



What do Kenyans think about the Covid-19 vaccination?

SMS poll to Africa's Voices engaged participants in Kenya
18-21 March 2021

AVF SMS poll in Kenya

On the **18th March 2021**, AVF sent a question to its pool of engaged participants.*

The aim was to get a rapid diagnostic on Kenyan citizens' views and attitudes towards vaccination at the time when Kenya started its vaccine roll out.

SMS 1

Jambo kutoka shirika la Africa's Voices! Hivi majuzi ulisema ungependa kuwasiliana nasi. Leo tuna swali moja tu. Hautatozwa kwa kutuma majibu yako.

Hi from Africa's Voices! You recently said you wanted to be contacted again for future citizen consultations. Today, we have one question. Replies are free!

SMS 2

Wakati Serikali inaendelea kupeana chanjo ya COVID-19 katika maeneo tofauti nchini, tungependa kukuuliza: Je! Una maoni yapi kuhusu hii chanjo ya COVID-19?

As Kenya deploys its first doses of Covid-19 vaccination, we want to ask: What are your thoughts on the Covid-19 vaccination?

4645

participants contacted
via SMS



1696

participants
responded



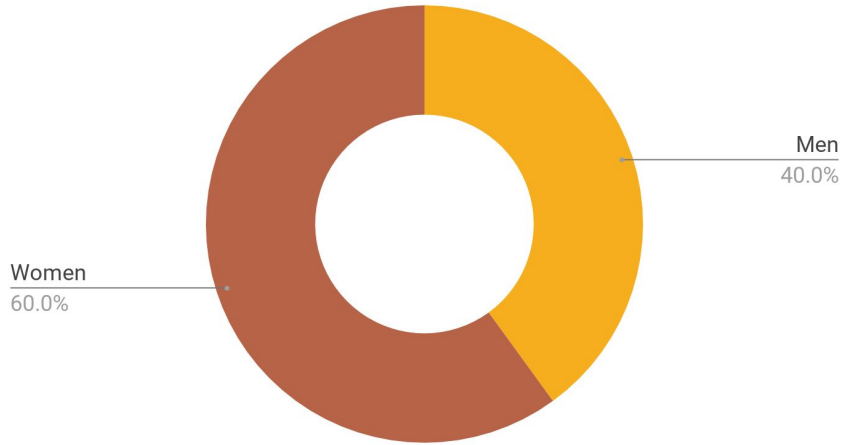
1525

participants sent
relevant messages

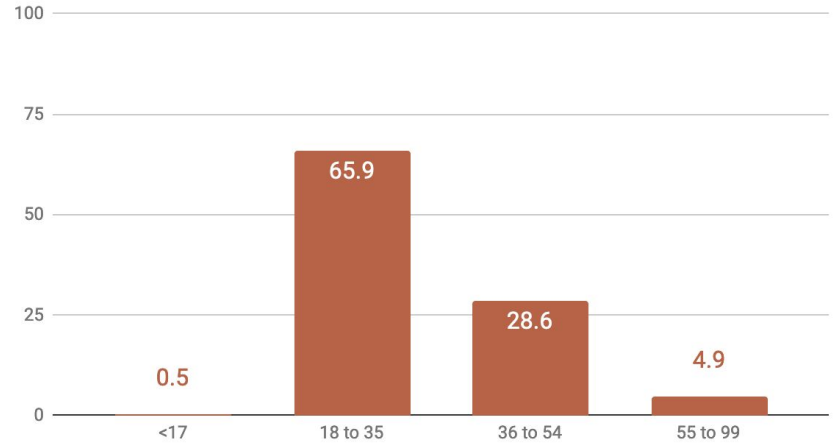
*who have interacted with AVF recently through radio and SMS and who have consented to take part in future citizen consultations

Participants profile

Gender distribution of participants (n= 1385)



Age of participants (n=1362)



Note: Not all participants have responded to demographic questions, so the 'n' for the demographic questions differs from the total of participants 'n'.

What did participants say?

QUESTION. *As Kenya deploys its first doses of Covid-19 vaccination, we want to ask: What are your thoughts on the Covid-19 vaccination?*

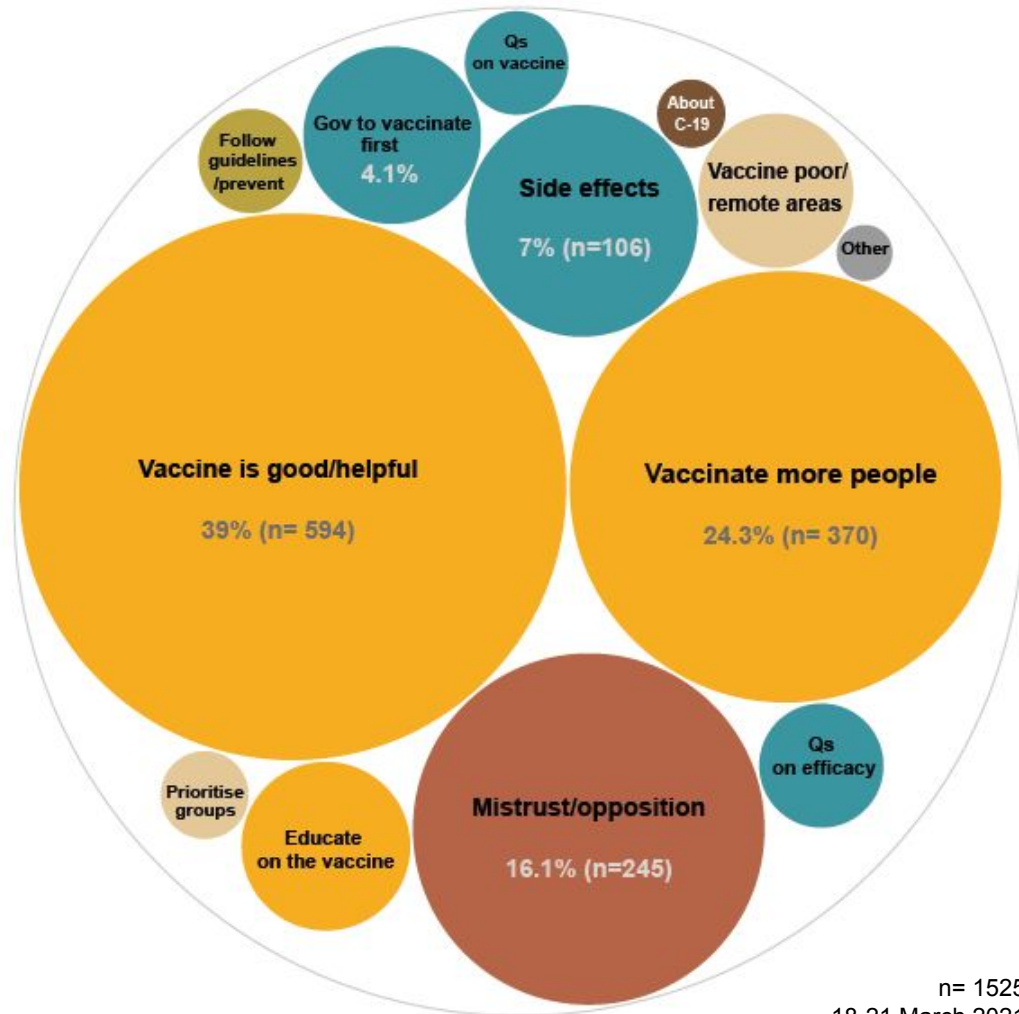
INSIGHT 1. A largely **very positive reaction**. The **vaccine is welcome**, and seen as a good thing that should be given to as many as possible.

INSIGHT 2. A need for **information, clarifying doubts and reassurance**.

INSIGHT 3. Although not a majority, there is still an important level of **mistrust and some opposition to the vaccine**.

INSIGHT 4. A call for the most **vulnerable and for those in remote areas to be given priority/reached**.

INSIGHT 5. A call for **guidelines and prevention to be followed**



Insight 1: A largely positive reaction - a vaccine is welcome

A majority say that rolling out the vaccine is a **good thing that will be very helpful (39%)** and that **as many people as possible should be vaccinated (24.3%)**. Some emphasise the need to **educate and inform citizens about it (3.7%)**.

Chonjo hiyo ni bora kabisa, sababu niko tayari kupata.

"The vaccine is very good and i am ready to get it" Man, Kakamega.

Chanjo itatusaidia na kinga dhidi ya corona kwa hivyo ningeimiza kila mtu apate chanjo

"The vaccine will help us with protection against corona so I would recommend that everyone get vaccinated." Woman, 33 years, Kisumu

Ni vizuri kuchanjwa ilitujiepushe na kusamba kwa hii madhara asante

"It is good to be vaccinated to prevent the spread of this harm thank you" Woman, 27 years, Kibera, Nairobi.

Ningependa kuchukua chanjo,manayake prevention is better than cure.

"I would like to take the vaccine, reason being prevention is better than cure." Woman, 33 years, Kisumu.

Mm nigepeda serikali ihakikishe kila mtu mtu apate na tena ihakikishe bado watu wanafuata masharti ya waziri wa afya..tuiseme eti sasa atuwezi pata

"I would like the government to ensure that everyone gets the vaccine and again to ensure that people still follow the terms of the health minister..let's not say that now we can't get it" Man, 22 years, Kibera.

"It's good and it will help us stop the spread of COVID 19" Woman 28 years, Kisumu.

Insight 2: A need for information, clarifying doubts and reassurance

Many are not necessarily opposing a vaccination but need information and reassurance. They raise **concerns with 'side effects' (7%)** including reference to the debate on blood clots or concerns about allergies. They also have **questions about the vaccine's efficacy (2%)**. Others pose **various other questions (1.4%)**, such as whether it is free and which countries has it reached.

Je kama umepata chanjo ya covid 19 are you 100% immune to covid 19.

"If you have been vaccinated against covid 19 are you 100% immune to covid 19" Woman, 30 years, Kisumu.

Mimi binafsi naonelea wamwache mwananchi angangane kivyake kwa kuwa kuna madhara ya chanjo hio

"I personally think they should let the citizens fight on their own as there are side effects of the vaccine" Man, 22 years, Butula.

Nitangoja nione vile inareact kwa mwili ya wenye wamepata hiyo chanjo.kwa sababu naskia rumours eti blood ina clot

"I will wait and see how it reacts to the body of those who have received the vaccine. because I have heard rumors that it causes blood clot" Woman, 37 years, Kisumu central.

There is also a view (4.1%) that **government officials and leaders should vaccinate first** and lead with example to reassure the population. [Five days after this SMS poll closed, the President of Kenya ordered his top government officials to take the vaccine).

Kama Chanjo Yenyewe Ni Salama ,basi Ipeanwe Kulingana Na Wizara Ya Afya , , Ikianza Na Viongozi Wa Ngazi Za Juu Kisha Kwa Raiya Wa Kawaida .

"If the vaccine itself is safe, then it should be given according to the Ministry of Health, starting with high-level officials and then ordinary citizens." Man, 22 years, Loitoktok.

Viongozi wawe mstari wa mbele kwa iyo chanjo ya covid _19

"Leaders should be at the forefront of the covid vaccine _19" Man, 36 years, Embakasi South.

Insight 3: Although not a majority, many still mistrust and some oppose the vaccine

Participants also sent messages showing **mistrust and in some cases opposition** to the vaccine (16.1%). Some messages show concern about safety and refer to vaccines having been halted in some countries whereas others refer to deeper levels of mistrust, suspicion and some reference to conspirational arguments.

Si yaamini kabisa. Wangeleta ya ukimwi na saratani kwanza.

“Not at all convinced. They would have made for HIV and cancer first.”

wananchi hawajui kama hii chanjo ni ya ukweli, ndio maana bado tunaigopa na pia kwa nini nchi zingine inawacha kuchanja .

“The public does not know if this vaccine is real, which is why we are still afraid of it and also why is it that some countries have stopped administering the vaccine.” Woman, 29 years, Nyalenda.

Mimi nina uoga sana , sithani kama nitakubali kuchanjwa

“I’m so scared, I don’t think I will agree to be vaccinated” Woman, 39 years, Kisumu West.

Oxford inahusika na uluminati na mimi siwezi kukubali ni dungwe.Ahsanteni kwa maoni.

“Oxford deals with illuminati and I can’t accept it’s a vaccine.Thanks for the comment.” Man, 28 years, Waitthaka.

Wapatie wanyama kama ngombe chanjo hilo kwanza tuone matokeo. Dunia imekua mbaya na kuamini chanjo hivihivi tu sio rahisi.

“Give the vaccine first to animals like cows so we can see the results. The world has grown worse and believing in a vaccine just like that is not easy.” Woman, 28 years, Kisumu.

NKO NA WASIWASI JUU, MATAIFA FULANI WALISIMAMISHA HII CHANJO

“I have concerns because some countries have stopped administering the vaccine” Woman, 45 years, Malava.

Insight 4: A call for the vulnerable to be protected and prioritised

A few participants point out the need to ensure vaccinations reach remote areas and the poorer (3.1%) with an emphasis on ensuring the poorest get it for free, and others refer to the need to prioritise well so that those who need it the most can get vaccinated first (1%).

Ipewe watu wa tabaka LA chini mwanzo, sio wadozi wanaoweza kumudu pesa za matibabu

“Give the vaccine to people from lower classes not to the rich ones who can afford treatments ”

iko sawa na waharakishe wailete uku mashinani

“The vaccine is fine, they should immediately bring it here in rural areas” Man, 32 years, Kathiani.

“They should give the vaccine to vulnerable families who live hand to mouth life first after the vaccine is approved”

Chanjo isiuzwe kwa sababu kama wananchi wa kawaida hatuna namna pesa hakuna

“Vaccines should not be sold because as ordinary citizens we have no way of affording it ”
Woman, 35 years, Kisumu.

Kwa kweli waanze na watu walio hatarini kama daktari, walimu, dereva wanao husika na safari za maeneo ya mbali.

“In reality they should start with people who are at risk such as doctors, teachers, drivers who are responsible for trips to remote areas.” Man, 18 years, Matungu.

WANGEPEANA CHANJO KWA WALE WALIOATHIRIKA NA MAGONJWA MENGINE BAADA YA KUPEANA KWA WAHUDUMU

“They should give vaccination to those who were affected by other diseases after healthcare workers” Woman, 45 years, Emuhaya.

Insight 5: A call for guidelines and prevention to be followed

There is also a view that people should continue to follow the guidelines to ensure prevention. These messages call fellow Kenyans to be responsible, wear masks, keep distance, wash their hands and follow the advice of health workers.

wakenya tuzingatie na tuvae barakoa,

“Kenyans, let's be responsible and put on masks” Man, 27 years, Kibera.

tunahitaji kutimiza mashauri ya mahudumu wa afya ili tuzuie mambukizi zaidi

“we need to follow the advice of health workers to stop the spread” Woman, 26 years, Mukuru kwa njenga.

Kunawa Mikono Kila Xiku Kuvaa Mask Kila Xiku

“Washing hands every day and wearing mask every day”

Watu waendele kujikika wava mask whose mkono kukip distant kujikiga ni visuri kuliko kujitiba

“People should continue to wear masks, wash their hands and observe social distancing. Prevention is better than cure” Man, 32 years, Kasule.

Providing accurate information to participants

All participants who texted in response to the poll automatically received a series of SMS from AVF which:

- Provided basic information on the vaccine roll-out plans
- Reassured participants of the safety and efficiency of the Oxford Astrazeneca vaccine
- Encouraged participants to follow the prevention guidelines as only certain groups in the population are prioritised first

SMS 1

Asante kwa jibu lako. Chanjo zilizopokelewa humu nchini mnamo Machi (mwezi wa tatu), katika mwaka huu wa 2021 zinaitwa "Oxford AstraZeneca".

Thank you for your response. The vaccinations received by Kenya in March 2021 are called "Oxford Astrazeneca".

SMS 2

Chanjo hizi zimepitia vipimo vya kisayansi vinavyohitajika na ziko salama na bora kukuinga dhidi ya virusi vya COVID-19.

They have gone through the required scientific tests and are safe and effective in protecting you from falling ill from Covid-19.

SMS 3

Ni wahudumu katika sekta za huduma muhimu wanaopewa chanjo kwa sasa. Endelea kufuata sheria zilizowekwa kujikinga na ugonjwa wa COVID-19.

Only priority groups like health workers will be vaccinated for now. Kindly continue following prevention guidelines - keep distance, wear masks, wash hands.

SMS 4

Asante tena kwa kushiriki. Ikiwa ungependa kusimamisha mawasiliano haya na mengine katika siku zijazo, unaweza kutuma maandishi 'STOP'.

Thanks again for taking part. If you do not want to be consulted again in the future, you can text 'STOP'.

About AVF - @africas_voices

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Africa's Voices Foundation is a non-profit organisation in Kenya and UK-registered charity. AVF specialises in creating platforms for engagement of citizens and decision-makers using an innovative combination of radio broadcast, SMS, social media, and mixed method analysis to make sense of these conversations.

We deploy novel mixed methods for social analysis, harness Africa's rich media landscape to engage citizens in large-scale discussions, and apply tailored technology for speed and scale to draw timely and actionable insights that guide decision-makers to put citizens at the core of their work to enhance their impact.

