

# Bulletin

Factsheet by Category

## South Sudan

APRIL 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

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#### Rumour #1

More women are vaccinated against COVID-19 than men in South Sudan, because they are weak



### VERIFICATION

This claim has no proof because according to the Ministry of Health, South Sudan has received 271,200 doses of the Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines, which have helped the country vaccinate 96,000 people so far. But the number of women turning up to receive COVID-19 jabs was very low compared to men. Here is some data showing a low uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine amongst women in the first and second phases of the roll-out in South Sudan. As of September 2021, six months after the launch of the campaign, most of those vaccinated were men (73%). These proportions changed over time, and by January 2022, 59% of those vaccinated were men and 41% were women. By March 2022, 55% were men and 45% women.

### SOURCES

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/women-in-south-sudan-shy-away-from-covid-19-jabs/2376603>.

<https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/key-considerations-improving-uptake-of-the-covid-19-vaccine-amongst-women-in-south-sudan/>

### Rumour #2

### FACT

Most people who advocate for the covid-19 have not taken it, especially government officials

Vaccine hesitancy (the refusal or delay in vaccine uptake despite its accessibility) which has been a long-standing challenge in South Sudan appears to be a barrier to the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine. By 18th July 2021, only 56, 989 COVID-19 vaccine doses (out of the 3,568,861,733 doses administered globally) had been administered in South Sudan, a country with a population of 11,193,729 as of the last estimate in 2020. More so, recent media reports showed that by June 2021, South Sudan returned 72 000 of the 132 000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine doses, received through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access facility in March 2021, due to concerns that they would not be administered by the expiry date.

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8851051/>

## Rumour #3

What people say



COVID-19 vaccines make old women to start seeing their menstrual period again.

The claim is from an offline survey.

## VERIFICATION

*In this claim there is no scientific data that gives proof that the claim is true. A 64-year-old woman in Gudele said she received her shots of the COVID-19 vaccine and it did not make her see her period again. It is normal for a person to have mild side effects such as joint pain, fever, headache, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea and pain at the injected site." she said. Some women say they have observed changes in the flow or timing of their period after getting vaccinated. But so far this is purely anecdotal. It is unlikely that the covid-19 vaccine would affect menstrual cycles, and there's no plausible biological mechanism by which this would occur. However, there is little data on this topic," Dr Kilpstein, a reproductive endocrinologist in Chicago who is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine Covid-19 Task Force, said, "Menstrual cycles are often understudies."*

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/14/well/live/women-covid-19-vaccine.html>

### Category 2

#### Conspiracy Theories

### Rumour #1

A church member claimed that the coronavirus toll-free line is demonic according to the 666 marks of the beast that is written in the Book of Revelation.



### SOURCES

[https://moh.gov.ss/daily\\_updates.php](https://moh.gov.ss/daily_updates.php)

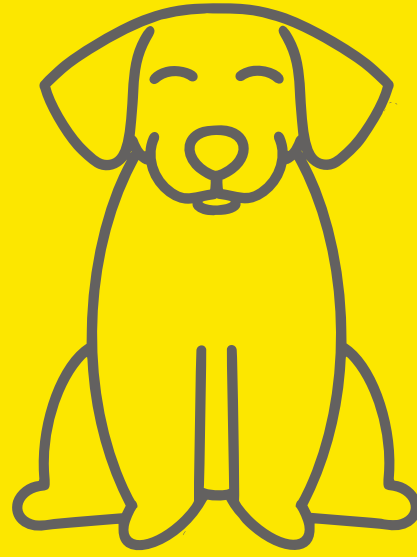
<https://www.chr.up.ac.za/covid19-database/south-sudan>

### FACT

Therefore, this claim is not true because the toll freeline (6666) in South Sudan is just a number to communicate to the South Sudan COVID-19 task force for emergencies. After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, and restrictions and regulations were imposed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 the WHO recommended 6666 as the toll-free number to help the communities during the pandemic.

Rumour on COVID19  
Vulnerability

*We don't eat donkey or dogs we only eat organic so corona cannot dare to attack us*



## VERIFICATION

*Humans and mammals can fight viruses through an antiviral protein which stops the infection from multiplying. Meanwhile, regions of DNA - CpG dinucleotides - tell the immune system to attack the virus but single-strand coronaviruses can avoid the body's natural defences by reducing the CpG...Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.*

## SOURCES

<https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-stray-dogs-eating-bat-meat-may-have-started-pandemic-study-says-11973364>

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)

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