# MABAN COUNTY COVID 19 RESPONSE
# MABAN RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
# RUMOUR TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
# COVID-19 MABAN RUMOR TRACKING OVERVIEW DATED 8th AUGUST 2020

Maban County Health Department

**Introduction**

This document contains rumor (s) that are collected from the Maban community (both refugees and host community) with feedback from the community included as well. The aim is to provide a coordinated feedback to the community

**Methodology:** Information is collected by partners in the working Group through informal and formal discussions with the communities. The information is completed using a semi structured tool

## PREVENTION & CURE

**Rumour Brief (1):** Drinking coffee and lemon on a daily basis would prevent someone from contracting the virus. *(Batil: camp: Women: 18-29 years (young adults): Through Informal meeting)*

**Rumour Brief (2):** Consumption of *soda ash* helps in prevention of Covid 19. *(Batil Camp: Community outreach worker: Through Informal meeting)*

**Rumour Brief (3):** That the treatment or cure for the COVID-19 is local herb known as *garrad* in Arabic *(Batil camp 60+ years (Elderly); informal meeting)*

**Rumour Brief (4):** *lalov tree leaves*, when chewed prevents one from contracting the virus. *(Batil camp: 60+ years (Elderly); informal meetings)*

**Rumour Brief (5)***Tamaric tree fruit*, when consumed by someone prevents from contracting the disease. *(Batil:30-59 years (adults) informal meetings.)*

**FACT: There are no medicines that can prevent or treat COVID-19**

To date, there is no specific medicine identified prevent or treat the new coronavirus. However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and manage symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials. WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.

**FACT: Eating garlic (and those mentioned here) does NOT prevent COVID-19;** Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus. Source WHO

*https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters*

The Maban COVID-19 rumour tracking and management sub-committee is led by Internews and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). For further information, please contact Philip Lukudu: jlukudu@internews.org and Regina Muchai: regina.muchai@drc.ngo

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

**Rumour Brief (6):** lack of smell and taste are the signs/symptoms of COVID 19. *(Host community: 30-59 years (adults); Community leaders)*

**Rumour Brief (7):** High body temperatures indicates that one has the covid 19 virus. *(Doro camp: Youth (18-29yrs): Through informal meeting)*

**FACT: COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.**

**Most common symptoms:** fever, dry cough, runny nose, tiredness.

**Less common symptoms:** Aches and pains, sore throat, diarrhea, conjunctivitis, headache, loss of taste or smell, a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes.

**Serious symptoms:** difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, loss of speech or movement. Source WHO

## MYTHS

**Rumour Brief (8):** Covid 19 was created by humans and deliberately released into the world for political reason (business related) *Doro camp: Youth (18-29yrs): Through informal meeting*

**Rumour Brief (9):** Muslim followers are praying and asking Allah on a daily basis to forgive and protect them from being infected.: *Batil: Youth 18 – 29 informal meetings*

**Rumour Brief (10):** Covid 19 is not there because schools are going to open in August: *Kaya: Women: 60+ years (Elderly), 30-59 years (adults), 18-29 years (young adults)*; *Women: formal meeting*

## STIGMA

**Rumour Brief (11):** Covid-19 is only in the cities. *Kaya; Women; 30-59 years (adults),*

**Rumour Brief (12): NGOs staffs are they one carrying or bringing the virus to the camps**: *kaya youth 30-59 years (adults): Informal meeting*

**FACT: Covid 19 is NOT a manipulated disease:** All available evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural animal origin and is not a manipulated or constructed virus. SARSCoV-2 virus most probably has its ecological reservoir in bats. **Source WHO**

https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/332197/WHO-2019-nCoV-FAQ-Virus_origin-2020.1-eng.pdf

**FACT: Prayer does not cure covid19:** but it plays a very big role when human life is disturbed, disrupted and threatened by a novel coronavirus. As a matter of fact, prayer combats racism, discrimination and stigmatization in the midst of this health crisis

**FACT: Social stigma in the context of health is the negative association between a person or group of people who share certain characteristics and a specific disease.** people are labelled, stereotyped, discriminated against, treated separately, and/or experience loss of status because of a perceived link with a disease. COVID-19 outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people of certain ethnic backgrounds.

https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/a-guide-to-preventing-and-addressing-social-stigma-associated-with covid19?gclid=Cj0KCQjwvb75BRD1ARIsAP6LcqvksCnmmQY38JFJZNTqz6jrrSH7EV6Fo6VMJyn8nli9JhmUFOFZfd4aAh64EALw_wcB

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