



*Partnership for Evidence-based
Response to COVID-19 (PERC)*

Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Finding the Balance

Vaccine Confidence

Data updated 26 February 2021



PERC Overview

The **Partnership for Evidence-Based Response to COVID-19** (PERC) is a public-private partnership that supports evidence-based measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on African Union Member States.

PERC collects **social, economic, epidemiological, population movement, and security data** from 19 African Union Member States to help determine the acceptability, impact and effectiveness of public health and social measures for COVID-19.

This presentation focuses on findings from a telephone survey of more than 24,000 people conducted in February 2021. It is the third survey and analysis conducted since the pandemic began.



Table of Contents

I. Regional Vaccine Findings

II. Vaccine Hesitancy by Country

I. Eastern Region (Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya)

II. Western Region (Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria)

III. Northern and Central Regions (Morocco, DRC, Tunisia, Cameroon, Egypt)

IV. Southern Region (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia)

III. Call to Action

Regional Vaccine Findings

Understanding vaccine hesitancy in context

At the time of the survey, **only 7 of the 19 surveyed Member States had begun administering COVID-19 vaccines**, with distribution limited to health care workers.

- A majority of those surveyed were responding to a hypothetical situation of a vaccine being approved and available, as opposed to the realities of their situation.

The **findings from the February 2021 survey on vaccine hesitancy are a valuable snapshot in time** but should be interpreted as such – a glimpse into opinions at a certain time and place and circumstance.

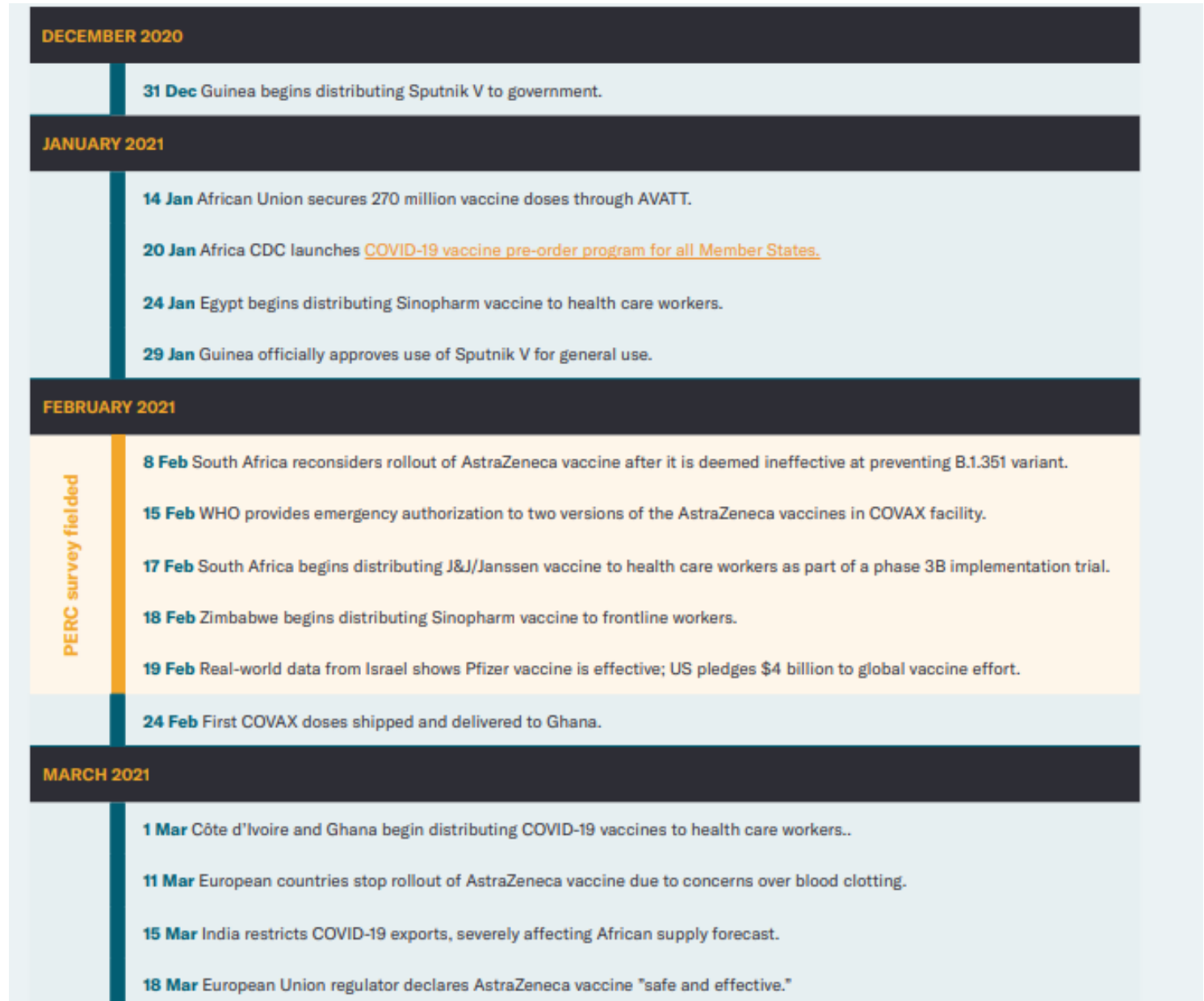
Vaccine confidence is highly dependent on context - local histories; local COVID-19 experiences and perceptions of risk; culture; and current events as well as availability of vaccines themselves and the information (both true and false) distributed about them.

When interpreting vaccine hesitancy data, **it is critical to understand that several factors dynamically influence confidence in vaccine uptake** at the individual, community and national levels.

Timeline of Vaccine Efforts Leading up to PERC Survey 3

Limited vaccine supply continues to be the greatest challenge to rollout in Africa. The continent relies upon other countries and mechanisms to secure vaccine due to limited manufacturing infrastructure, meaning access to vaccines will be slow—months and even years away in some Member States.

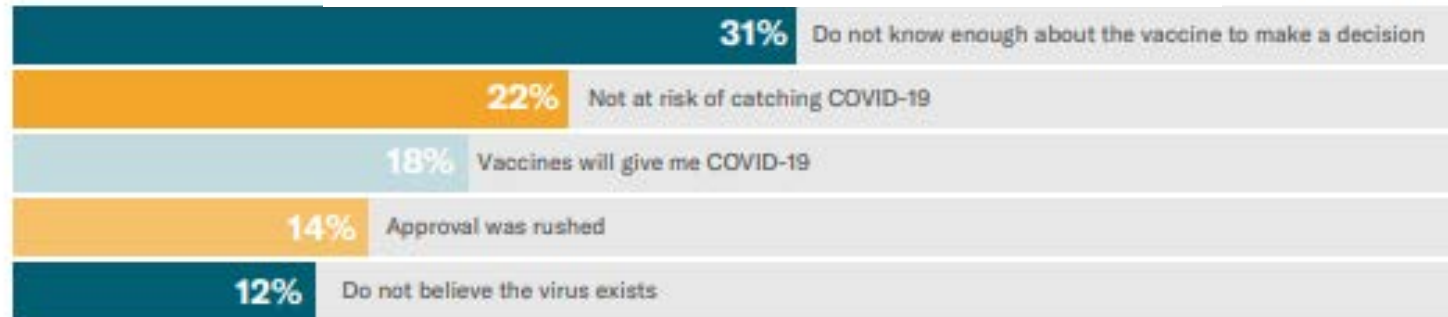
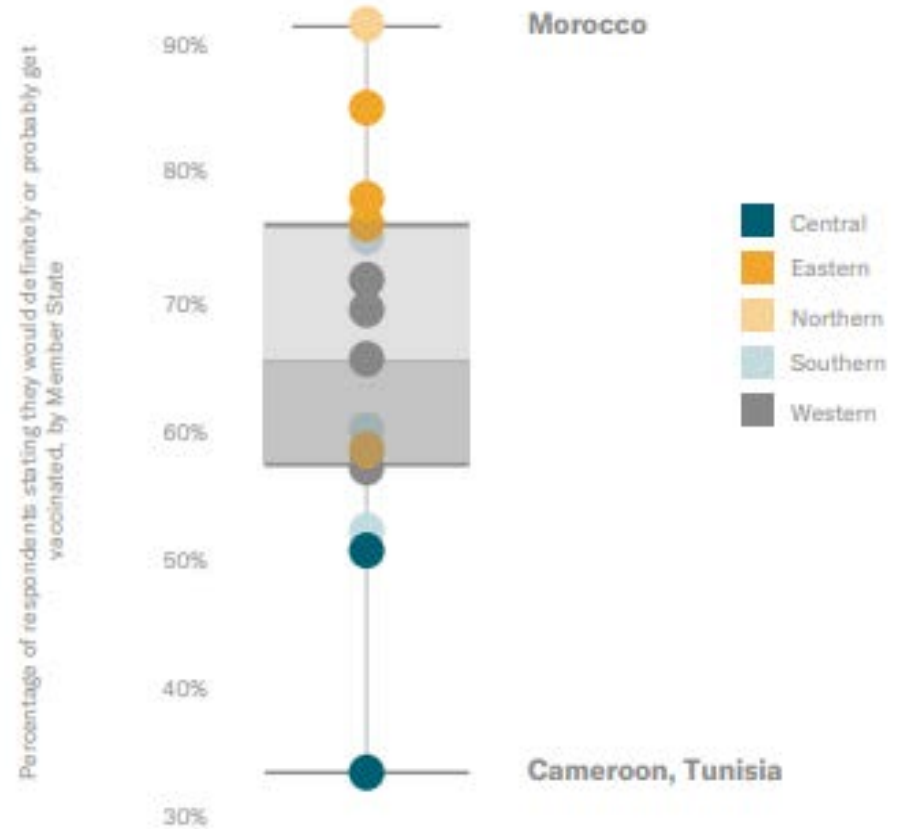
*For more updated vaccine information:
<https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination/>



Vaccine Hesitancy

Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine is **high in most surveyed regions**. Overall, 67% of respondents said they would definitely or probably get a vaccine when available.

Vaccine hesitancy in February 2021 seemed to be driven largely by a lack of information.



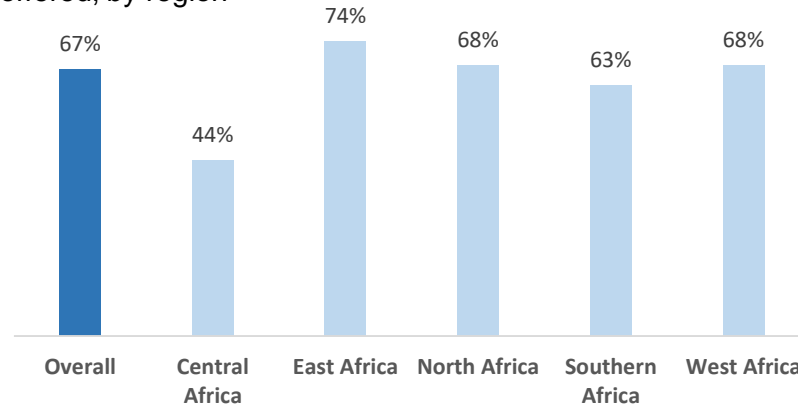
Percentage of respondents citing a reason for not intending to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccine Hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy in February 2021 varied widely between surveyed Member States.

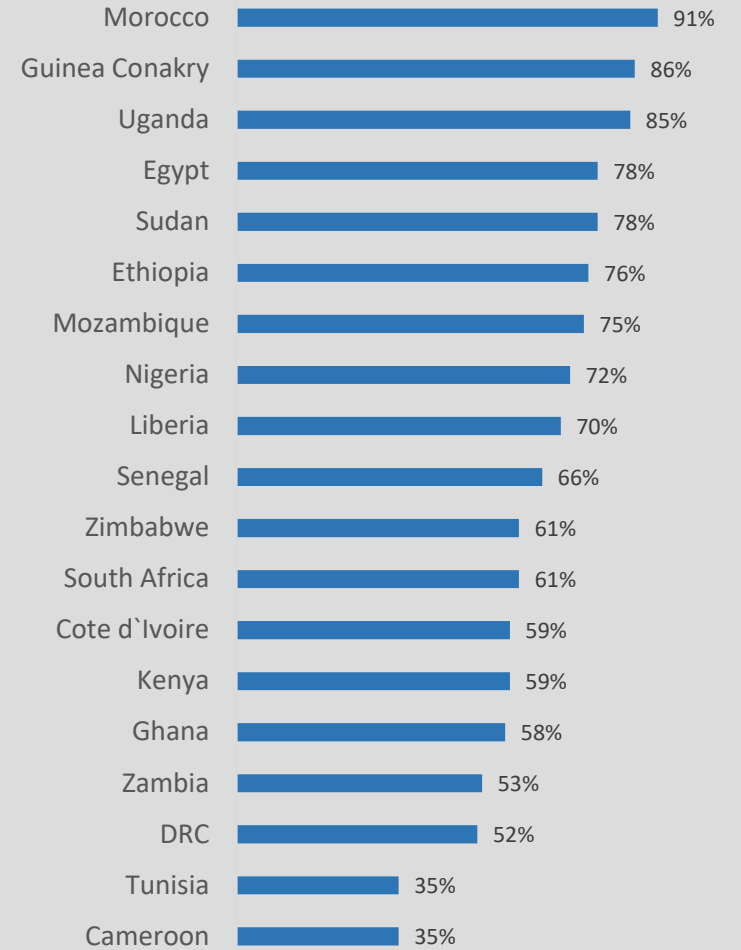
COVID-19 risk perception and satisfaction with the government's COVID-19 response were important elements influencing intent to get vaccinated.

Percentage of respondents saying they would definitely or probably get an approved COVID-19 vaccine if available and offered, by region



**Note that the only countries surveyed in Central Africa were DRC and Cameroon, so the results are likely not representative of the entire region.*

Percentage of respondents saying they would definitely or probably get an approved COVID-19 vaccine if available and offered, by country



Vaccine Hesitancy by Country

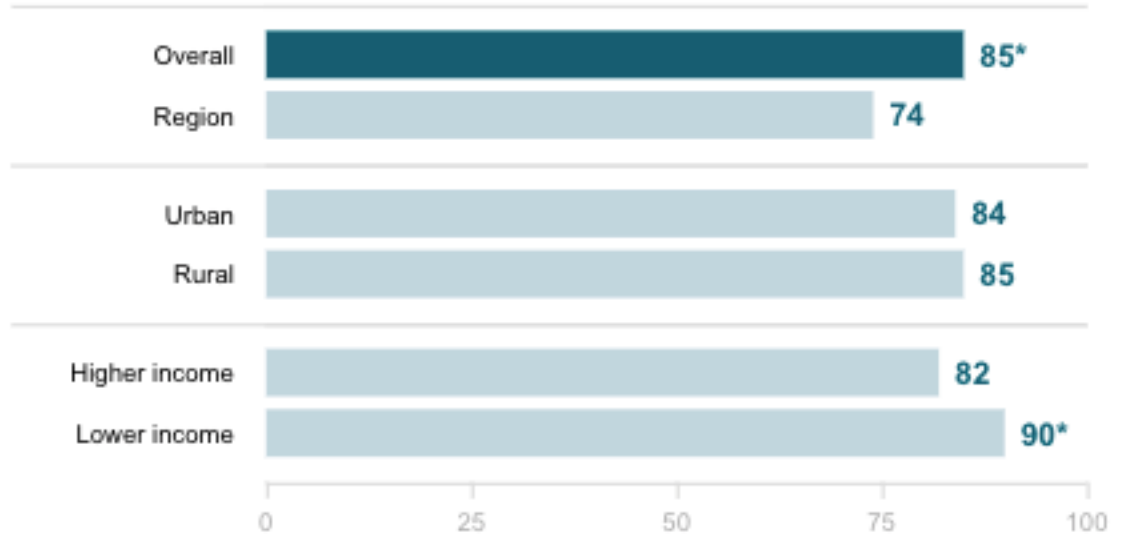
What did people in Uganda think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The survey in Uganda showed the highest rates of acceptance toward the COVID-19 vaccine within the Eastern Region (85% versus 74% regionally), an encouraging sign for the ongoing vaccine distribution campaign.

Data Breakdown:

- Lower-educated (86% without a degree versus 72% of those with one) and lower-income respondents (90% versus 82% higher-income) were more likely to plan to be vaccinated.

85% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	31%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	22%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	20%

Only 14% of survey respondents reported that they would probably or definitely not get vaccinated, so reasons for low uptake should be interpreted with caution.

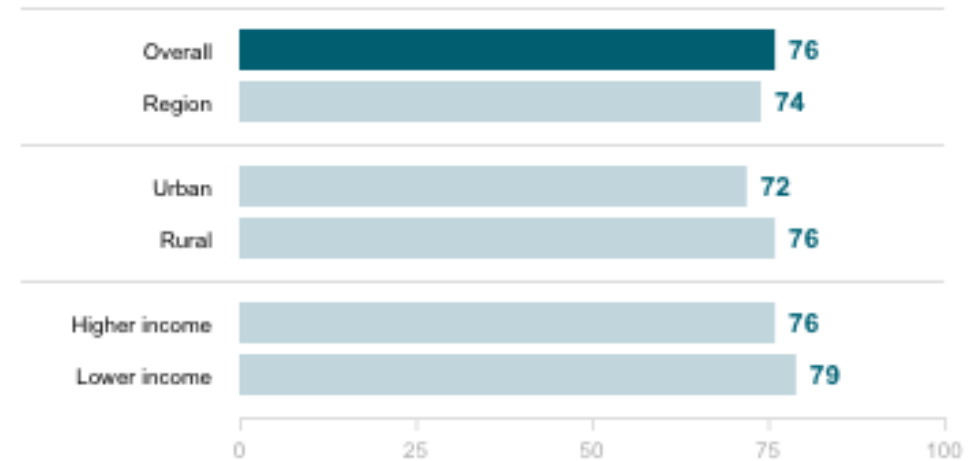
What did people in Ethiopia think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

More than three-fourths of respondents reported that they plan to get vaccinated. This is in line with the Eastern Region average

Data Breakdown:

- Among those who did not plan to get vaccinated, hesitancy appeared to be related to a lack of information about the vaccine and fear of the approval process—which could potentially be remedied with information from trusted sources.

76% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	28%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	21%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	21%

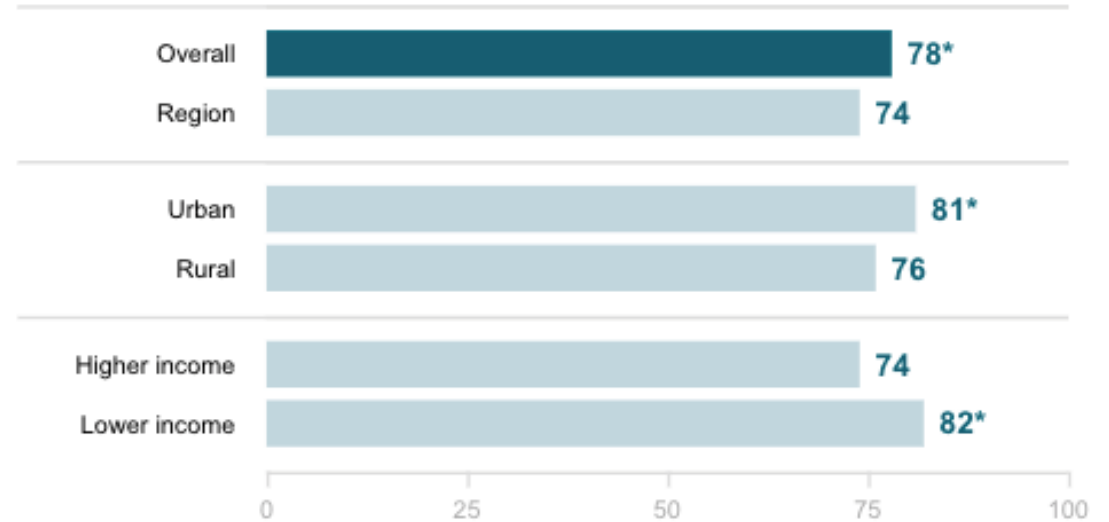
What did people in Sudan think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

A large majority of respondents from Sudan (78%) reported planning to get a vaccine when one becomes available. On 3 March, Sudan received its first delivery of 828,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from the COVAX facility.

Data Breakdown:

- Urban and lower-income respondents reported greater interest in vaccination compared to rural and higher-income respondents.
- Younger respondents were also more likely to express interest, but the sample size of respondents over 56 was too small to draw a comparison.

78% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	16%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	14%
I do not trust vaccines/health authorities	13%

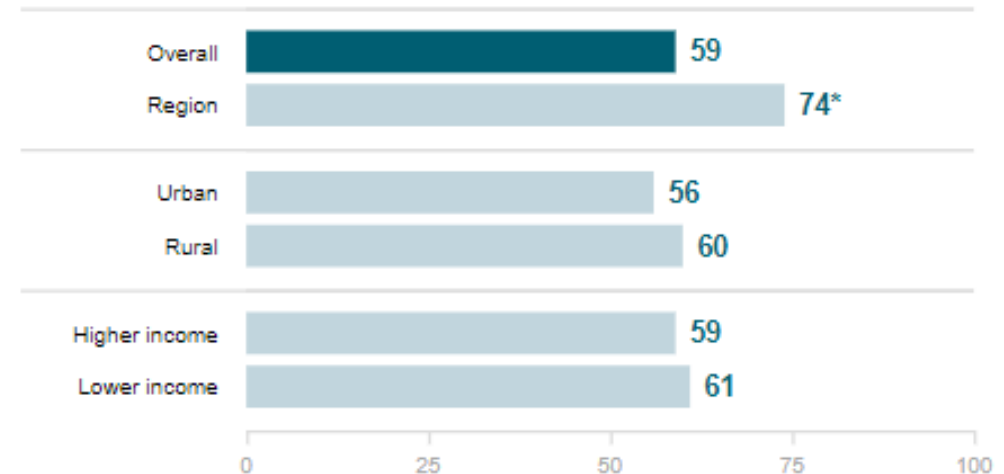
What did people in Kenya think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The survey showed significant vaccine hesitancy in Kenya, a major concern as the government begins to roll out its vaccination campaign.

Data Breakdown:

- Vaccine intentions were similar across socio-demographic groups, but people with high-risk perceptions or longstanding illnesses were more likely to say they would get vaccinated (71% and 66%, respectively).
- Skepticism around vaccines has been a major narrative in Kenyan social media since mid-2020. Social media discussion of the government's vaccination plan was largely negative, with concerns about the government's ability to manage vaccine distribution transparently and efficiently.

59% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	41%
I do not believe that the virus exists	22%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	15%

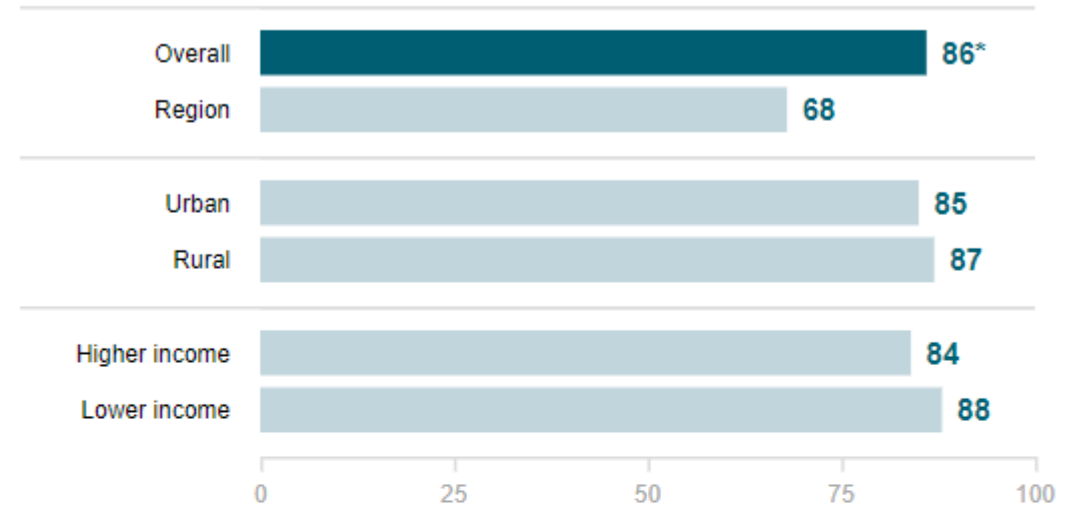
What did people in Guinea think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

Vaccine uptake intentions were high in Guinea across all socio-demographic groups, with 86% of survey respondents saying they planned to get a vaccine when available.

Data Breakdown:

- Among people who said they would not get vaccinated, the most commonly cited reason was low risk of infection.
- The procurement of an initial 55 doses of Sputnik V vaccine in December, and the televised vaccination of public leaders, received high positive coverage in traditional news media outlets. Discussion on social media was also predominantly positive, although some users criticized the public vaccinations as self-interested.

86% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	38%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	16%
I do not trust vaccines/health authorities	14%

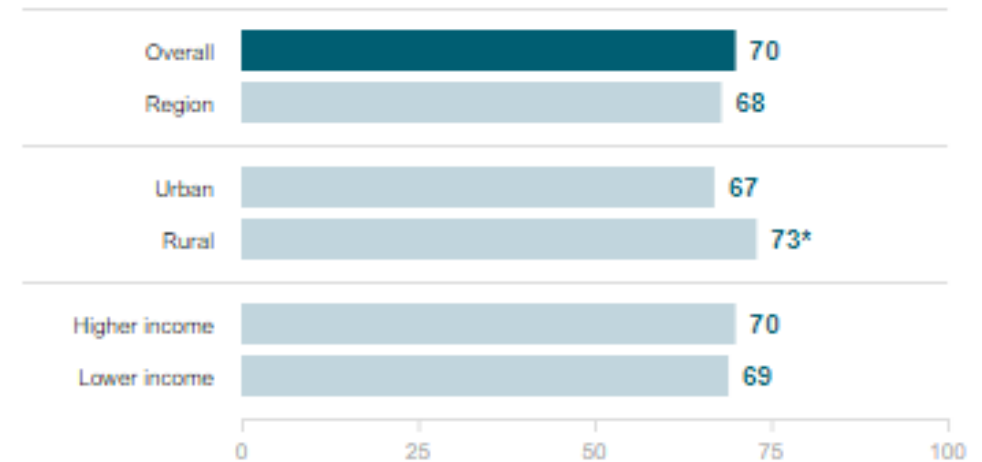
What did people in Liberia think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The majority of respondents in Liberia would definitely or probably get a COVID-19 vaccine (70%), on par with regional findings (68%).

Data Breakdown:

- Among respondents who did not plan to get vaccinated, about one in three (34%) stated they needed more information.
- In line with the low reported personal risk perception, about one in four respondents said they did not need the vaccine because they were not at risk of catching COVID-19.

70% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	34%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	26%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	17%

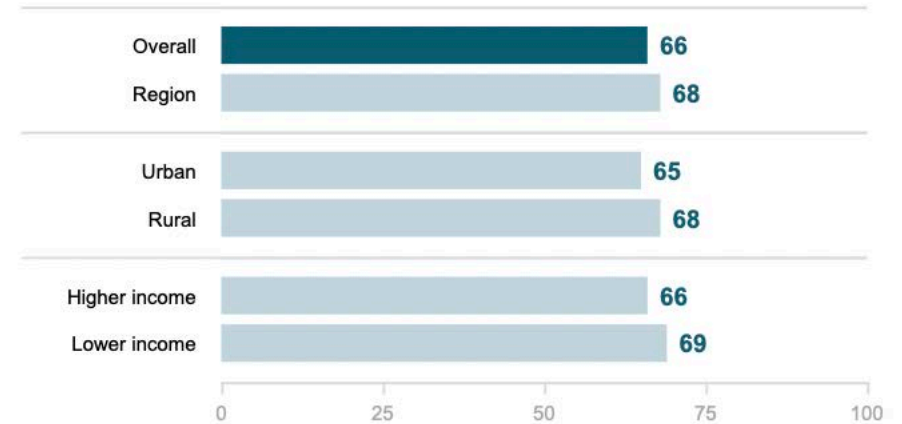
What did people in Senegal think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

Approximately 65% of respondents stated they would likely receive the COVID-19 vaccine, comparable to the regional average.

Data Breakdown:

- Vaccine acceptance was higher among those satisfied with the government's COVID-19 response (73%) than those who were dissatisfied (53%).
- Among those who do not plan to get vaccinated, the most frequent reason was a lack of information, which could potentially be remedied with better information from trusted sources.

66% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	51%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	20%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	17%

What did people in Cote d'Ivoire think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

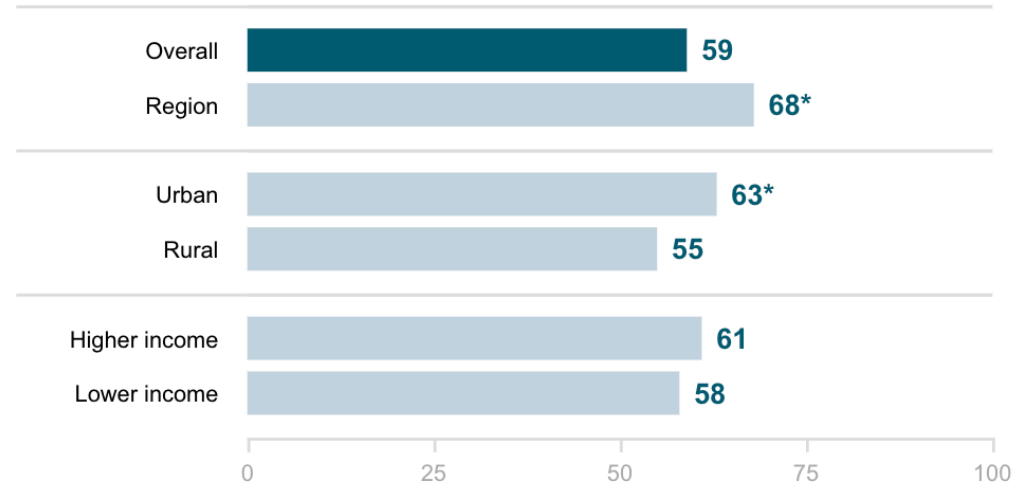
Approximately 60% of respondents stated they would likely receive the COVID-19 vaccine, significantly lower than the regional average.

Data Breakdown:

- Those who were more satisfied with the government's response to COVID-19 as well as those who trusted the President and the Ministry of Health were more likely to opt for vaccination.
- Of the 36% who stated they were unlikely to get vaccinated (5% reported they did not know), four in 10 reported feeling they were not at risk of catching the virus—with higher rates in lower-income respondents (41% versus 29% in higher-income respondents).



59% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	40%
I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	24%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	21%

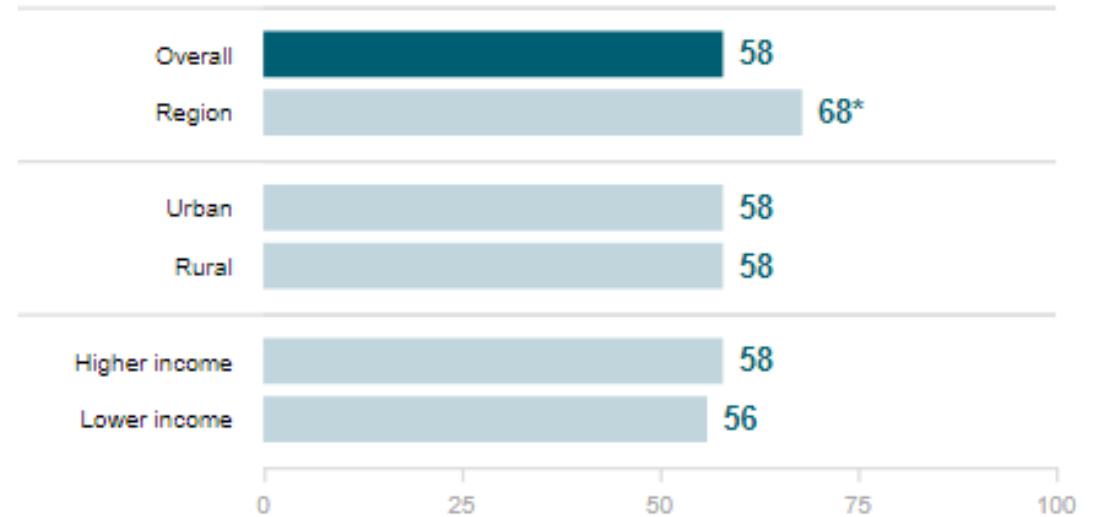
What did people in Ghana think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

More than 50% of respondents planned to get vaccinated; this was 10 percentage points lower than the regional average. Ghana was the first country to receive vaccine doses from WHO's COVAX facility.

Data Breakdown:

- More than half of respondents that did not plan to be vaccinated said they needed additional information before they could decide, suggesting that a concerted community engagement effort could improve vaccine uptake.

58% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	38%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	16%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	15%

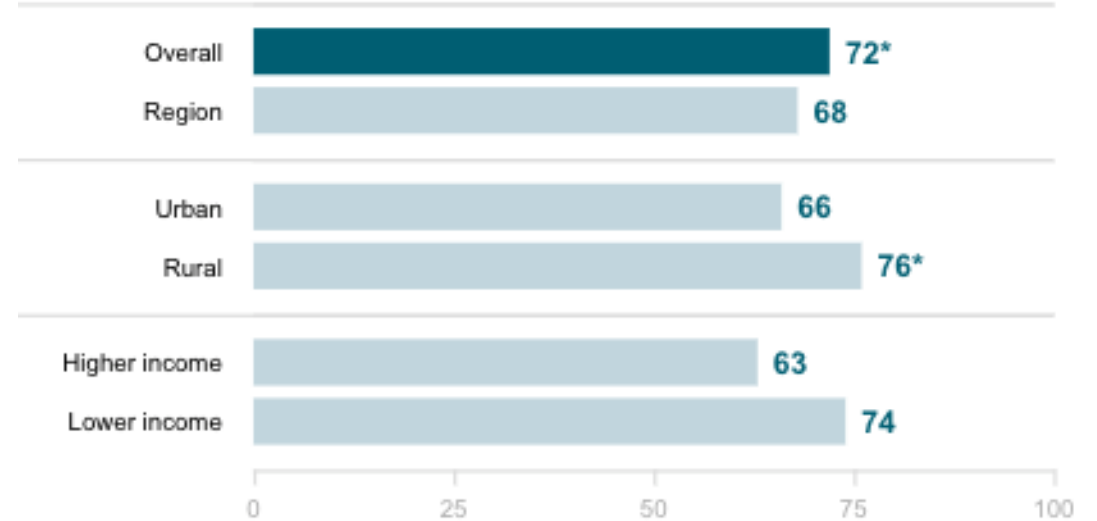
What did people in Nigeria think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

Almost three in four respondents plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, a significantly higher portion than the regional average.

Data Breakdown:

- According to social media, there is a general distrust in national plans to distribute vaccines, in part spurred by misinformation driven by religious beliefs (particularly in Northern Nigeria).
 - Since 70% of survey respondents reported trusting religious institutions, success of vaccine uptake could depend on whether local religious organizations take part in positive vaccine messaging to encourage uptake.

72% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	28%
I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	26%
I do not believe that the virus exists	21%

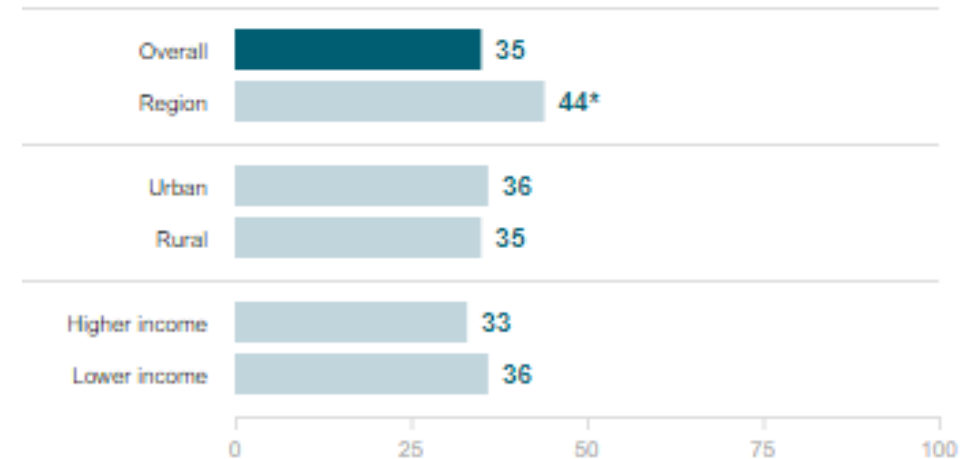
What did people in Cameroon think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The majority of respondents (58%) said they probably or definitely would not get a vaccine if it became available. Cameroon is tied with Tunisia for the lowest vaccine acceptance rate among all surveyed Member States.

Data Breakdown:

- Misinformation is a serious issue: among respondents who did not plan to be vaccinated, one in three believed that the vaccine causes COVID-19, and almost 20% did not believe that COVID-19 was real.

35% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	32%
I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	26%
I do not believe that the virus exists	17%

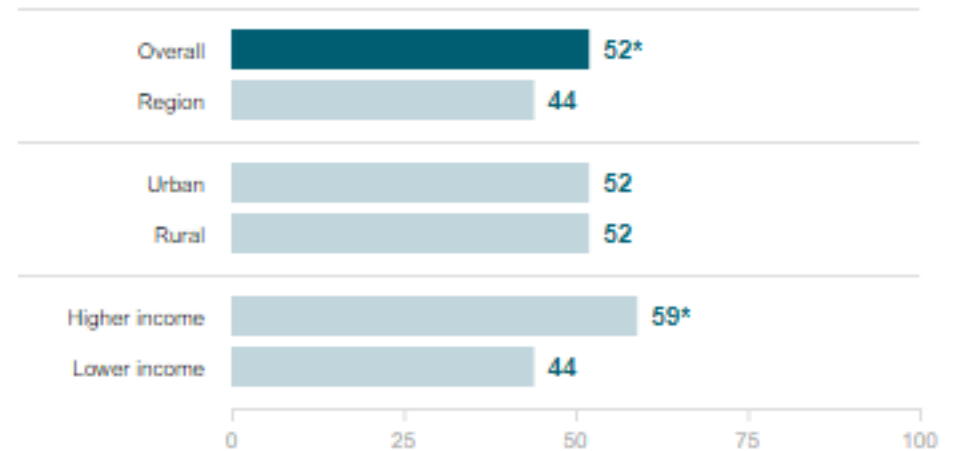
What did people in DRC think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

Half of respondents from DRC (52%) reported interest in getting a COVID-19 vaccine. On 3 March, DRC received its first shipment of 1.7 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through COVAX.

Data Breakdown:

- Low overall risk perceptions appear to be influencing opinions of the vaccine, and were the leading reason given for not wanting to get vaccinated.
- Of those not planning to get the vaccine, a quarter said they needed more information and 20% erroneously believed that the vaccine could give them COVID-19.

52% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	33%
I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	25%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	20%

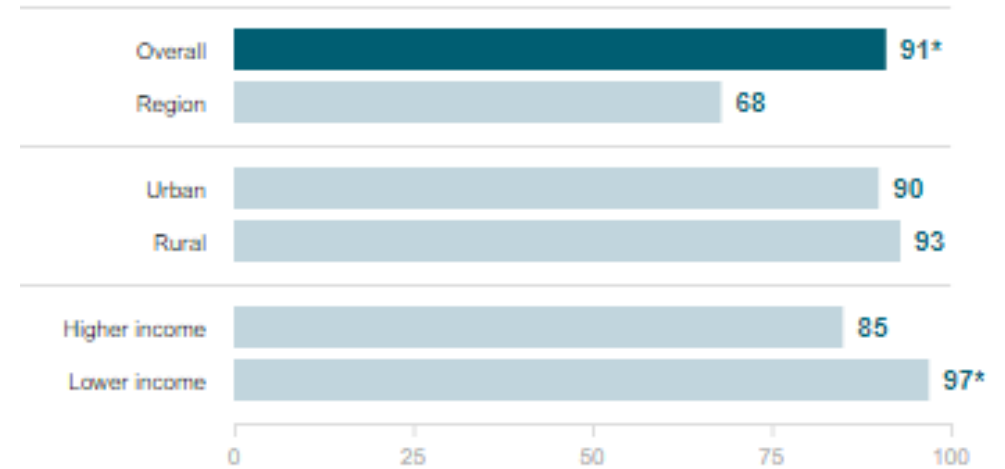
What did people in Morocco think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

More than nine in 10 people said they planned to get vaccinated, compared to 78% in Egypt and 35% in Tunisia. Morocco has the most advanced vaccination campaign on the continent, which has received high coverage in news and social media.

Data Breakdown:

- Lower-income respondents were almost universally willing to be vaccinated (97%).
- While few survey respondents said they were hesitant to get vaccinated, among those who did, low risk perceptions were the dominant reason cited.

91% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	28%
I do not trust vaccines/health authorities	22%
I'm worried about side effects	15%

Only 7% of survey respondents reported that they would probably or definitely not get vaccinated, so reasons for low uptake should be interpreted with caution.

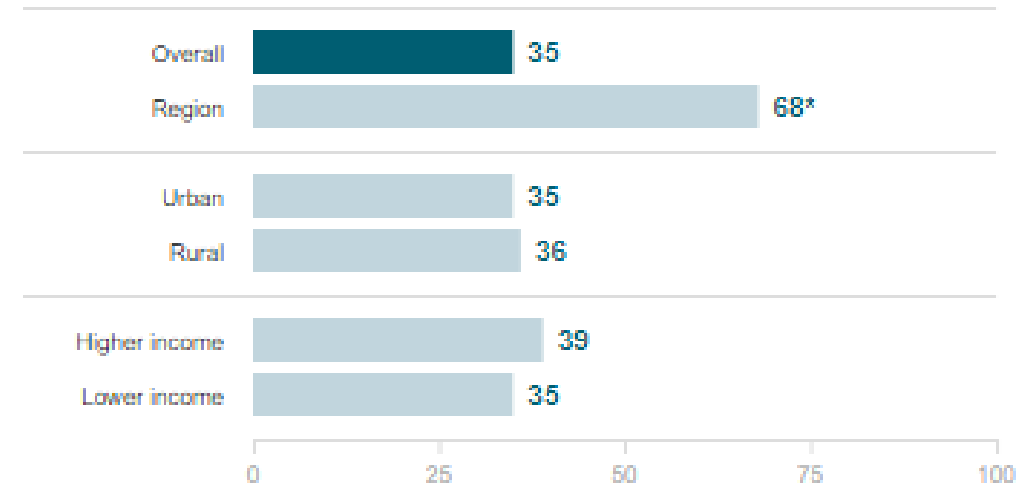
What did people in Tunisia think about vaccines in 2021?

Only one-third of respondents said they would likely take a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available, the lowest among all surveyed Member States.

Data Breakdown:

- Vaccine hesitancy was significantly higher among those aged 45 years old and above compared to those under 45 (66% vs. 55%).
- As expected, respondents who did not plan to get vaccinated had lower risk perception than those who did. One-fifth reported they did not plan to get vaccinated because they do not think they were at risk of catching the virus.

35% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	30%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	20%
I do not trust vaccines/health authorities	15%

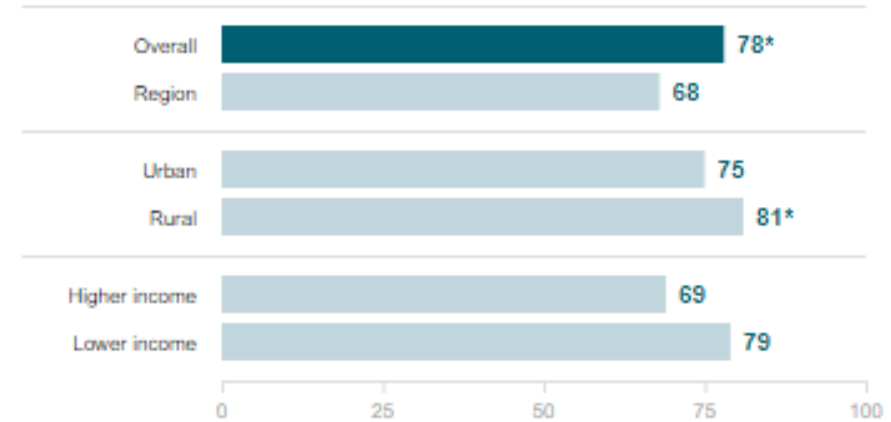
What did people in Egypt think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

More than three in four (78%) respondents reported that they definitely or probably plan to get vaccinated, fewer than in Morocco (91%) and much more than in Tunisia (35%).

Data Breakdown:

- Vaccine confidence was higher among rural households compared to urban.
- Among those who did not plan to get vaccinated, hesitancy appeared to be related to a lack of information about the vaccine and fear of the approval process.

78% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	23%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	14%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	12%

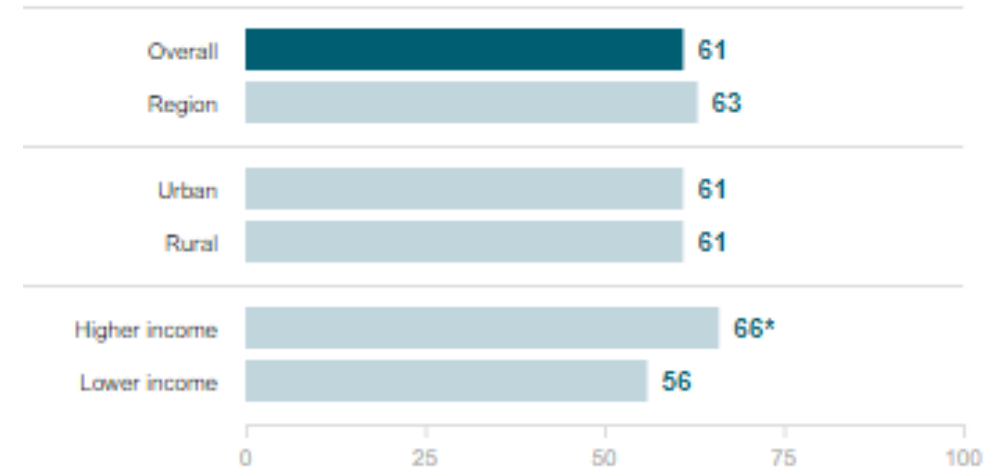
What did people in Zimbabwe think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The majority of respondents in Zimbabwe plan to be vaccinated (61%), on par with the regional average (63%). Among respondents that do not plan to be vaccinated, the most common reason given was a need for additional information.

Data Breakdown:

- Likelihood of getting vaccinated was notably higher among higher-income respondents (66%), those with high COVID-19 risk perception (68%), and those with high government satisfaction (68%).

61% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	35%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	21%
Approval/development for the vaccine may be rushed and not thoroughly tested	17%

What did people in Mozambique think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

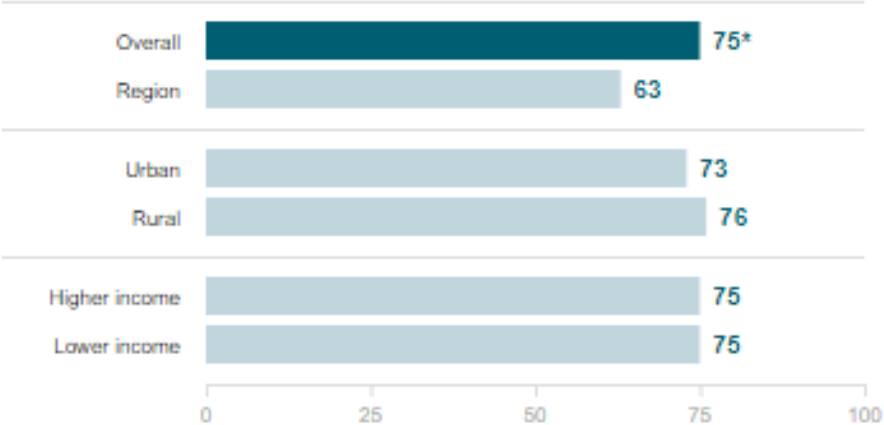
Three in four survey respondents indicated that they would plan to get a vaccine when it was available—with 47% definitely planning to get vaccinated and 28% probably planning to get vaccinated. Reported vaccine acceptance was substantially higher than other surveyed Member States in the Southern Region.

Data Breakdown:

- Rates of vaccine acceptance were similar across socio-demographic groups and levels of risk perception.
- Of those who indicated they were not ready to get vaccinated, almost a third (30%) cited a lack of information as their rationale.



75% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision | 30% |
| I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus | 21% |
| I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against | 20% |
- A list of reasons with corresponding percentages, separated by horizontal lines. The text is in a dark gray font.

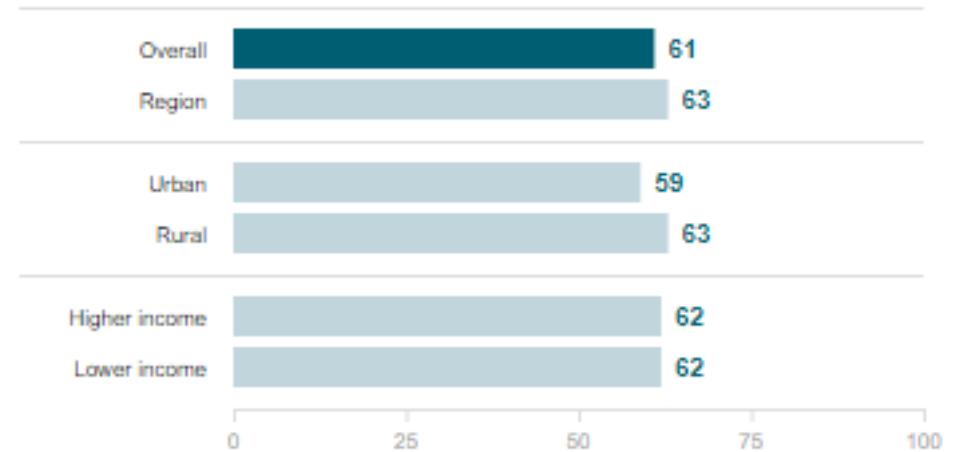
What did people in South Africa think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

The majority of respondents in South Africa plan to be vaccinated (61%). On 17 February, South Africa began to distribute the Johnson & Johnson vaccine after suspending rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine due to concerns over its efficacy against the B.1.351 variant.

Data Breakdown:

- Of all respondents not planning to be vaccinated, one in four (25%) reported that they did not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision.
- Almost half of those dissatisfied with the government's COVID-19 response did not plan to get a vaccine (44%).

61% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not believe that the virus exists	27%
I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	25%
I am confident there will be other effective treatments soon	18%

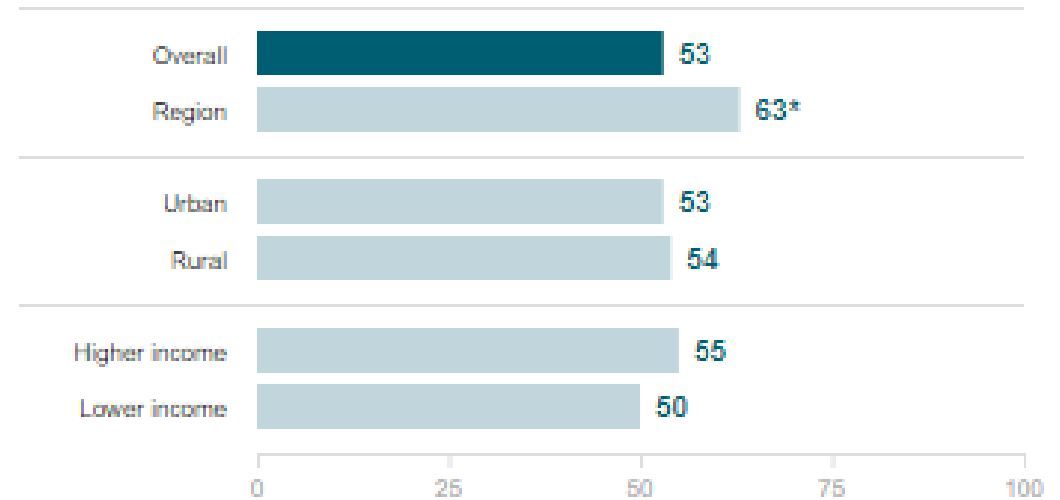
What did people in Zambia think about vaccines in Feb 2021?

Zambia had the lowest overall reported vaccine acceptance in the Southern Region (53%). Among respondents that did not plan to be vaccinated, the most common reason given was a need for more information.

Data Breakdown:

- Misinformation is a significant barrier to vaccine uptake among respondents in Zambia. Nearly one in six believed that the vaccine caused COVID-19.
- Among respondents citing “other” reasons for not getting vaccinated, there was a common belief that the vaccine was lethal and designed to depopulate Africa.

53% plan to get a vaccine when available



Top reasons people would not get the vaccine

Among people who said they would not get the vaccine, their reasons were:

I do not yet know enough about the vaccine to make a decision	38%
I believe vaccines can give you the disease they are designed to protect you against	16%
I do not feel I am at risk of catching the virus	15%

Key Takeaway:

Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine was high across surveyed Member States as of February 2021. Of note, however, is that the survey was fielded at a time when vaccines were largely unavailable for a majority of respondents and generalizations should be made with caution.

Vaccine hesitancy seems to be driven largely by a **lack of information** which may be addressed through **targeted communication leveraging trusted institutions and key individuals in parallel to addressing misinformation.**

Call to Action:

The global community must **deliver vaccines to Member States as soon as possible.**

Meanwhile, Member States **should maintain and strengthen sustained and targeted information campaigns to bolster vaccine confidence** and build trust in the sources of that message.