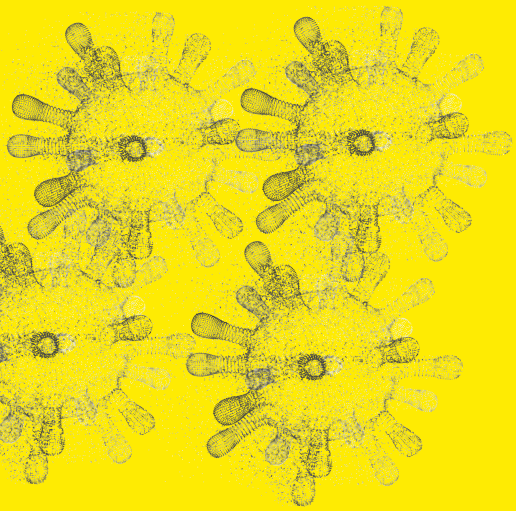
Second Bi-Weekly Rumour

Bulletin

Factsheet by Category

South Sudan

JULY 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

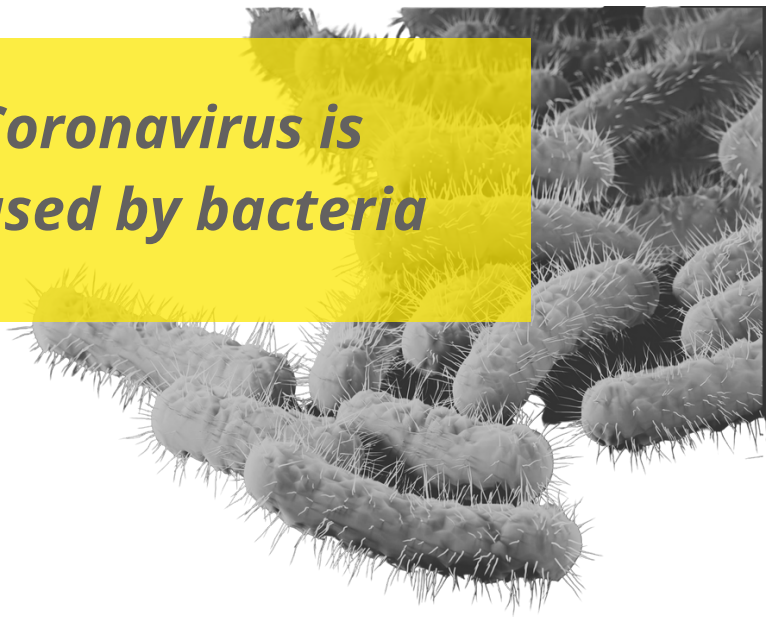
This bulletin provides humanitarian and health partners with the latest rumour data obtained from the South Sudanese populations. The aim is to guide and inform risk communication and community engagement efforts towards COVID-19 response.

CATEGORY 1

ORIGIN OF COVID-19

RUMOUR #1

Coronavirus is caused by bacteria



VERIFICATION

Coronavirus is caused by a virus that was first seen in China at the end of 2019 and has spread around the world, reaching pandemic proportions. There is currently no specific treatment for it. The South Sudan Ministry of Health describes the novel coronavirus, called SARS-CoV-2, and the illness it causes, known as COVID-19 the same way as the U.S.Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. They all explain that the novel coronavirus is a newly recognized strain in the family of viruses known as coronavirus,so COVID-19 is not a bacteria but a virus.

SOURCES

https://www.factcheck.org/2020/05/covid-19-isnt-caused-by-bacteria/
https://moh.gov.ss/covid-19.php

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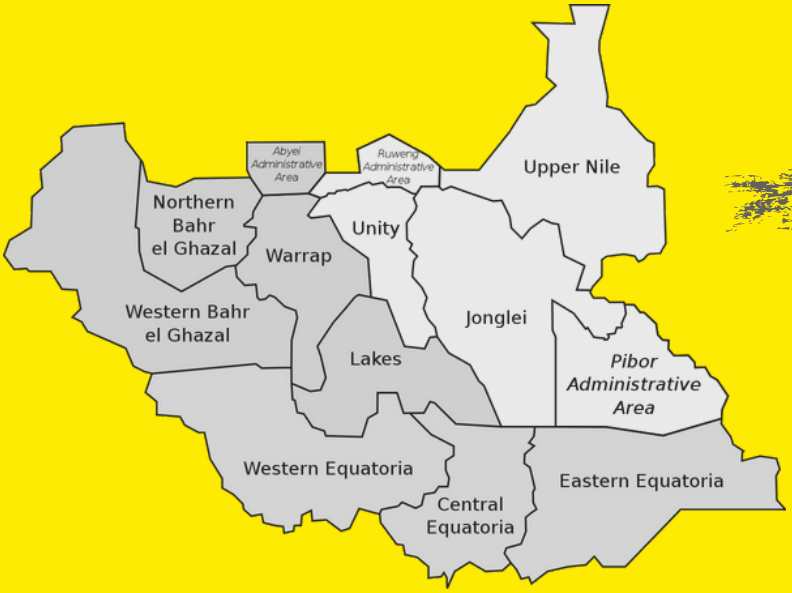

CATEGORY 2

COVID 19 MYTHS

RUMOUR #1

> *Corona is a sickness that mostly happens in the Equatoria areas in South Sudan*

VERIFICATION

In an interview, a student of the Geography Department at the University of Juba, said, "the Equatoria region is known for heavy rainfall and thick forest with cold weather, but it doesn't mean that the coronavirus will only spread rapidly in this region." The coronavirus affects anyone in any location either cold or hot....". In another interview, a medicine student at the University of Juba said, "Coronavirus is a contagious disease caused by a virus, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-Cov-2). It does not depend on temperature (cold or hot). According to the World Health Organization, nearly every nation in the world is affected by a coronavirus. According to WHO results, countries are expected to see a decline in new COVID-19 cases during summer and a resurgence during winter. However, our results do not imply that the disease will vanish during summer or will not affect countries close to the equator. Rather, the higher temperatures and more intense UV radiation in summer are likely to support public health measures to contain SARS-CoV-2.

Source: *https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-87692-z*

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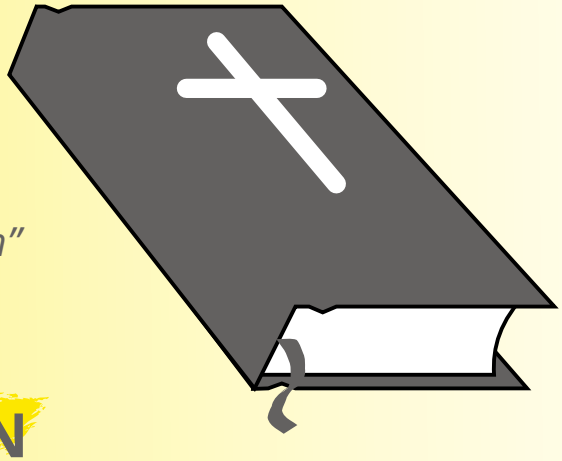
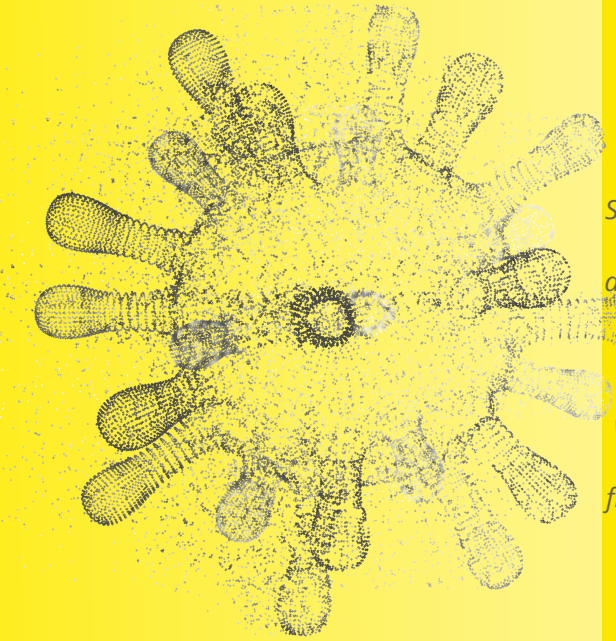
RUMOUR #2



"In fact what brought coronavirus is our unrepentant heart as a generation"

VERIFICATION



This claim is based on religious beliefs. However, Coronavirus is not from an unrepented heart or punishment due to our sins but rather caused by the pathogen SARS-CoV-2. It first emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. The virus is thought to have originated in a bat before it successfully infected what we call an intermediate host, and then finally transitioned from the intermediate host to a human. More research is needed to confirm this theory and fill in details such as which species of the bat the virus came from and which type of animal was the intermediate host. Scientists generally call this a "spillover event", which is defined as the event in which a pathogen is transmitted to a member of one species from another species. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, there were actually two spillover events necessary to bring the virus from bats to humans! SARS-CoV-2 was named because it is very genetically similar to SARS-CoV, another coronavirus that caused a pandemic in 2003. Both of these viruses, along with MERS-CoV (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus) cause respiratory infections in humans and are thought to have originally come from bats. Other coronaviruses exist, too, and are not associated with bats. For example, "coronavirus SW1", a completely new coronavirus, was discovered in a beluga whale in 2008 and is not currently known to infect humans. There are a lot of coronaviruses roaming this planet, but only one of these is causing the current pandemic.

SOURCE

https://www.montana.edu/diseaseecologylab/covid19blog/sars-cov-2-background-origins/index.html

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