



Coronaviruses & Bats Scenario

Reinforcing Non-Proliferation Norms in the Disinformation Age



Bio-Safety & Bio-Security Centre
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BATS AND CORONAVIRUSES

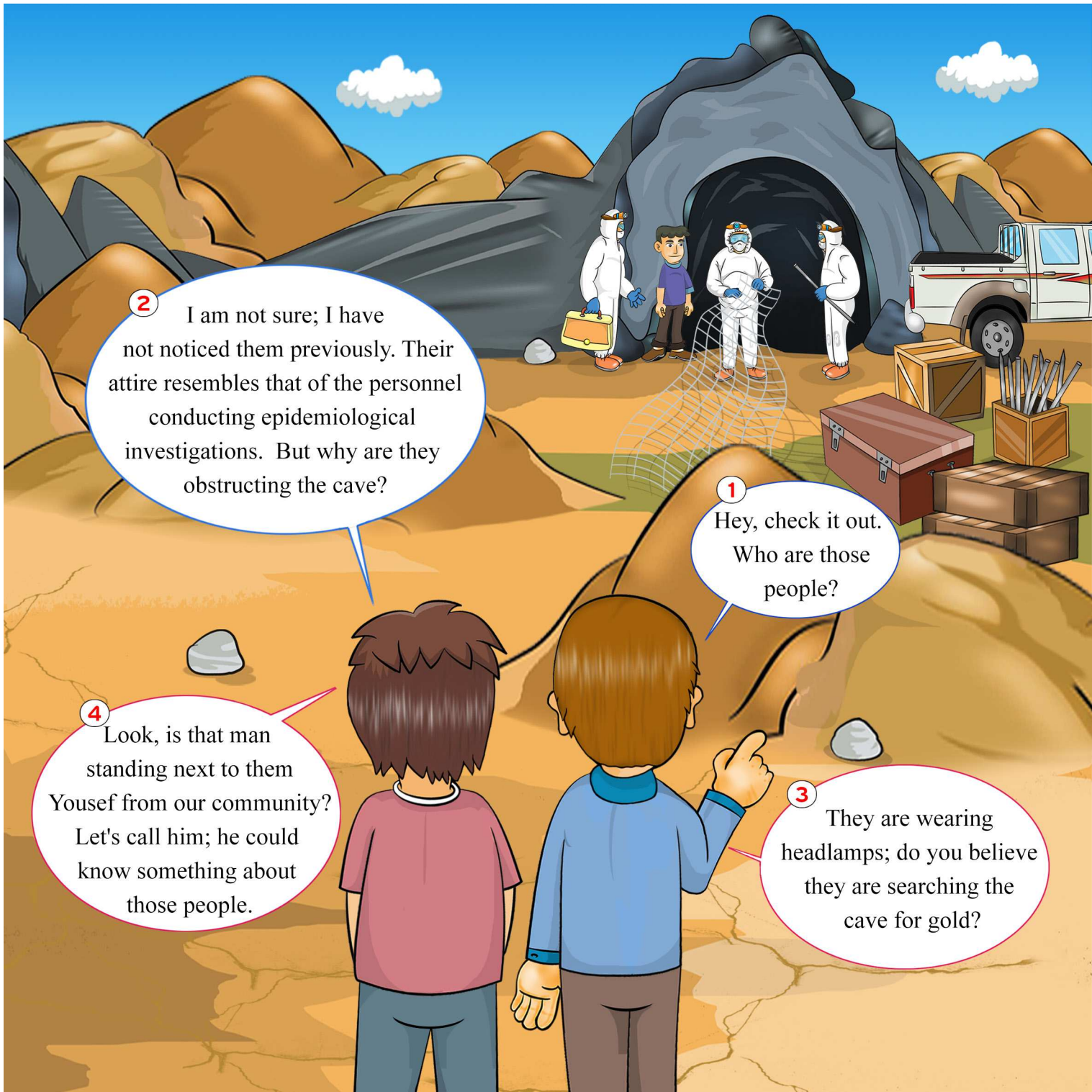
Introduction

The scenario takes place in a rural area while a group of researchers in full Personal Protective Equipment “PPE” stands in front of a cave. Those researchers are working on an international research project to study the zoonotic diseases in bats. At the same time, two villagers are passing by on foot and notice the squad. They begin exchanging theories about what is happening. A local man was standing with the researchers as a companion. The villagers are calling him to inquire about the researchers' activities. Then, the local man suggests to them to speak with the lead researcher to explain their study to them.

This work is prepared to raise the awareness of nonproliferation norms in disinformation age. During and after COVID-19 pandemic, some people started claiming that scientists in given countries are using their research to build biological weapons or to use animals as a route to transmit zoonotic and infectious diseases to hostile countries.

This scenario was written and edited by senior researchers from the Bio-Safety and Bio-Security Centre at Royal Scientific Society “RSS” (Amman-Jordan). This work is funded by the Health Security Partners “HSP” (USA) through a challenge grant “**Reinforcing Non-Proliferation Norms in the Disinformation Age**”.





2 I am not sure; I have not noticed them previously. Their attire resembles that of the personnel conducting epidemiological investigations. But why are they obstructing the cave?

1 Hey, check it out. Who are those people?

4 Look, is that man standing next to them Yousef from our community? Let's call him; he could know something about those people.

3 They are wearing headlamps; do you believe they are searching the cave for gold?

3

As we were exploring, we noticed you and those individuals standing in front of the cave. Do you intend to find gold?

1

Good day, Yousef what's up?

2

I am good. What are you doing here?

4

Oh no, those are researchers from the city, they're on the hunt for bats.

5

Bats!





2 You're right; I've also heard that some people collect bat nests and then sell them for a high price.

1 Aha, I've heard that people are catching bats and using their blood to heal some skin conditions and baldness.

3 That is incorrect, and such rumors are completely false.

4 They catch the bats and take samples from them to detect diseases.

5 Do you want me to speak with their manager so he can explain to you?

6 That sounds interesting, for sure.



1
Hello there, Yousef informed me that you want to learn more about our work.

2
Why do you collect bats, exactly?

3
We capture them to study any zoonotic diseases they might transmit.

4
Zoonotic diseases! What do you mean?

5
Diseases that could be transmitted from animals to humans. Many of these diseases are harbored in bats.

2 That's precisely what I heard. I also learned from the news that those viruses could be utilized to attack neighboring nations as biological weapons.

1 Hold on a second, I just read an article on social media about a team of experts from several countries collecting dangerous viruses from bats.

3 Men! You shouldn't believe everything you read or hear in the news or on social media

4 Okay, so what is the plot?

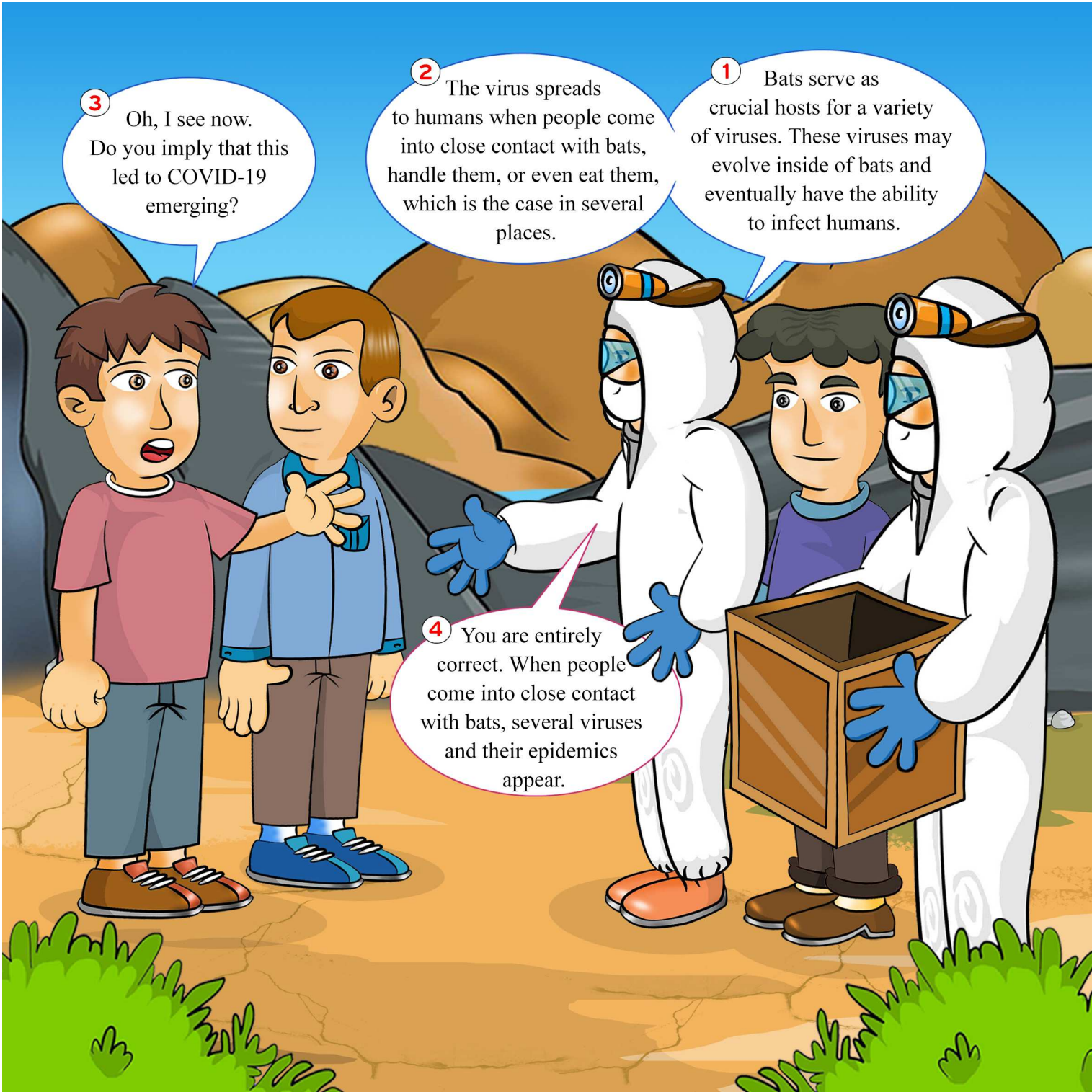


3 Oh, I see now.
Do you imply that this
led to COVID-19
emerging?

2 The virus spreads
to humans when people come
into close contact with bats,
handle them, or even eat them,
which is the case in several
places.

1 Bats serve as
crucial hosts for a variety
of viruses. These viruses may
evolve inside of bats and
eventually have the ability
to infect humans.

4 You are entirely
correct. When people
come into close contact
with bats, several viruses
and their epidemics
appear.





2 That's another false myth.

3 Do you assert that it is unlikely to occur?

1 However, I've heard that COVID-19 came from a lab. Where a few researchers change the genes.

4 No, I admit that this may have happened. This is not the case with COVID-19, though.

5 Coronaviruses can naturally evolve over time, particularly when they are under stress from outside causes like human activity.

6 I want to thank you, professor for the valuable information.

2 Bats are peaceful creatures that are crucial to maintaining ecological balance.

1 I become scared from bats, I will never go inside a cave.

3 When accessing caves or ancient structures, we should use caution when getting close to them. We also need to protect them and keep them from being disturbed.

4 Okay, I will listen to your advice.

5 Yes, and we'll share the real tale with our pals.

6 Thank you, everyone, and keep in mind that we are here to assist in early disease discovery so that we can prepare for potential future pandemics.



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