

## **TUFH 2020** Abstracts

Title	Health promotion to empower the under-served community in COVID-19 pandemic in Sudan
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Content

Introduction: In times of crisis people want to be well informed, so they know what individual preventive measures they must take and how they can deal with the consequences. While preventing the further spread of COVID-19 relies heavily on informing and encouraging the population to adopt protective behaviours, these efforts may be more successful if the advice from experts is combined with local community knowledge. Objectives: This study aim to explore the role health promotion to empower the under-served community in COVID-19 pandemic in Sudan. Methodology: During COVID-19 pandemic, health promotion campaigns were organized to raise the awareness of under-served communities and poor vulnerable groups of population in Khartoum, Sudan. The comprehensive program conducted ten health promoters and targeted 2500 population in and around the Khartoum city. The main issues were symptoms of COVID-19, preventive measures, hand washing and adaption with home isolation. Pre and post- education evaluation were measured. Results: During this period of COVID-19 pandemic in four months duration a health promotion by volunteers specialized in health promotion and related health specialties. The knowledge of the study population was increased from 40% to 65% (p-value 0.005). Majority of the study population intended to participate to educate their peer and family members (76%). Conclusion: The health promotion programs directed to COVID0-19 targeting vulnerable group of population around the big cities is effective in raising the awareness of prevention. Under-served population should take priority in health education program.