

Second Bi-Weekly Rumour

Bulletin

Factsheet by Category

South Sudan
JUNE 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

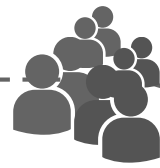
This bulletin provides humanitarian and health partners with the latest rumour data obtained from the South Sudanese populations. The aim is to guide and inform risk communication and community engagement efforts towards COVID-19 response.

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

COVID-19 Vaccines

Rumour #1



You will bleed too much after being vaccinated.

This claim was from an offline survey.

VERIFICATION



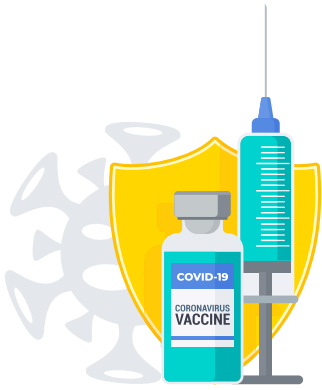
A woman at age of 33 years in South Sudan said "she did not experience any changes in her menstrual cycles after taking the COVID-19 vaccine shots only some mild side effect such as weak joints, muscle pain, severe fever, and headache. Some ongoing studies are happening now to look for potential associations between COVID vaccination and cycle irregularity, cycle length and intensity of bleeding. However, there does not appear to be a plausible mechanism that would cause this, and it has not been reported with other vaccines. There is also little data available on whether other types of vaccines impact the menstrual cycle. COVID-19 itself, however, along with other viral infections, may lead to prolonged periods of stress that could cause menstrual disruptions.

SOURCE

<https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/childrens-health/11-myths-about-covid-vaccines-and-kids>

Rumour #2

WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?



There is a lot of hesitancy about COVID-19 vaccines, I believe the vaccine is to help in the fight against the virus.



Fact File

It is hard to teach or inform people on how to identify misinformation in our communities in South Sudan. It becomes so difficult when humans themselves cannot agree on what misinformation is and when political leaders can not decide whether we should have more or less of whatever it entails. It is true that there is a lot of hesitancy about the COVID-19 vaccine because so many South Sudanese have been fed a steady diet of misinformation and conspiracy theories about the risk of the vaccine.

vaccine. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified vaccine hesitancy as a leading global health threat. Rejection of the COVID-19 vaccine lessens the probability of herd immunity and could extend the pandemic. Especially concerning is vaccine hesitancy among health care workers (HCWs), including doctors and nurses as well as those who deliver indirect care and services (aides, helpers, laboratory technicians, and even medical waste handlers). Not only are HCWs at increased risk of contracting and transmitting the disease, but they also have a potentially powerful influence on patient vaccination decisions.

Source: https://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/blogs/inpractice/entry/countering_vaccine_hesitancy.html

Rumour #3



COVID-19 vaccine affects child's fertility

FACTS



This is a very common myth that has been circulating in our communities and on social media, but the DefyHateNow organization interviewed a Laboratory Technician in Juba who said that he has been following-up the reaction of the COVID-19 vaccines but there is no single issue that is related to complication at birth and pregnancy development.



Studies show that antibodies produced from vaccination to COVID-19 do not impact embryo implantation or early pregnancy development in women or fertility in men. There are also now numerous documented cases of women who got pregnant during or after vaccine clinical trials. The false claim appears to stem from a rumor that the vaccine will teach the body to attack a placenta protein, but in truth, the vaccine teaches the body to attack an entirely different and distinct protein (the spike protein on the virus that causes COVID-19).

Source: <https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/childrens-health/11-myths-about-covid-vaccines-and-kids>

CATEGORY 2

COST OF COVID-19 VACCINE



Rumour #1

COVID-19 is an expensive virus.

Facts



This claim is true, but the citizens are not responsible to pay for the vaccine. By July 18 2021, South Sudan was able to administer nearly all of the 60,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine they had in stock through a series of smart investments in delivery, training and social mobilization coordinated with several different partners.



As new doses are projected to arrive in country in August South Sudan continue to reinforce gaps in the health systems to make COVID-19 vaccination possible without disrupting existing health service. CARE's estimated delivery cost from "tarmac to arm" for vaccines in these areas are \$9.97 per dose of vaccine administered, or \$22.22 (2894.37 SSP) per person full vaccinated. However, the citizens do not pay to get vaccinated.

Rumour collected from a #defyhatenow offline survey

Source: <https://careevaluations.org/evaluation/south-sudan-the-true-cost-of-covid-19-vaccines/>

CATEGORY 3

Monkeypox

Rumour #1

Monkeypox is a disease of those who do not bath.



Verification

The claim is not true, monkeypox can not only affect those who do not bath, but it is spread from the virus through direct contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding. Most people who have monkeypox infection recover within two to four weeks, however severe illness can develop in a small percentage of people. Young children, pregnant women and immunosuppressed people may be at higher risk of severe disease with monkeypox.

Source: <https://www2.health.wa.gov.au/media-releases/2022/June/monkeypox-virus-update>