

Bulletin

Factsheet by Category

South Sudan

May 2022



The Rooted in Trust 2.0 project in South Sudan is funded by USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAUD-BHA) through Internews. It aims to respond to rumours, misinformation and fake news that shape negative public perceptions towards COVID-19 response in South Sudan.

About This Bulletin

This bulletin provides humanitarian and health partners with the latest rumour data obtained from the South Sudanese populations. The aim is to guide and inform risk communication and community engagement efforts towards COVID-19 response.

Category 1

Rumours on COVID-19 Vaccines

1

Rumor OR Claim #1

“The vaccine is not effective, that’s why they give people more than 4 times just to test.”

From a Clinical Officer through an offline survey.



FACT

This claim is false. The fact about the vaccine is that the third primary dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is being offered to people with a severely weakened immune system. This third primary dose is an extra ‘top-up’ dose to help increase the level of protection for people who may not have generated a full immune response to the first two doses and might be less protected than the wider population.

Rumour or Claim #2

People are dying slowly due to the vaccine because the vaccinated people always complain of headaches, fever and joint pain.

FACT

It is true that people will have mild side effects such as headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, fever and chills and pain at the site of injection. The occurrence of these adverse events is consistent with what is already known about the vaccine from clinical trials. The good thing about the COVID-19 vaccine is that more than 7.2 billion doses have been administered worldwide so far allowing rare side effects to be identified quickly. "Because so many people have already been vaccinated and because many months have already passed since a lot of people received the vaccination, we can now be very certain about possible side effects." Reinhold Förster, an immunologist at the Hanover Medical School in Germany, explained.

Rumor OR Claim #3

What people say



COVID-19 vaccine affects people's fertility and health and also the expired one affects people's health.

The claim is from an offline survey.

FACT

The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility. The truth is that the COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spikes protein found on the coronavirus's surface. This "teaches" the body's immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it.

SOURCES

1. <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/the-vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-t hird-primary-dose-vaccination>
2. <https://amp.dw.com/en/fact-check-can-covid-vaccines-lead-to-long-term-health-problems /a-59667465>
3. <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-05-2022-statement-for-healthcare-professional-how-covid-19vaccines-are-regulated-for-safety-and-effectiveness>
4. www.hopkinsmedicine.org

Category 2

Rumour or Claim #4

Rumours on COVID-19 Existence

There is no corona, it was just the idea of the government to provide information to the World Health Organization about the rate of affected people so that they can get some money from the World Health Organization (WHO) to their Ministry of Health.

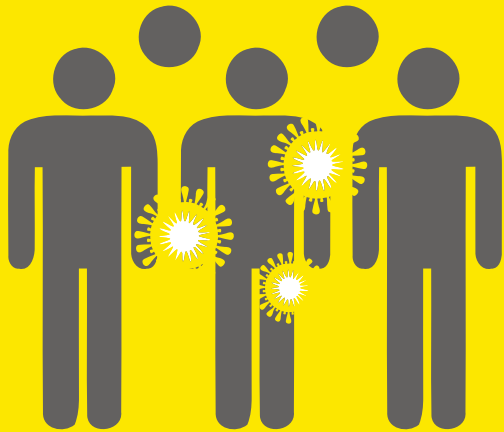


FACT

The truth is there is corona (COVID -19) according to the reports from the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health is conducting tracing of individuals who had contact with the COVID-19 cases. The government urges that public to strictly observe the rules of social distancing and other public health measures declared by the President of the Republic of South Sudan and High-level Task-force.

Rumor OR Claim #5

COVID-19 is not real, the Ministry of Health and the Media say there is COVID-19, but in reality, it is just an assumption



FACT

Some people are still pushing the conspiracy theory that the pandemic is a hoax, despite 138 deaths and 17,541 confirmed infections in South Sudan, as well as 723,341 people, who have been vaccinated. The COVID-19 pandemic is not a "lie" or a hoax, as the statement claims. Data shows COVID-19 has infected and killed millions of people across the world, and scientists have identified and isolated the novel coronavirus. The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic in March 2020, and data shows there have been more than 5 million confirmed deaths from the virus and 290 million positive cases worldwide

Rumor OR Claim #6

I do not like any information about the coronavirus, there is no corona because there is no one who died of corona that I have witnessed.

Most of the population of South Sudan does not believe that COVID-19 exists but the pandemic is real because it killed 138 people, there are 17,541 confirmed infection cases and 723,341 people have received vaccination as reported by the South Sudan COVID-19 taskforce. New estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) show that approximately 14.9 million more people died during the COVID-19 pandemic than would have been expected during normal times. These so-called excess deaths comprise deaths directly caused by the disease and also those indirectly caused by COVID-19 due to an overburdened health system.

FACT



SOURCES

1. <https://data.covid19taskforce.com/data/countries/south%20sudan>
2. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/09/12/911987987/a-covid-19-vaccine-may-be-only-50-effective-is-that-good-enough>
3. <https://feeds.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2020/coronavirus-facts-html?amp=true>
4. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/09/12/911987987/a-covid-19-vaccine-may-be-only-50-effective-is-that-good-enough>

Category 3

Rumour or Claim #7

Rumour on Treatment Methods of Covid19



My husband was said to be having this disease but we just gave him guava leaves, mango leave, lemon and (dikertimelo) he is very well it's just a lie there is no Corona here"

There is no scientific proof yet of these herbs or leaves have cured Coronavirus Many plants and substances are being proposed without the minimum requirements and evidence of quality, safety and efficacy. The World Health Organization is still working with some African countries such as Nigeria and Uganda to further reinforce research on traditional medicine.

Source: <https://www.afro.who.int/news/who-affirms-support-covid-19-traditional-medicine-research>

The content are the sole responsibility of #defyhatenow and do not necessarily reflect the views of Internews and other organisations involved in this project



The Rooted in Trust 2.0 project works to combat COVID-19 rumors and misinformation, responds to the information challenges faced by vulnerable groups, encourages open dialogue between citizens and stronger collaborative partnerships between information providers.