Rumor heard from Juba, South Sudan.

Lugara Media Factsheet

About This Lugara Factsheet
This Media Factsheet is a periodic response to rumors and concerns about COVID-19 and Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), 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.

South Sudan
NOVEMBER, 2022

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

WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

Rumor #1
COVID-19 vaccines

‘Can COVID-19 Vaccines cause chronic lung diseases?’

Rumor heard from Juba, South Sudan.

Fact File

‘There is no known evidence that any of the COVID-19 vaccines are associated with causing chronic lung disease. In fact, COVID-19 vaccines provide effective protection against moderate and severe illnesses as well as reduce the risk of dying from coronavirus infection. Given that COVID-19 disease is principally a lung-related condition, being vaccinated against the infection is particularly useful to prevent chronic respiratory problems. Therefore, in summary, the rumor that COVID-19 vaccines may cause chronic lung disease is unfounded,’ said Dr. Brendan Dineen, WHO COVAX Coordinator, Republic of South Sudan.

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: Tusiime Wilfred Romeo (Akiiki) (atusiime@internews.org) or Dr. Michael Gubay, (mgubay@internews.org)

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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 and Ebola Virus Disease preparedness and response in the country.
WHAT PEOPLE SAY?

"What is Ebola? I think people changed the coronavirus’s name to Ebola”

An excerpt from a report on the Ebola outbreak in South Sudan, noting the ongoing outbreak in Uganda as of November 2022. The report highlights the number of confirmed cases and deaths, and discusses the virus's transmission and symptoms. It also mentions the suspension of school visitations by the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Education.

Fact File

Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness affecting humans and other primates. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals (such as fruit bats, porcupines and non-human primates) and then spreads in the human population through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids.

Rumor #3

"Some South Sudanese say they are worried about their children studying in Bweyale Refugee Camp in Uganda because they heard Ebola kills and blinds people in Uganda"
**Rumor #4**

**Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

**WHAT PEOPLE SAY?**

“People think Ebola is not as serious as coronavirus because they can do their normal businesses without lockdown”

A rumor heard from people at Hai Referendum and Juba Town residential areas in Juba City, Central Equatoria State.

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**Fact File**

“While both diseases are extremely serious there is a much higher case fatality rate for EVD once affected. Also, there is currently no EVD in South Sudan. In Uganda, the epicenter of the outbreak is locked down,” said Dr. Brendan Dineen, WHO COVAX Coordinator, Republic of South Sudan.

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**Tips for Journalists**

South Sudan Journalists are recommended to take note of the following to improve their knowledge, reporting techniques, and background checks about COVID-19, EVD, and related reporting.

- Journalists should understand the basics of the disease, and the background of the situation and have well-researched information. They must also update their contact list of experts knowledgeable about the situation; and be allies with other journalists and medical responders.
- Triangulate and verify, fact-check all information before compiling stories. Note that you communicate numbers or data sensitively and accurately. Numbers tell a story. Put the story out there as soon as all facts are established. Timely and accurate information is lifesaving.
- Always do not report out of context. Attribute accurately for trust-building.
- South Sudan journalists are highly recommended to study this short online course on how to report on zoonotic diseases and their origins. For instance, COVID-19, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), Monkeypox, etc. Link: [https://earthjournalism.net/video-highlight/journalism-in-the-covid-19-era-why-health-reporting-must-focus-on-human-animal-and](https://earthjournalism.net/video-highlight/journalism-in-the-covid-19-era-why-health-reporting-must-focus-on-human-animal-and)

**Key links and resources**

- Frequently asked questions and answers about Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), link: Ebola virus disease ([who.int](http://who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/))
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:

Mapuor Malual Manguen (mmanguen@internews.org),
Tusiime Wilfred Romeo (atusiime@internews.org)
or Dr. Michael Gubay, (mgubay@internews.org)

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