



First Bi-Weekly Rumour

Bulletin Factsheet

South Sudan

April 2022



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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

About This Bulletin Factsheet

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 toward COVID-19 response.

So much information circulates across South Sudan and beyond its borders about COVID-19, vaccinations, and health-related issues. This bulletin factsheet verifies rumours that are true and ones that are false, especially about the coronavirus.

CATEGORY #1

Vaccines

What do people say?

Rumour #1



COVID-19 vaccine causes women sterilization.

Rumour collected from an offline survey by Defy Hate Now

VERIFICATION



According to a Medical Assistant in the Juba Teaching Hospital, the COVID-19 vaccine does not cause sterilization in women. The vaccine has gone under clinical studies that have proven that it is not harmful to the human body. According to UNICEF research the vaccines do not cause sterility. This inaccurate rumor was started by two German Pseudo-scientists and spread further on the internet.



However, according to verified data, infection with the virus can harm male fertility, and that is another reason why vaccination is needed to protect against such effects from the coronavirus.

SOURCE: <https://www.unicef.org/montenegro/en/stories/vaccine-against-covid-19-does-not-cause-sterility>

Rumour #2



“ COVID-19 vaccines cause abortion and miscarriage ”

Fact File

✓ This claim is not scientifically proven with some basic data from the Women's Health Research cluster. The COVID-19 vaccine has no side effect or could not cause a miscarriage to pregnant mothers. Based on the latest research, there is no reason to believe that the COVID-19 vaccine could increase the risk of a miscarriage. The known risks of COVID-19 to pregnant people are severe, including increased rates of intensive care admissions and more premature births.

✓ In weighing these risks alongside the latest research, professional associations are making a strong recommendation for people planning a pregnancy to receive the vaccine. As stated by the Canadian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, "there is no reason to suspect that the COVID-19 vaccine could impair male or female fertility. These rumours are unfounded and harmful."

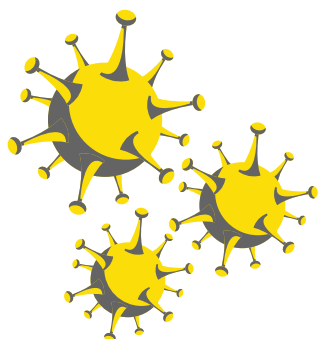
Source: <https://womenshealthresearch.ubc.ca/blog/covid-19-vaccines-and-infertility-fact-or-fiction>

CATEGORY #2

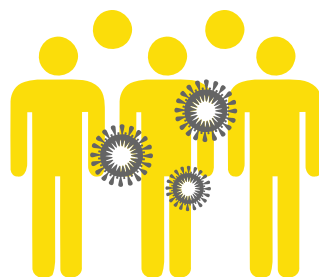
WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?

Existence of COVID-19

Rumour #1



“ COVID-19 is not real, it is a way for people to make money through projects ”



This is false, COVID-19 is not a hoax according to the World Health Organization the COVID-19 was declared an 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.

VERIFICATION



According to the South Sudan Ministry of Health the overall COVID-19 cases status as of 20-06-2022 the country has had a cumulative number of cases confirmed to date of 17,697, with recovered cases being 15,630 and 138 deaths.

Source: <https://fullfact.org/health/can-animals-catch-coronavirus-from-humans>

CATEGORY #3

Causes of COVID-19

RUMOUR #1



“
COVID-19 is cause by those
keeping cows, goats, and
other domestic animals
”

FACTS

✓ This claim is not true, because there is no scientific evidence that animals are the carriers of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). According to a statement by a student of medicine at the University of Juba, coronavirus is a kind of common virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. Most coronaviruses aren't dangerous.

✓ In early 2020 after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization identified SARS-COV-2 as a new type of coronavirus. The outbreak quickly spread around the world. The World Health Organization says "There is no evidence that companion animals or pets such as dogs or cats have been infected or could spread the virus that causes COVID-19."

Source: <https://fullfact.org/health/can-animals-catch-coronavirus-from-humans>

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.