effects** for people to watch out for and **how to respond**(*WHO EPI-WIN report recommendation)*

↪ Viral facts example [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1369297394605654018)

* Produce content for journalists on Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) reporting and best practices, including using non-scientific language that is clear and understandable
* Communicate clearly around the relationship between vaccines and changes in the menstrual cycle

↪ Viral Facts example [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1399266913142857731)

* + Include answers that address this misinformation in FAQ documents, call centers scripts, and help chat-bots made available to the public
* **Continue to manage expectations around possible side effects**, underlining the safety profile of different vaccines and providing information on the systems public health practitioners use to investigate AEFIs (*UNICEF ESARO Feb recommendation)*
* Continue to advocate for trusted public figures and politicians to take the vaccine
* Continue to encourage community engagement to address concerns as they arise, and continue to mobilize the healthcare worker community
* Ensure any of the above content is widely circulated and shared on **Facebook** and/or on any trusted communication channels. **Choose accepted and trusted organizations and messengers** to share the content, including **local** sources and unofficial channels

**Questions about the vaccine’s purpose and efficacy**

**Where have we observed this trend?**

* Recent articles with headlines such as **“AstraZeneca claims its COVID treatment is not effective”** have spread confusion about the vaccine’s efficacy in the region

↪ the news in fact refers to **AZ’s COVID treatment, not to the vaccine**

↪ some have clarified the distinction in the comments, while others have taken the news as proof that the vaccine is not effective

* + In the DRC [here](https://www.facebook.com/1695760267339283/posts/2914153268833304) and [here](https://www.facebook.com/1311725492304487/posts/2445757655567926) (Facebook) as well as [here](https://twitter.com/MutiHerve/status/1404892047786614784) and [here](https://twitter.com/BengengeT/status/1405113556228509696) (Twitter)
  + Also in the DRC, some asked whether this meant that people had been **vaccinated with water** [here](https://twitter.com/BlaiseDunia/status/1404918240023822343) and [here](https://twitter.com/BlaiseDunia/status/1404918240023822343) (Twitter)
  + In Niger people ask why administer an ineffective vaccine [here](https://www.facebook.com/212046828955498/posts/1878794168947414) (Facebook)
  + In Burkina Faso [here](https://www.facebook.com/221368454551904/posts/4447472478608126) (Facebook)
  + In Kenya, a post clarifies that the news does not refer to the vaccine [here](https://twitter.com/tastefullysaucy/status/1406523926591778818) (Twitter)
  + In South Africa and Nigeria, coverage made clearer distinctions between AZ’s “antibody cocktail” and the vaccines [here](https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/world/2021-06-15-astrazenecas-antibody-cocktail-fails-to-prevent-covid-19-in-study/), [here](https://ewn.co.za/2021/06/15/astrazeneca-hits-snag-in-covid-19-drug-development), [here](https://twitter.com/News24/status/1405099102451474433) and [here](https://guardian.ng/features/astrazeneca-cocktail-trial-fails-as-nigeria-gets-another-3-92m-vaccine-doses/) (News)

Other content

* DRC
  + Reports of people **contaminated after vaccination** [here](https://twitter.com/JeanJacquesBUK2/status/1404868478914465793) (Twitter)
  + Post claiming vaccines don’t work [here](https://twitter.com/search?q=%40DrKamon89%20%40kakese_leon%20%40StanysBujakera%20Encore%20que%20certains%20vaccins%20sont%20%C3%A0%20ADN%20donc%20une%20bombe%20%C3%A0%20retardement%20pour%20les%20g%C3%A9n%C3%A9rations%20%C3%A0%20venir!&src=typed_query) (Twitter)
  + Request to choose vaccines, not have a “charity” vaccine [here](https://twitter.com/search?q=%40ManixKen%20Il%20y%20a%20des%20h%C3%A9sitations%20partout%20dans%20le%20monde%20%C3%A0%20propos%20de%20ce%20vaccin.%20Nous%20avons%20le%20droit%20de%20choisir%20le%20vaccin%20qui%20nous%20convient%20!%20On%20ne%20veut%20pas%20le%20vaccin%20de%20la%20charit%C3%A9%20!&src=typed_query) (Twitter)
* South Africa
  + Post clarifying that vaccines work, are just not 100% effective [here](https://twitter.com/Sentletse/status/1406557098889125888) (Twitter)
  + Post pointing to flawed logic of comparing deaths across countries with different vaccination rates [here](https://twitter.com/MickOlivier/status/1406499218953588746) (Twitter)
  + Claim that the vaccines are neither safe nor effective [here](https://twitter.com/CharlesGKerns/status/1404909774928584704) (Twitter)

**Why is it concerning?**

* The perception that vaccines are not effective undermines vaccine acceptance
* It may also exacerbate COVID fatigue, and the perception that life will not regain a sense of normalcy in the foreseeable future

**What can we do?**

* Emphasize **accurate information** around resistance to the COVID vaccines, with verified statistics on the risk of contracting COVID and having severe symptoms for vaccinated people
* **Provide context** for publications leading to the perception that the vaccines do not protect people against COVID (in Seychelles, for example, many people have contracted COVID despite the advanced vaccination rollout; however, most of those who contracted COVID were not vaccinated)
* Disseminate **updated data about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines**. Continue to provide updates about the effectiveness of current vaccines against common variants in Africa (adapted from US CDC Insights Report 9 recommendations)
* Amplify new evidence that vaccination likely results in **less severe illness for those who are vaccinated** and get infected with COVID-19 (adapted from US CDC Insights Report 9 recommendations)
* Emphasize/ circulate personal stories of people affected by the disease

↪ Viral Facts example [here](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1400774549122191361), [here](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1401868352377786375), [here](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1401499109257879553) and [here](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1401868352377786375)

↪ South African media personality Mark Pilgrim recently posted [here](https://twitter.com/MarkPilgrimZA/status/1403758519346679820)

**Frustration with pandemic and vaccine management & government corruption**

**Where have we observed this trend?**

* South Africa
  + Frustration with government mismanagement of the pandemic and claim this resulted in unnecessary COVID deaths [here](https://twitter.com/Sentletse/status/1405067667954876417), [here](https://twitter.com/AdvoBarryRoux/status/1405134391454715907), [here,](https://twitter.com/KatyKatopodis/status/1404867054759559175) [here](https://twitter.com/ZweSibiya/status/1405550140300185600) and [here](https://twitter.com/caseywaves/status/1404797311482581002) (Twitter)
  + Frustration with the government’s role in lack of vaccines [here](https://twitter.com/AdvoBarryRoux/status/1405128330660220928) and [here](https://twitter.com/TimesLIVE/status/1405562008456531971) and suggestion that media is complicit in lack of vaccines [here](https://twitter.com/Sentletse/status/1405451498688032768) (Twitter and News)
  + Frustration with shortage of hospitals [here](https://twitter.com/TokzPhungula/status/1404709877025492993) (Twitter)
  + Politicians blame government for mismanagement [here](https://twitter.com/HermanMashaba/status/1404892981241462785), for profiting from the pandemic [here](https://www.facebook.com/153339458475448/posts/1137629423379775), and ask where vaccines are [here](https://twitter.com/DeanMacpherson/status/1405058660133376000) (Twitter and Facebook)
  + The DA requests an inquiry into the government’s handling of the vaccine rollout [here](https://www.da.org.za/2021/06/da-requests-parliamentary-inquiry-into-governments-handling-of-covid-19-vaccine-programme) and [here](https://ewn.co.za/2021/06/15/da-wants-full-scale-parly-probe-into-what-went-wrong-with-vaccine-rollout) (News)
  + Frustration with South Africa having the highest case numbers but slowest rollout [here](https://twitter.com/MprueDie/status/1405521124591427588) and lack of vaccines [here](https://twitter.com/FloMasebe/status/1405570065374879744) (Twitter)
* Kenya
  + Frustration with government corruption [here](https://twitter.com/KBonimtetezi/status/1406504301531443201) (Twitter)
  + Call for vaccines, not policing [here](https://twitter.com/Wasonga227/status/1405098524744769538) (Twitter)
  + Post about the ministry misleading Kenyans on the availability of second jabs [here](https://twitter.com/ntvkenya/status/1404778695152308230) (Twitter)
  + Frustration with rising cases following political rallies [here](https://twitter.com/MihrThakar/status/1405530804495609870) (Twitter)
  + Kenyans frustrated after waiting for hours and remaining unable to receive vaccine doses [here](https://twitter.com/NationAfrica/status/1405530671741739014) (Twitter) and [here](https://nation.africa/kenya/counties/nairobi/anger-as-frustrated-kenyans-queue-for-hours-at-mbagathi-hospital-denied-covid-19-vaccine-3440734) (News)
* DRC
  + Frustration with COVID fund mismanagement [here](https://twitter.com/vanessabul/status/1405275322929410049) and [here](https://twitter.com/Jubriskayanda9/status/1404671831492210689) (Twitter)
  + Calls for prosecution of politicians who have misused COVID funds [here](https://www.facebook.com/1695760267339283/posts/2914361028812528) and [here](https://www.facebook.com/100044231929204/posts/342003073950754) (Facebook)

**SPECIFIC CONTENT TO CONSIDER**

* **SOUTH AFRICA (ENG)**



PANDA, a page known to spread mis/disinformation, continues to warn about the dangers of **child vaccination** [here](https://www.facebook.com/112123760487193/posts/327013735664860) and [here](https://www.facebook.com/112123760487193/posts/329254878774079)

↪ They also question reported COVID infections and deaths [here](https://www.facebook.com/112123760487193/posts/329950758704491)

↪ And promote home-based COVID treatments [here](https://www.facebook.com/112123760487193/posts/326352519064315)



In ongoing conversations about [**compulsory workplace vaccinations**](https://www.netwerk24.com/Sake/Muntslim/Beroepe/werk-mag-nou-inenting-verplig-20210615), employers have to [decide whether to make vaccinations mandatory](https://twitter.com/Tina_Hokwana/status/1404306635250675718), and the government outlines the grounds on which employees can refuse vaccination [here](https://rekord.co.za/lnn/1154500/employees-can-refuse-enforced-workplace-vaccine-on-medical-and-constitutional-grounds/) and [here](https://twitter.com/BusinessTechSA/status/1404732862839115777)



Response to question about why one needs to have the **COVID vaccine even if they have already been infected** with COVID [here](https://twitter.com/SolidarityRSA/status/1404438431988584452) 

Comment providing medication advice to relieve COVID symptoms [here](https://twitter.com/hcassisa/status/1404165949201256448) 

Claim that COVID vaccines are creating deadly strains [here](https://twitter.com/StefanMaree1/status/1405578270171611137)



Claim that God will protect believers from COVID [here](https://twitter.com/NikkiShangee/status/1404877509532033025)



Comment about the third wave being propaganda [here](https://twitter.com/jimmie_mpengwa/status/1404435855024984074?s=20)

* Africa Check debunks a WhatsApp message claiming that receiving the COVID vaccine will make people’s life insurance “null and void” [here](https://africacheck.org/fact-checks/reports/no-your-life-insurance-not-null-and-void-if-you-get-covid-19-vaccine) (News)
* **KENYA (ENG)**



Frustration with **Covishield not being a recognized vaccine** for those seeking EU travel rights [here](https://twitter.com/ckfoot/status/1404691460558143489?s=20) and [here](https://twitter.com/daktari1/status/1405080378361135111) (also reported in Togo [here](https://www.republicoftogo.com/Toutes-les-rubriques/Sante/AstraZeneca-Made-in-India)) 

The NFL’s Cole Beasley would rather retire than take the vaccine [here](https://twitter.com/citizentvkenya/status/1406573521493430274) 

Frustration with the ruling class authorizing and organizing gatherings [here](https://twitter.com/mohammedhersi/status/1406277520257847300) 

Frustration with COVAX and behaviour in privileged countries [here](https://twitter.com/_BastianSch/status/1406512191893913602)



Question about whether it is a **problem to receive a first but not a second vaccine dose** [here](https://twitter.com/kiprono_tevin/status/1404780038889918474)

Thread debunking common vaccine myths [here](https://twitter.com/teddyeugene/status/1405048440929800193)

* **NIGERIA (ENG)**
* Piece on how Nigerian spiritual leaders such as Oyedepo are encouraging people to believe in divine healing and undermining the battle against COVID [here](https://www.thecable.ng/how-nigerian-spiritual-leader-spread-covid-19-misinformation) (News)
* **DRC (FR)**



President continues to **promote Manacovid as COVID treatment** [here](https://www.facebook.com/310503216025213/posts/1127528500989343), [here](https://www.facebook.com/106022447705625/posts/339652367675964), [here](https://www.facebook.com/355852657907177/posts/2021517888007304) 

Question about when and **how COVID waves start and end** [here](https://twitter.com/Gradiway9/status/1405167247698575367) and [here](https://twitter.com/botulu/status/1404798215623516166)



Questions about **mixing vaccines** [here](https://twitter.com/search?q=%40kevin_ibongya%20Oui%2C%20je%20ne%20le%20nie%20pas%20aussi...%20Avec%20cette%20article%2C%20je%20me%20pose%20encore%20beaucoup%20de%20question.%20Comment%20peut-on%20combiner%20un%20vaccin%20qui%20ne%20serait%20pas%20efficace%20avec%20une%20deuxi%C3%A8me%20dose%20d%27un%20vaccin%20%C3%A0&src=typed_query)

* **IVORY COAST (FR)**



Message about Pfizer’s owner also owning the Wuhan lab, and conspiring to promote the vaccine circulated on WhatsApp

OUTSIDE OF TARGET COUNTRIES

* **UGANDA (ENG)**



Last week (June 10-12), healthcare workers in Uganda [urged citizens not to self-medicate](https://www.facebook.com/267688186591432/posts/4880585728634965) (related post [here](https://twitter.com/Bonnyeazz/status/1403643664895823876)) for COVID-19 after reports emerged about citizens buying off-the-counter drugs such as **dexamethasone**.

Additionally, a [falsified document](https://twitter.com/realThasanta/status/1402978897512124425) (debunked [here](https://twitter.com/InnocentAcan/status/1402983061764153347)) advising the use of dexamethasone gained traction (WHO EPI-WIN Report #63)



Post stating the people resort to **self-medication because they cannot afford the COVID test** [here](https://twitter.com/PatriqKanyomozi/status/1405086095973490691) 

Question about possibility of **getting COVID twice** [here](https://twitter.com/shillah_Buwembo/status/1405123887340429316) 

Claim that rising COVID cases are a ploy to attract external funding [here](https://twitter.com/AshoDriller/status/1406710267761893388?s=20)

* **GHANA (ENG)**



Ghana Web dunked a claim we flagged last week about the president having taken the Malaria vaccine (and not the COVID vaccine) [here](https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/GhanaWeb-FactCheck-Did-Akufo-Addo-take-a-malaria-vaccine-instead-of-a-COVID-vaccine-1285936)

* **ZIMBABWE (ENG)**



Claims around steaming to cure COVID are resurfacing on WhatsApp

* **NAMIBIA (ENG)**



Posts about using ivermectin to treat COVID are circulating on WhatsApp

**PERSISTING ONLINE TRENDS**

\* any trends in blue are newly included this week

\*\* bolded trends appear to circulate more this week

* **Frustration with slowness or mismanagement of vaccine rollout**
* Vaccine deaths will be logged as COVID deaths
* I would rather die of COVID than of the vaccine
* **Vaccines don’t prevent death or the virus’ spread / vaccines are not effective**
* COVID palliatives are being hidden/ denied to citizens
* COVID/ the vaccine is intended to control/ reduce the African population
  + According to the Africa CDC February Vaccine Perceptions report, almost 1 in 2 respondents believe that COVID 19 is a planned event by foreign actors
* Lockdowns are not an effective way of controlling COVID
* Frustration with double standards around health and safety measures (e.g. politicians not wearing masks)
* Questions and concerns around forced vaccinations
* Politicians have taken fake vaccines
* Clinical trials were rushed
* Africans are lab rats or being used to test vaccines (Viral Facts response [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1384779123302752257))
* New pandemic waves/ COVID are caused by vaccines
* **Other issues and/or diseases are more important than vaccination**
* **Vaccines won’t stop the need for protective measures, why bother (Viral Facts response** [**here**](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1377241510039683073)**)**
* **COVID case numbers/ mortality rates are exaggerated**
* Foreign companies or governments profit from the vaccine rollout in Africa
* **Fear of vaccine side effects/ long-term effects**
* COVID does not exist (Viral Facts response [here](https://www.facebook.com/WHOAFRO/videos/1059407544571240/))
* Effectiveness of herbal remedies (Viral Facts response [here](https://twitter.com/viralfacts/status/1389878262743060483))
* **Effectiveness of ivermectin and alternative remedies (particularly in South Africa) (Viral Facts response** [**here)**](https://twitter.com/WHOAFRO/status/1394643247272706051)
* **Frustration with looting and mismanagement of COVID funds**

**TRENDS TO WATCH**

* Studies on India’s breakthrough infections suggest low breakthrough rates [here](https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/covid-19-not-much-difference-in-breakthrough-infections-for-covaxin-covishield/story/439522.html) and [here](https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/jun/05/breakthrough-infections-in-those-vaccinated-may-be-higher-in-india-finds-study-2312223.html)
* Novavax found to be [over 90% effective](https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/world/2021-06-14-novavax-covid-vaccine-more-than-90-effective-in-us-trial/) in U.S. trial
* Allegations of pharmacies involved in [COVID vaccine theft](https://observer.ug/news/headlines/70178-first-pharmacy-involved-in-covid-19-vaccines-theft-police-insists) in Uganda
* Article warning [not to mix Astrazeneca and Sputnik](https://www.facebook.com/modernghanaweb/posts/10157879527166199) vaccines
* Studies show Pfizer can [protect against variants](https://www.news24.com/health24/medical/infectious-diseases/coronavirus/encouraging-study-shows-pfizers-covid-19-vaccine-protective-against-variants-including-beta-in-sa-20210614)
* Ugandan president claims a [local vaccine will be ready soon](https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uganda-made-covid-19-vaccine-soon-ready-says-museveni-3443556)
* Call for government to [compensate Kenyans](https://www.theelephant.info/op-eds/2021/06/18/covid-19-vaccine-safety-and-compensation-the-case-of-sputnik-v/) adversely affected by vaccine uptake
* Concerns over Africans developing [resistance to vaccines](https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/science-health/why-africa-could-face-vaccine-resistant-covid-3438380)
* Women may have [lower chances of COVID in-hospital mortality](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-06/mali-sdi061621.php)
* In an important shift, reports announce [Tanzania plans to seek to join COVAX](https://twitter.com/MwanzoTv/status/1405510090531147776)

*Methodology*

Engagements, otherwise known as interactions, **refer to the number of likes, comments, reactions, and re-shares on a post**. This is not a perfect measure of engagement:

* Some may have seen the post and chosen not to interact with it;
* Commenting on or re-sharing a post may constitute a more meaningful form of engagement than simply reacting to it;
* We are not systematically distinguishing between the types of responses that each engagement generates (e.g. while a post may contain misinformation, people may be countering/ debunking it in the comments).

We seek to mitigate these limitations by:

* Scanning comments and monitoring reactions to qualitatively evaluate responses to each post;
* Assessing the velocity of a post (i.e. how fast is it obtaining reactions, likes, shares) and the re-emergence of specific themes;
* Identifying whether the post is shared across a variety of platforms and sources (broad engagement), or simply soliciting a high level of attention within a given community/ platform (siloed engagement).

The monitoring reports are produced using NewsWhip Analytics, TweetDeck, Crowdtangle, UNICEF Talkwalker dashboards as well as the WHO EARS platform. As a result, data may be biased towards data emerging from formal news outlets/ official social media pages, and does not incorporate content circulating on closed platforms (e.g. Whatsapp) or groups (e.g. private Facebook groups). We also rely on our fact-checking partners, who provide invaluable insights into relevant national and regional trends or content, as well as country-level reports, including the South Africa Social Listening Weekly Report.

In producing these summaries and recommendations, we have consulted community feedback survey reports, as well as monitoring and recommendations from AIRA partners. We also draw from WHO EPI-WIN weekly reports and UNICEF monthly reports to formulate recommendations. As we produce more content, we seek to triangulate and corroborate information across these groups to strengthen our infodemic response.