

**EMR-SDG Learning Platform**  
**Webinar on COVID-19 Inequities in the Arab Countries**  
**21 July 2020, 12:00 – 13:30 Cairo time (10:00 – 11:30 UTC)**

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**Introduction:**

In the Sudan the health emergency committee confirmed about 10992 cases till now, the increase in the number of cases poses a real danger in a country where the health sector still is suffering from three decades of neglect by Islamist regime. (CMI,2020)

The Sudanese transitional government took measures early on to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. The health emergency committee declared a total lockdown of Khartoum state to last for five weeks and two more weeks and enforce families to stay at home. Also, its applied social distancing measures and the disregard of the strong device against large public gatherings. Its introduced these measures to slow down the spread of the virus. (CMI,2020)

The coronavirus pandemic in Sudan has exacerbated an already critical situation for the country's economy and social represented in family and its relationships. The economic hardship faced many Sudanese, especially those working for daily wages in informal labour market, has made the imposition of a lockdown difficult, if not unbearable. .(CMI,2020).

**Webinar Objective No 1**

1. **Awareness of Covid-19 among Sudanese:**

- Almost all Sudanese (99%) know about COVID-19 and basic understanding about transmission and the importance of the concept of regular hand washing is high.
- However, a sizeable minority seek more information, which may help address some misconceptions on avoidance and ‘treatments.’
- 79% of Sudanese believe that COVID-19 poses a big problem for the country; 52% see themselves at high risk for contracting COVID-19.
- The most commonly cited rationale for understanding the perceived effect on health is ‘it could kill me/make me very sick’ (45%), followed by it causing problems in other countries (20%), and perceived seriousness.

Just under half stated they washed their hands five times or fewer times in the day prior to their interview – twice as many as those washing 10 times or more (45% vs. 18%).(*Ipsos, 2020*).

### **B. Perceptions of the governmental response to COVID-19 is leaning positive.**

- The majority are satisfied with their government’s response (63%; vs. 36% dissatisfied).
- However, only two in five completely or mostly trust the information from government (41%) versus 57% who have little trust (30%) or no trust at all (26%). (*Ipsos, 2020*).

- The findings show that the HBM constructs are correlated to each other's as well as to other **socio-demographic factors**. **Self-efficacy** must be taken into account as a strong changing factor to vulnerability and harshness perceptions. .( Elwalid F. Nasir, Hatim Mohammed,..etal. 2020).

### **Webinar objective2:**

Ongoing study between Qatar and Sudan (comparative study): Surviving a Crisis: A Case study on the Impact of the Coronavirus on Family Cohesion  
The Influence of COVID-19 on Family socioeconomic life in Khartoum State – Sudan

### **Webinar objective3.**

The Sudanese government declared some polices:

- Social distance
- Lockdown
- closed schools and universities
- Nine in ten support closure of schools (97%), closing restaurants and nightclubs (95%) and shutting down markets (89%)
- There are varying degrees of support for community PHSMs in Sudan, in particular with lower levels of support for closing churches and mosque.  
Eight in ten support closing transportation around cities (83%) or closing workplaces (82%).
- Although still majority, fewer support closure of churches and mosques (66%).
- vulnerabilities and iniquities.: policy of distribution of basic food for the poor families and for daily workers (tea sellers)

#### Webinar Objective 4.

##### Main lessons:

- perceptions and level of awareness of crisis management among Sudanese families
- successful experience of Eritrea country (although lack of sources, poor country, civil war)

## References:

- CHR Michelsen Institute (CMI), 2020, COVID-19 and the challenges of Social distancing in Khartoum. [www.cmi.no/new](http://www.cmi.no/new)
- Elwalid F. Nasir, Hatim Mohammed,etal. 2020. Study of the Sudanese perceptions of COVID-19: Applying the Health Belief Model.  
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.28.20115477>.
- Ipsos, 2020, Responding to COVID-19: Highlights of a Survey in Sudan