

Lugara Community Factsheet

ABOUT THIS FACTSHEET

This Factsheet is meant for all stakeholders working with the communities like Community Health Workers, Health Care Workers, Outreach Workers, Community Leaders, Religious Leaders, Community Based Associations, and the community. RiT 2.0 Internews in South Sudan periodically collects feedback from the community, shares citizen's concerns on COVID-19 and works to serve communities by collecting rumors and misinformation to understand and address communities' concerns and information needs to strengthen information ecosystem, the vaccine, and other complex health topics. We respond by increasing the flow of accurate, timely, trusted, and contextualized information between local media, public health and humanitarian agencies, and communities.

WHAT IS A RUMOR?

A rumor is a currently circulating story or report of unverified information collected from firsthand sources within the community which could take the shape of a question, criticism, concern or a general comment on a situation or topic. A rumor can be tricky because it might have some element of truth in it.

WHY RUMORS?

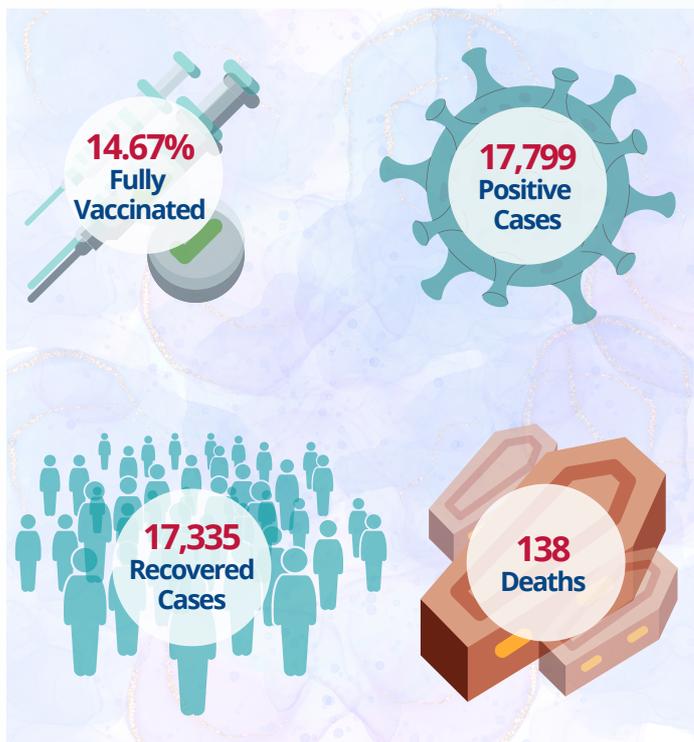
In the absence of information that responds to the concerns and reality of communities rumors thrive and become believable by the communities in which they are circulating. Rumors shape public perception and can be harmful if not countered in a timely and consistent manner. Rumors thrive because of lack of relevant and contextualized information that is rooted in our target communities and can tell us a lot about where the community is at and what they need. Community health workers, local community leaders and associations should provide the community with information as well as recommendations and credible and reliable sources that can help them navigate the risks of misinformation



COVID-19 Situation Update

On 31st July 2022, South Sudan registered **17,799 positive cases**, **1,335 recovered cases** and **138 deaths**. This is reported by the national Ministry of Health in South Sudan https://moh.gov.ss/daily_updates.php

Cumulative Summary of Statistics for July, 2022



Source: Ministry of Health, South Sudan

Risk Rating: Risk is measured based on a range of factors including a) cultural relevancy, b) timing, c) online engagement, d) the believability of a rumor, and most importantly, e) the potential negative impact a rumor may have on the health, well-being, and safety of local communities or service providers.

- **HIGH RISK:** A rumor that is very likely be believed among the larger community with potentially severe negative impacts resulting in serious harm to an individual or group including inciting violence or creating widespread fear/panic. High risk rumors may encourage widespread avoidance of testing/treatment or harm towards health workers and other service providers.
- **MEDIUM RISK:** A rumor that has the potential to be believed among the larger community with potentially moderate negative impacts to a community or individual's health wellbeing, or safety. Medium risk rumors may have a moderate impact on health seeking behaviors.
- **LOW RISK:** A rumor that is either unlikely to be believed among the community or with limited negative impacts to a community or individual's health, well-being, or safety or to the pandemic response

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?

CONCERN:

Some people are getting COVID-19 vaccines certificate/vaccination cards without vaccination.

Theme: COVID-19 vaccines question

Risk Rating: Low

Theme: COVID-19 vaccines question

Risk Rating: Low

FACT CHECKING:

"It is important to highlight that the Ministry of Health would not condone any such behavior if indeed obtaining a vaccination card without being vaccinated did take place. Rumors are rumors until there are facts to substantiate such an allegation" stated Dr Brendan Dineen, COVAX Coordinator, WHO South Sudan.

Dr. Brendan added that; *"Likewise, it merits pointing out there is strict control of the number of vaccination cards that are deployed to the vaccination teams. The quantity of cards is equal to the number of doses provided to vaccination centers and to outreach teams. Daily, vaccine accountability is reported indicating the number of doses that have been administered and how many doses remain. In related manner, there is very close tracking of the vaccination card quantities per vaccination team."*
<https://www.loyolamedicine.org/about-us/blog/five-things-about-covid-vaccine-card>

Recommendation

Your vaccination card is a record of what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. It's your personal COVID-19 vaccination record. While it's not a legal document, and not the only record of your vaccination, having this information at your fingertips will save you a trip to your vaccine provider or local health department. Because the cards are made of cardboard, they may be easily replicated, but the information they contain is also easily verified. Information about a patient's COVID-19 vaccine status is available in their electronic health records, from their vaccination provider (the location where they received the vaccine) or from the state health department.

RUMOR:

Monkeypox is a conspiracy theory

Theme: Monkeypox

Risk Rating: Medium

Theme: Monkeypox

Risk Rating: Medium

FACT CHECKING:

"Such a statement is based on lack of knowledge about the disease known as monkeypox, which was first discovered in 1970. Thousands of cases of monkeypox have occurred in the past three months throughout the world. Cases of this highly transmissible infectious disease have occurred in several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and Sudan, amongst others. Laboratory samples of suspected monkeypox cases are being investigated presently by the South Sudan Ministry of Health with the results soon to be made available. The WHO has declared monkeypox a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' (PHEIC),", said Mary Obat, Director of health education and promotion, national ministry of health.

The website found below provides key information about monkeypox

[https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/monkeypox?](https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/monkeypox)

gclid=Cj0KCOjwgO2XBhCaARIsANrW2X2vQHymCbo5LNfq6SXnViw0P9RfeWZ3k_buWDDMXvRqNJbYl-pgzsAaApXsEALw_wcB

Recommendation

In South Sudan there is no confirmed case of Monkeypox so far but WHO declared it as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Surveillance and rapid identification of new cases is critical for outbreak containment. During human Monkeypox outbreaks, close contact with infected persons is the most significant risk factor for Monkeypox virus infection. Health workers and household members are at a greater risk of infection. Health workers caring for patients with suspected or confirmed Monkeypox virus infection, or handling specimens from them, should implement standard infection control precautions. If possible, persons previously vaccinated against smallpox should be selected to care for the patient.

COMMENT:

“
“Some women in rural areas say, “they shy away from COVID-19 vaccination because of the male domination of the vaccination centers.”
Theme: COVID-19 Vaccines
Risk Rating: Low
 ”

FACT CHECKING:

Dr Brendan Dineen, COVAX Coordinator, WHO South Sudan, stated that, *“This is the first instance that this is being reported to my knowledge. It would be useful to put such information into perspective with further details. Indicating that ‘some women’ express dislike for the behavior of men at vaccination centers does not necessarily indicate that this is a widespread occurrence. Generally, the vaccination teams have been attentive to the organization of the vaccination centers to cater to the needs of all persons who have arrived to be vaccinated. Training of crowd control personnel from each vaccination team is provided prior to commencing activities in the field.”*

Dr Brendan Dineen added that, *“This rumor is curious in its content given that more than half (52%) of the 1.53 million persons fully vaccinated are women. Thus, I have my reservations about how widespread the sentiment that is expressed is. Nonetheless, this information will be shared with the implementing partners whose vaccination staff are diligently providing vaccinations to large numbers of women and men throughout South Sudan.”*

Recommendation

More than 52% of those vaccinated and that shows that there is no discrimination of women at the vaccination centers. However, gender inclusive campaigns on vaccine accessibility should be prioritized by the implementing partners. To make sure that women are involved in all the communication engagements regarding vaccination.

For more information, call the toll-free number 6666.
 For more information visit, <https://moh.gov.ss/>

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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USAID-BHA Rooted in Trust 2.0 South Sudan

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