



# What are your thoughts on the COVID-19 vaccine?

SMS poll to Africa's Voices' engaged participants in Somalia  
**13-15 May 2021**

# AVF SMS poll in Somalia

On the **13th May 2021**, AVF sent a question via SMS to participants from its flagship programme in Somalia, *Imaqal* - ("Listen to me").

The aim was to get an understanding of the attitudes towards vaccination among AVF's participants in Somalia at the time when the world is working on rolling out vaccinations against Covid-19.

## SMS 1

Salaam Imaqal! Dhawaan waxaad sheegtay in lagula soo xiriiro si aad uga qayb ahaatid doodaha bulshada. Maanta hal su`aal ayan ku haynaa. Farriintana waa bilaash.

Hi from Imaqal! You recently said you wanted to be contacted again for future citizen consultations. So, we have one question for you today. Your message is free.

## SMS 2

Iyadoo Soomaaliya ay howlgelinayso qaadashada ugu horeysa ee talaalka Covid-19 ayaan rabnaa inaan ku waydiino:Waa maxay fikradahaaga ku aadan talaalka Covid-19?

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

**6000**

participants contacted  
via SMS



**980**

participants  
responded

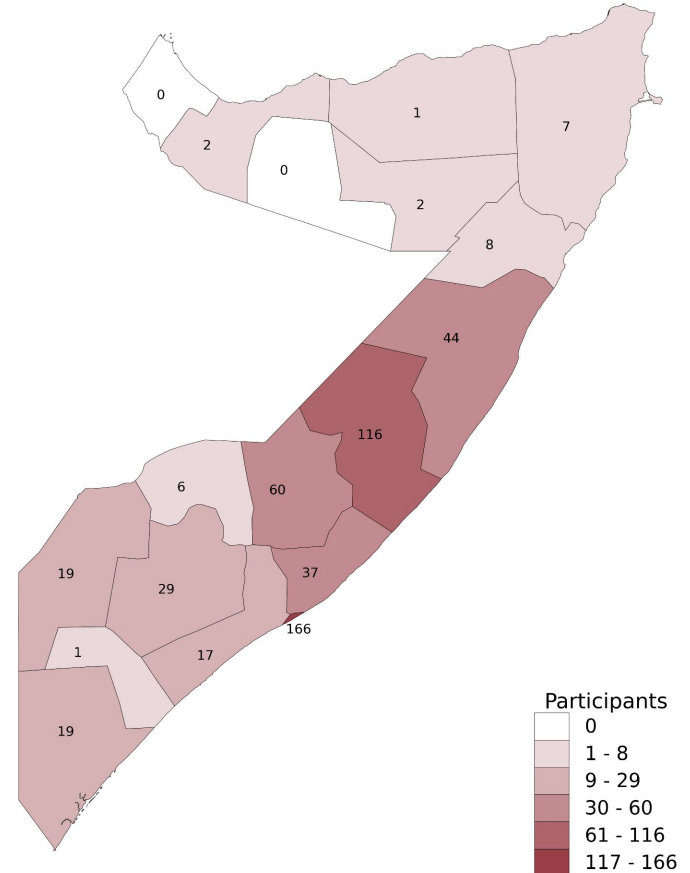


**698**

participants sent  
relevant messages

# Participants profile

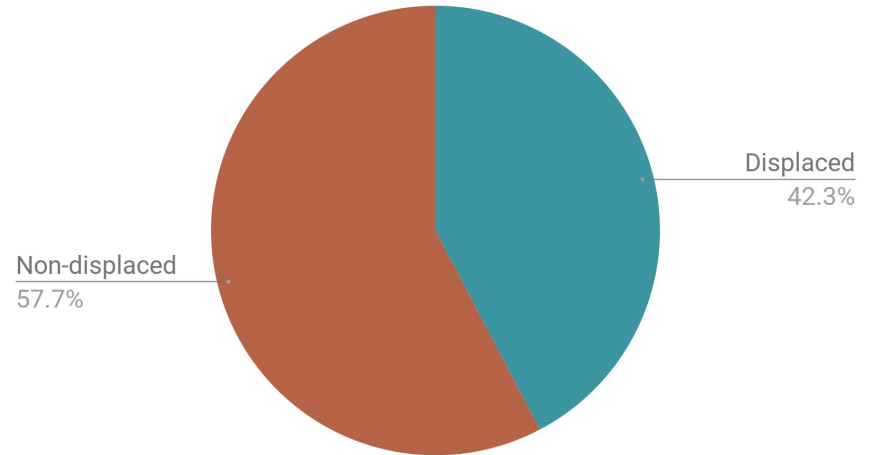
- A total of 980 (n) participants, previously engaged with AVF's interactive radio programming, have voluntarily chosen to respond the question. This is therefore a self-selected sample, not representative of Somalia.
- Participants have engaged with AVF in past recent interactive radio consultations on Covid-19, gender equality and social inclusion.
- Participants are mostly young (57% of those who told us their age are aged 18 to 35).
- There are slightly more men in the sample (58.2% men - 41.8% women)



# Participants profile

State	n (participants who shared their states)	%
Banadir	236	35.5
Galmudug	160	24.1
Hir-shabelle	126	19
South west state	67	10.1
Jubbaland	50	7.5
Puntland	21	3.2
Somaliland	4	0.6

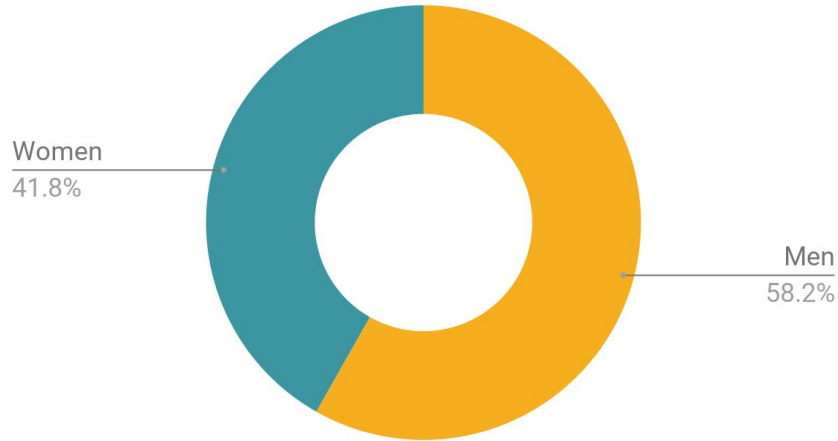
Displacement distribution (n=551)



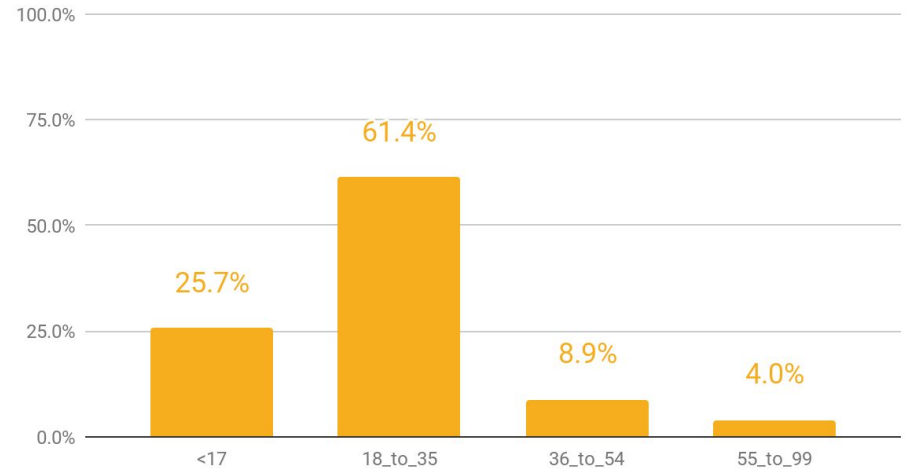
Note: Not all participants have responded to demographic questions, so the 'n' for the demographic questions differs from the total of participants 'n'.

# Participants profile

Gender distribution (n=557)



Age distribution (n=497)



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

**INSIGHT 1.** Acceptance of the Covid-19 vaccination: participants largely encourage **taking the vaccine** arguing it is important and **can prevent Covid-19**.

**INSIGHT 2. Women show more positive attitudes towards** vaccination: 70.4% mentioning that it needs to be taken or that it is important in preventing Covid-19 compared to 56% of men saying so.

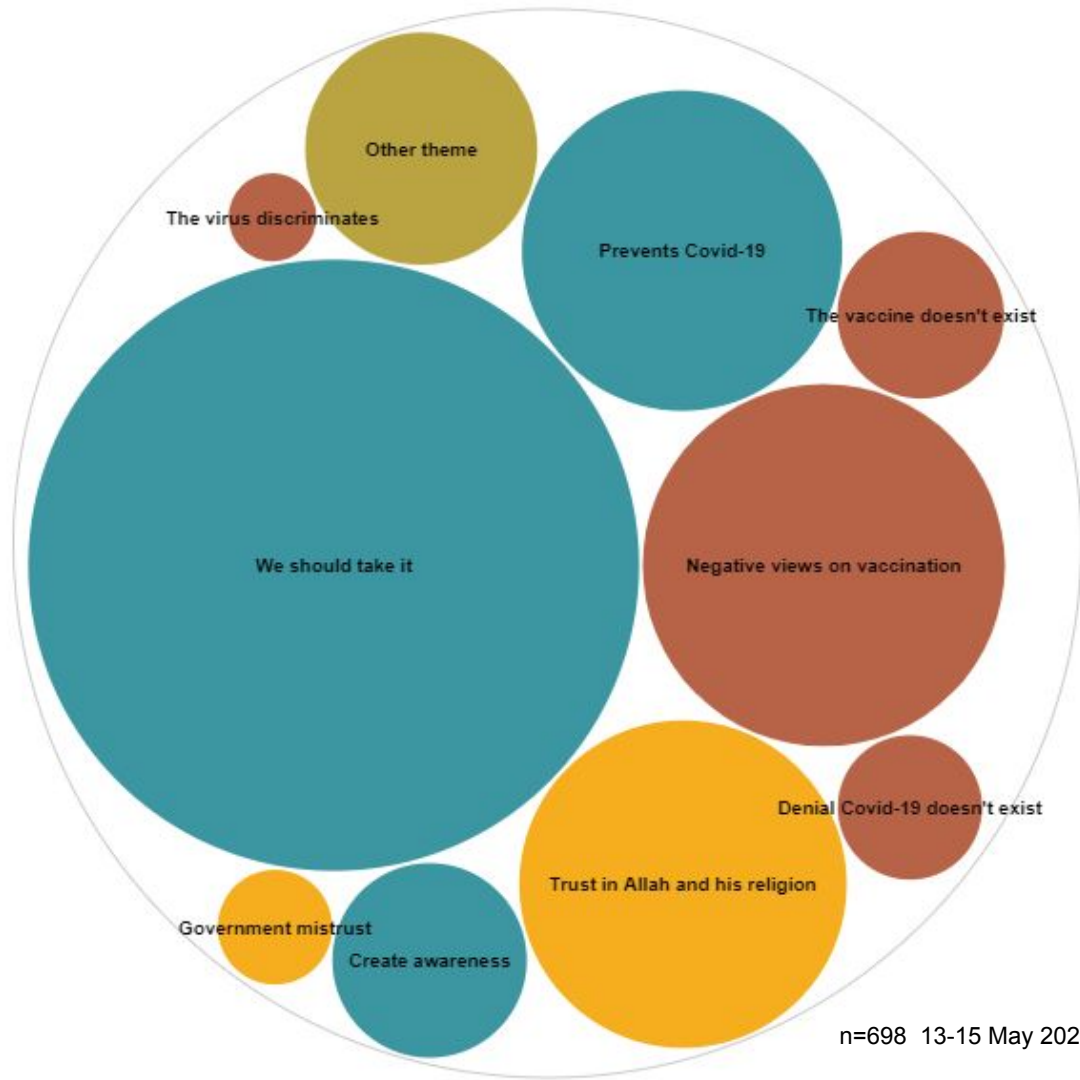
**INSIGHT 3.** The importance of religion: with 14% resorting to **trusting Allah**, the religious lense continues to be important for vaccination-related communication, as it was during the 2020 risk communication efforts on Covid-19 prevention.

**INSIGHT 4.** Some opposition and mistrust: although not a majority, there is still **some (23%) explicit opposition or mistrust to the vaccine**. Approx. 17% have negative views on the vaccination, say it does not exist (3.6%) or say that covid does not exist (2.7%).

**INSIGHT 5.** A **need for awareness**: some participants (5%) explicitly ask for more awareness in their communities on covid-19 vaccinations.

# What did participants say?

Thematic category	Theme	% (n=698)
Positive views	We should take it	48.4
Negative views	Negative views on vaccination	17
Trust	Trust in Allah and his religion	13.9
Positive views	Prevents Covid-19	13.3
Positive views	Create awareness	4.9
Negative views	The vaccine doesn't exist	3.6
Negative views	Denial Covid-19 doesn't exist	2.7
Trust	Government mistrust	1.7
Negative views	The virus discriminates	1
Other	Other themes	7



# Insights 1 and 2: A view that Somalis should take the vaccine

Almost half (48.4%) of the responses received encouraged the community members to **take the vaccine** saying it is good and very important to protect the population.

Waa wax jira loonabaahanyahay qof walba in oo qaadaa si dadka loga badbaadiyo qatar coved 19

***"It is something that everybody needs to take so that people are saved from the dangers of Covid-19."*** Woman, 19, Hiiraan.

fikirkeywu waa in talaalka laqaato

***"My opinion is that we should take the vaccine"*** Man, Balcaad.

Talaalka Covid 19 wa mid muhiim u ah bulshadu somaliyed wana sodhaweyniya  
***"Covid 19 vaccine is vital to the Somali community and we welcome it."*** Man, 24, Karaan.



# The vaccine can prevent the spread of Covid-19

Participants, particularly women (17.2%) compared to men (10.8%) also texted to say that the vaccine will help **prevent the spread of the pandemic**. Messages say that it is a golden opportunity which the community must capitalise on.

Ka hortagga ayaa ka fican is daaweynta. Talaalka waxaan u arkaa fursad dahabi ah oo aan sugaynay.  
***“Prevention is better than cure. I see the vaccination as a golden opportunity which we have been waiting for.”*** Woman, 26, Balatweyne.

Way haboontahay talaalka in laqaato sababtoo ah talaalku waa kahortag mahadsanidiin  
***“It is appropriate to take the vaccination because the vaccination is a prevention.”*** Man, 34, Mogadishu.

# Insight 3: The importance of religion

Approximately 14% of participants texted with references to religious hope, which indicates the importance of religion as a lense from which to approach risk communication on the Covid-19 vaccination.

Waxan dhihilaha talalka waxaka  
ficin quranka rabi ehalagudhewado  
sunada iyo kitabka rabi

***“I would have said the Quraan is better than the vaccination, we should go closer to the teaching of the prophet and the Holy book.”***

*Woman, 42, Puntland.*

cudurkan ale ayaa naga hey karo ee  
talal managa celi karo

***“It is only Allah who can protect us from this disease, the vaccination can not do anything.”***

*Man, 27, Afgooye.*

## Insight 4: Although not a majority, many still mistrust and some oppose the vaccine

**There are also negative views on vaccination.** For example, some were skeptical that the vaccine works (18.2%), a minority texted to say that the **vaccine doesn't exist** (3.1% ) and a few (1.5%) also said that they don't want to be vaccinated because of **lack of trust in government**.

Anni ahaanteyn waxa qabaa inoo talalka cudur yahay

***"For me personally I think the vaccination is a disease."** Man, Dharkenley.*

waa been 19? talaalka koofi naantiin hadii aad iweydisid wa been

***"Covid-19 is a lie and if you ask me about its vaccination it is a lie also."** Woman, 31, Dhuusamareeb.*

# Insight 5: A call for the creation of awareness

There is a need to **create awareness** (4.6%) and sensitize the community by educating them on the importance of the vaccine and eradicate the myths and misconceptions around it.

Waxay ila tahay talaalka covid19 waa muhiim ayado aan ognahay in dadka somaliyeed aysan ku baraarugsaneen talka waa in dadka lagu wacyi geliyaa talalka

***"I think that Covid19 vaccination is important but Somalis aren't sensitized on it, they should be made aware on the vaccination."***

*Man, 29, Hodan.*

Ani waxan qabaa in oow wanaagsan yahy lonaba hanyhy waxan qabaa wcdi galinta talaalka inlbdiyo

***"It is a good one and we need it. I think we should increase awareness on the vaccination."*** *Woman, Banadir.*

Wansoodhawaynayaatallaka.covid19. ewaxan.leeyahay.sifican.bulshada.hal oowacyi.galiyo

***"We welcome the vaccine and I say that we raise awareness in the community."*** *Man, 41, Afmadow.*

# 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.

