Rumor Trends in 2022
Internews RiT 2.0
South Sudan
The Most Persistent Rumors

“COVID-19 Vaccines cause infertility in women”

“COVID-19 is a hoax and Government/NGO Business”

“The hotline 6666 is the devil’s number”
The Rumors That Did Go Away

“Ingesting herbal concoctions could cure COVID-19.”

“Facemasks from China are infected with Corona Virus.”

“Corona Virus can not survive in hot places.”
The Most Dangerous Rumor

Some religious leaders have been saying that COVID-19 vaccines have microchips embedded in them which will be used by the world order to alter human thinking.
"In this church, we do not believe in vaccine especially the COVID-19 vaccine. Today, people are being injected with microchips. We believe that it may be another way the devil is tricking us to receive the mark of the beast."

15/1/2023 | YouTube | 27,343 views | English
The Most Dangerous Rumor

“My message to the government and the whole world is that people should stop taking vaccines into their bodies because the vaccine will never leave them it is going to destroy them.”

Pastor Geri Samuel Geri of the House of Prayer for All Nation Church, Juba
09/14/2022 - City Review- Newspaper Article - English
The Weirdest Rumor

“COVID-19 vaccines lead to women giving birth to light-skinned babies.”

“They inject pregnant women that change the mentality of the baby in the womb to behave like a boy if she is a girl and if he is a boy to behave like a girl. The vaccine changes the hormones of the children.”

“COVID-19 vaccines are an indirect mandatory family planning or a method of reducing the high rate of reproduction.”
"The measles outbreak is due to flooding."

"Children are having diarrhea because of too much chlorine in the drinking water."

"Travelers are complaining about the Ebola measures at the border between Uganda and South Sudan."
Recommendations

- Ensure engagement of religious/community leaders from the initial stages of emergency/epidemic preparedness, planning and throughout response activities
- Importance of messaging and product development through testimonials, witness accounts and personal stories to improve risk perception while addressing message fatigue
- Mainstreaming Rumor tracking and management among health and humanitarian partners
- Capacity building of the national and state RCCE structures to take the leadership of rumor tracking and management, sharing feedbacks for partners and guide messaging/product development