

Rumour Bulletin Factsheet #1

South Sudan
AUGUST



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 rumours, misinformation and fake news that shape negative public perceptions towards COVID-19 response in the country.

About this Rumour Bulletin

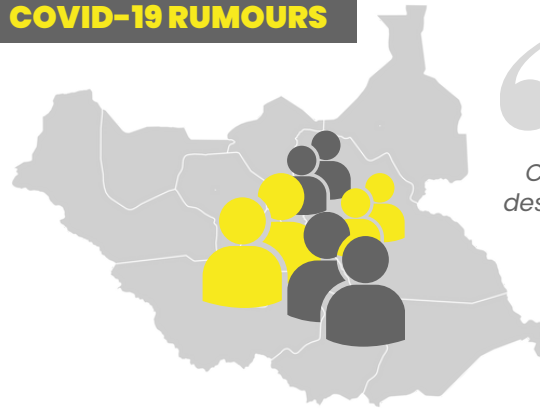
Published twice and sometimes thrice a month, the Rumour Bulletin is a response to public concerns about COVID-19 in South Sudan. It provides verified information to guide journalists and community correspondents reporting on the pandemic. It is meant to provide information that is essential to understanding the facts about the virus, vaccines and other health-related matters.

A lot of information is circulating across South Sudan and beyond its borders about COVID-19, vaccinations and health-related issues. This makes it compelling to establish the authenticity of the information circulated in a fight against dis/misinformation.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

Rumour #1

COVID-19 RUMOURS



“

COVID-19 reduces sex desire for sex and causes hair loss.

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Verification

A reduced sex drive, hallucinations and hair loss are among a wider set of long Covid symptoms, according to a study of people who were infected but not hospitalised during the pandemic.

The most common symptoms in the weeks and months after a bout of coronavirus have long been known to include loss of smell and shortness of breath. The list of common Covid symptoms also includes signs such as fatigue, rashes and brain fog. This claim is partly supported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

These non-hospitalised patients most commonly carried three categories of symptoms, reported by people with persistent health problems after infection.

Patterns of symptoms tend to be grouped into respiratory symptoms mental health and cognitive problems and a broader range of symptoms of long COVID included. Hair loss, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever, limb swelling, Erectile dysfunction and reduced libido, bowel incontinence, amnesia and anosmia.

Sources: <https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/hair-loss-and-low-libido-added-as-symptoms-of-covid-19/140452/>

<https://www.wedmd.com/lung/news/20220725/hair-loss-impotence-join-list-of-long-covid-symptoms>

Rumour #2

“

People who drink are most likely not to get Covid because alcohol is the medication.



VERIFICATION

According to media reports and anecdotal sources, deaths related to the ingestion of such alcoholic products, based on the mistaken belief that they will somehow offer protection against the virus, have already occurred in some countries during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Source: https://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/437608/Alcohol-and-COVID-19-what-you-need-to-know.pdf

WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY?

Rumour #3

Bitter greens like (luobutry) are one of the corona treatments.

Fact

According to a Health practitioner who is a midwife, the bitter leaves are like any green and it has a lot of benefits to the body such as vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium, and dietary fibre but they will not treat or reduce the risk of getting corona. The World Health Organization (WHO) offers advice for a well-balanced diet to help keep your immune system strong and lower your risk of contracting infectious diseases like COVID-19.

Sources: <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/323319>
<https://health.ucdavis.edu>

WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

OTHER HEALTH RUMOURS

Rumour #4

“

Malaria cases blamed on churches, culture and air pollution.

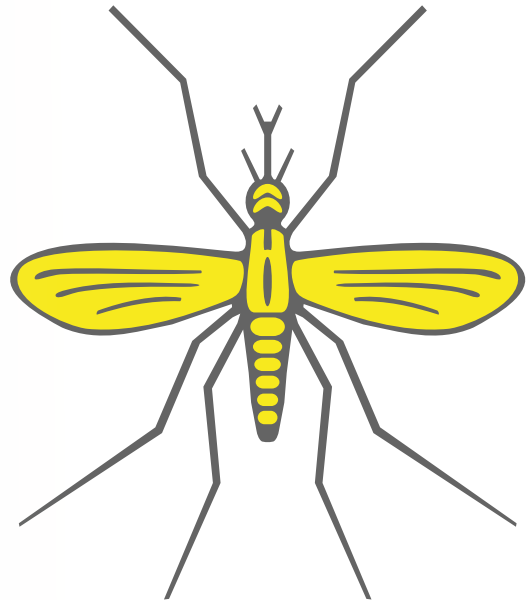


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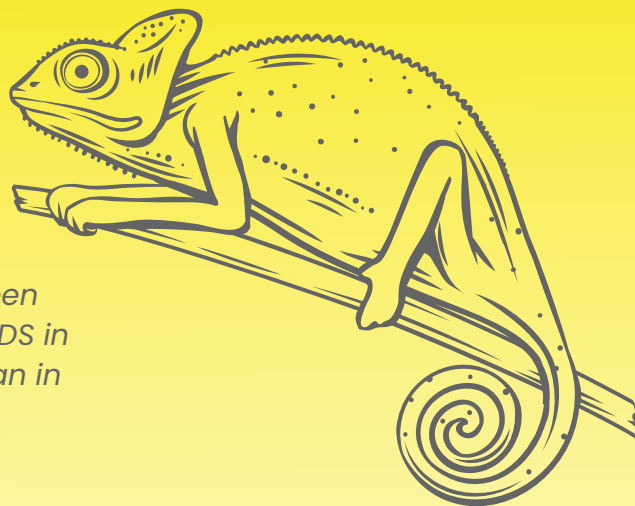


VERIFICATION

This claim is not true, according to a Pastor in ST. Augustine Juba- South Sudan. Malaria is not to be blamed on churches and culture because, malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes due to the dirty environment, long grass, and dirty water in the residential areas. The church usually advises Christians to clean their home to avoid malaria and other diseases. Culture is not part of the causes of malaria. Maybe we can blame it on air pollution. According to the Mayo Clinic, malaria is a potentially fatal illness that typically causes acute sickness, shaking chills and fever. Malaria is caused by parasites that are transmitted to humans through mosquito bites. 99% of scientists agreed dirt caused malaria in 1900.



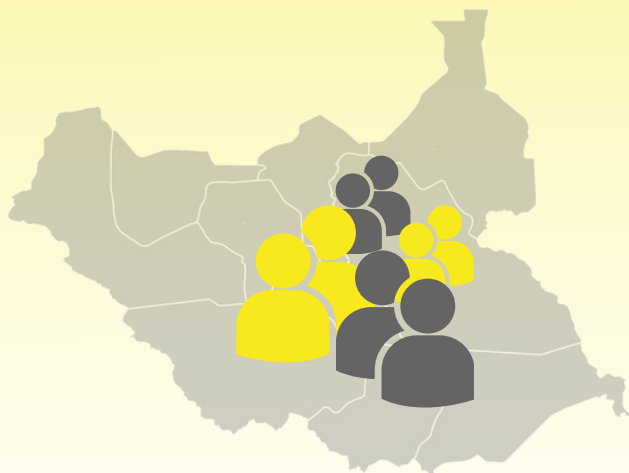
RUMOUR #5



Eggs of chameleon have been reported to have cured HIV/AIDS in a remote village of Mingkaman in Lakes State.

VERDICT

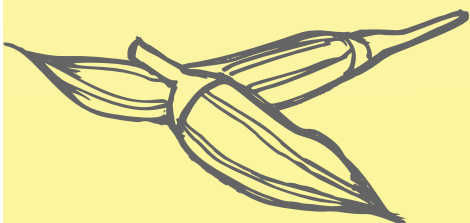
This claim is not scientifically verified. The HIV/AIDS treatment is mainly Antiretroviral therapy(ART). ART involves taking a combination of HIV medicines(called an HIV treatment regimen) every day. ART is recommended for everyone who has HIV. ART can not cure HIV, but HIV medicines help people with HIV live longer, healthier lives. HIV attacks and destroys the infection-fighting CD4 cells(CD4 lymphocytes) of the immune system. The loss of CD4 cells makes it hard for the body to fight off infections and certain HIV-related cancers.



Sources: <https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/fact-sheets/hiv-treatment-basics>

RUMOUR #6

Tuberculosis(TB) patients are not supposed to eat okra



VERIFICATION

There is no special food that is required by a person with TB. Some people with TB believe that more expensive food is better than less expensive ones. This is not true. For example, it is not true that expensive varieties of rice are better than cheaper ones. There are also no foods that can cure TB. Some people say that foods such as vinegar can cure TB but this is not correct. It is only TB drugs that can cure Tuberculosis(TB). A healthy balanced diet can be achieved by having food from four basic food groups: cereals, millets, and pulses, vegetables and fruits, Milk and milk products, meat, egg, and fish and Oils, fats, and nuts and oils.

Sources: <https://tbfacts.org/food-tb/>

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.



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