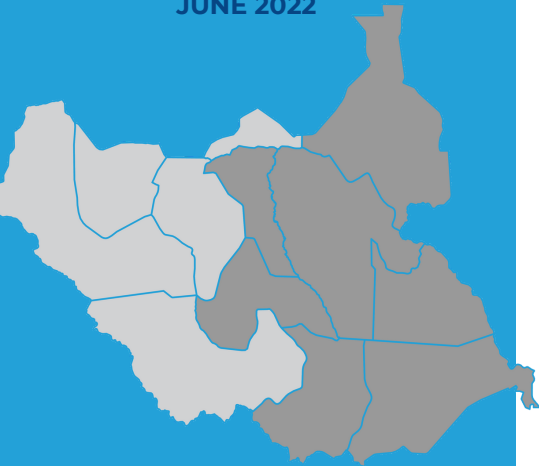




# Lugara Media Factsheet

## #5

South Sudan  
JUNE 2022



### Rooted in Trust 2.0 Project Areas

- Central Equatoria
- Eastern Equatoria
- Jonglei State
- Unity State
- Lakes State

Greater Pibor Administrative Area

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 the country.

USAID-BHA Rooted in Trust 2.0 South Sudan. If you want to contribute to or provide feedback on this Lugara Media Factsheet or have information to share, please contact:

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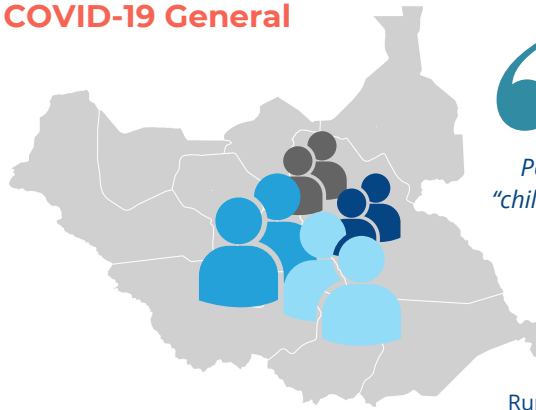
## About This Lugara Factsheet

This Media Factsheet is a periodic response to rumors and concerns about COVID-19 and provides verified information for journalists and community correspondents reporting on the pandemic. It is meant to provide information that is essential to understand the facts about the virus, vaccines and related issues, to help journalists respond to their audiences' questions, address rumors, and close the feedback loop.

A lot of information is circulating across South Sudan and beyond its borders about COVID-19, vaccinations and related issues. So, it is important to know what's true and what's not.

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

### Rumor #1 COVID-19 General



“

People are asking whether “children can be vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines,”

”

Rumor heard from different communities in South Sudan.

## Fact File

This rumour has been debunked by World Health Organization (WHO). “Several studies have proved that persons of all ages are at risk of contracting COVID-19 disease, but mainly a certain group (the elderly, persons with other underlying diseases) are at a higher risk of developing severe form of the disease, or at worst become hospitalized or even die from COVID-19. It is for this reason that South Sudan adopted a policy to vaccinate 18 years and older - first to save lives. For now, children are not a priority to get vaccinated because there is no evidence to correlate COVID-19 infection and death in them. This may change in the nearest future due to the evolving variants of the virus,” said by Luo Benz, World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Officer, South Sudan.

## Rumor #2

### COVID-19 and pregnancy

#### WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

“

*Some people claim, "Facemasks cause infection to pregnant mothers."*

”



Rumor heard from different communities in South Sudan.

*with COVID-19 virus,"* said by Brendan Dineen, WHO COVAX Coordinator, South Sudan. *"Facemasks are designed to protect people from getting infected with COVID-19 and they do not have any chemical, people should follow COVID-19 guideline which includes wearing of face masks,"* stressed by Mary Denis Obat, Director of Health Education and Promotion, Ministry of Health.

The N95s and KF94s masks are available in South Sudan. They are more effective than cloth masks when access to them is available.

## Fact File

This rumour has been debunked by the Ministry of Health and WHO. *"Facemasks are made up of materials that have been examined for safety. There are two types of masks; one that can be reused and another that cannot be reused. The non-reusable is only used once because it cannot be washed based on the nature of its material. The common ones for the public are made of cloth and a filter. This one can be used again and again but on daily basis, it must be washed. Proper wearing of masks is also very important. Masks are therefore safe and have saved a lot of people including pregnant women from getting infected*

## Rumor #3

### COVID-19 and prevention

#### WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

“

*"Some people are wondering whether those who have been vaccinated should still follow COVID-19 preventive guidelines."*

”



Comment heard from different communities in South Sudan.

## Fact File

South Sudan is focusing on vaccinating adults at the current time, because there is evidence that older adults and those with comorbidities are more susceptible to severe disease in Covid-19. *"Yes, it is still important that even if you have been vaccinated, you should follow the guidelines. People who are vaccinated can still get infected with COVID-19. But because they are already vaccinated, they may not experience a severe form of the disease and they will not therefore, be hospitalized nor will they die from the disease. However, they can still transmit the infection to any other persons, and if those persons are not yet vaccinated as is the case in South Sudan, there are chances that they could get the severe form of the disease, be hospitalized, or even die from it. It is therefore very important that even after we are vaccinated, we should regularly wash*

*properly wear masks, and ensure social distance to save others who may not have been vaccinated yet,”* said by Luo Benz, World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Officer, South Sudan

*“In South Sudan, the national ministry of health is urging the public to observe COVID-19 protective measures. COVID-19 is still a pandemic, and we must observe the guidelines,”* added by Mary Denis Obat, Director of Health Education and Promotion, Ministry of Health.



## Tips for Journalists



South Sudan Journalists should note the following facts to improve on their knowledge, reporting techniques, and background checks about COVID-19.

1. Journalists and South Sudan local media have responsibility to amplify in their content that COVID-19 is still a pandemic and that the Ministry of Health still advises the public to observe COVID-19 protective guidelines.

1. Journalists should be mindful of the content they produce to avoid spreading misinformation and conspiracy theories deliberately created by some people to mislead the public.

### Key links and resources

- The public should note that it is still possible to get COVID-19 and spread it to others after being vaccinated. So, the WHO advises all people to keep themselves and others healthy. See the link <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice>
- WHO interim statement on COVID-19 vaccination for children and adolescents, 24 November 2021. Link <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-11-2021-interim-statement-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-children-and-adolescents>

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.

USAID-BHA Rooted in Trust 2.0 South Sudan. If you want to contribute to or provide feedback on this Lugara Media Factsheet or have information to share, please contact:

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