


# Combatting COVID-19 in Mozambique

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**W**e collected data on individual perceptions of and plans to accept COVID-19 vaccination in Mozambique.

We conducted this fourth round of data collection among study participants in Sofala, Manica, and Zambezia provinces, Mozambique, between June 2021 and September 2021.\* Nearly all respondents report they will take the COVID-19 vaccine when given the chance. Of those expressing hesitancy, the main concern is the perception that vaccinations can be harmful and have potentially negative side effects. Most people believe that they are less likely to contract COVID-19 than others in their community. 100% of local leaders express support for COVID-19 vaccination.

\*Sample size is approximately 2,075 individuals for Figures 1 and 3; 137 for Figure 4; and 130 leaders for Figure 2.

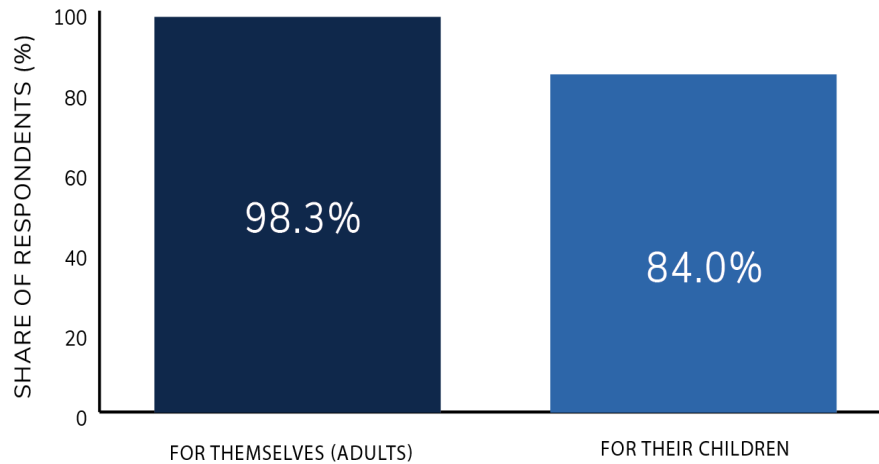
## KEY FINDINGS

- **98.3% of individuals intend to get vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- **Individuals trust the endorsement of their community leaders**, with 86.7% of individuals expressing confidence in the vaccination advice of their local leader.
- **Households are optimistic about avoiding infection.** 52.7% of individuals believe they are less likely to contract COVID-19 than others in their community.
- **A small percentage (10%) of respondents express vaccine hesitancy.** Of these, 41.8% are concerned that vaccines are harmful, and 32.1% have concerns over the possibility of negative side effects.

## Demand for the COVID-19 vaccine

98.3% of adults say they will take the COVID-19 vaccine at the next available chance. A smaller share of respondents -- 84.0% -- are willing to have their children vaccinated, perhaps reflecting that at the time of the survey no vaccine was approved for children by the World Health Organization. Figure 1 depicts these observations.

**FIGURE 1: RESPONDENTS' WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

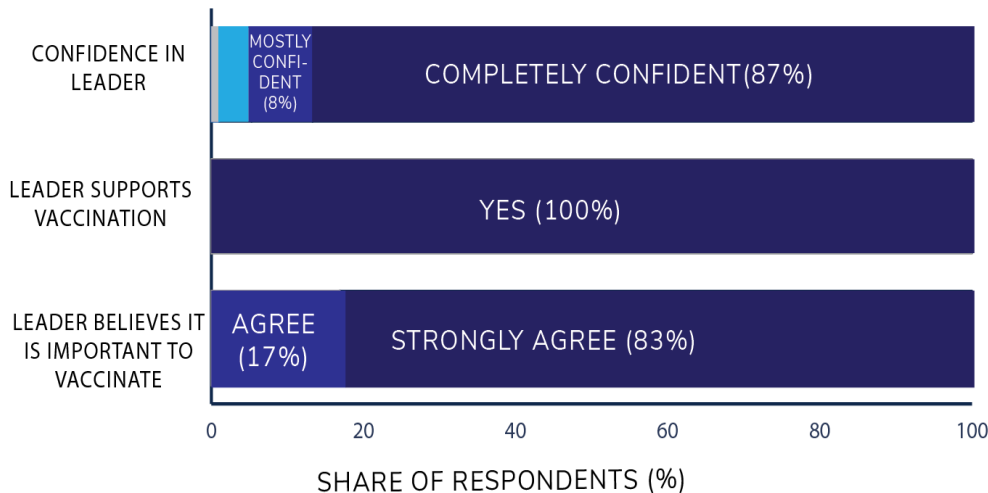


Share of respondents answering "completely confident" to the following questions: "Would you take the free vaccine in the next available chance", "Should children get vaccinated for COVID?"

## Leaders' role in the vaccination drive

Local leaders can play an important role in promoting the COVID-19 vaccine in their communities. Figure 2 shows that respondents trust their local leaders' advice relating to the COVID-19 vaccine. Furthermore, 100% of community leaders surveyed support the vaccination drive and agree that it is important for their communities to get vaccinated.

**FIGURE 2: PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE IN LEADERS' ADVICE AND LEADERS' SUPPORT FOR VACCINATION**

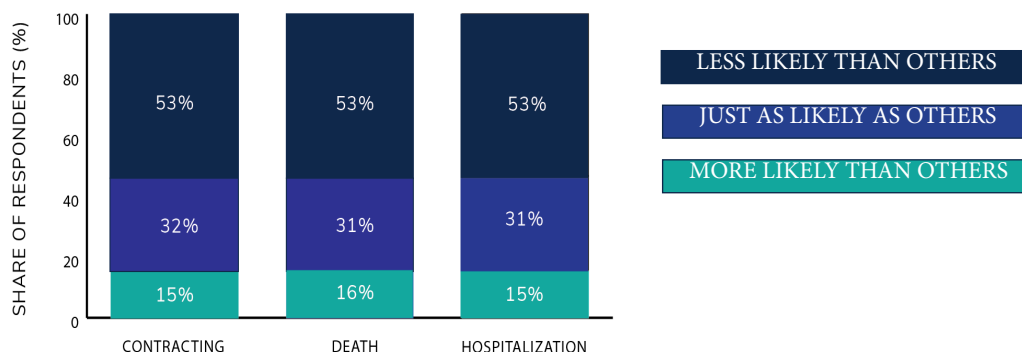


Respondents answered: "If the leader(s) in your community provided you health advice pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine, how confident are you that this would influence your behavior?". In a separate survey, 130 leaders answered the questions: "Is it important that people in my community vaccinate against COVID-19?", "Can we have your permission to tell others in your community that you 'support vaccination, plan to get vaccinated, and encourage others to do the same?'"

## Optimism about avoiding infection

Respondents are optimistic about how COVID-19 will affect them relative to others in their community. Most respondents believe that they are less likely than other community members to contract COVID-19 (52.7%), be hospitalized (53.4%), or die of COVID-19 (53.4%). Figure 3 depicts respondents' perceptions of their chances of being affected by COVID-19.

**FIGURE 3:** PERCEPTIONS OF RELATIVE RISK OF COVID-19 COMPARED TO OTHERS

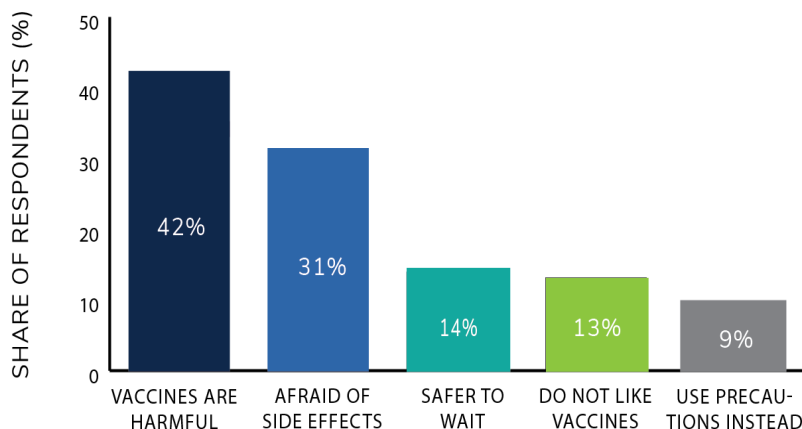


Respondents answered the following triplet of questions "Relative to others in your community, do you consider yourself less likely, more likely, or just as likely as others to [contract, die of, be hospitalized by] COVID-19?"

## Vaccine hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is low, with only 137 respondents expressing concern (10% of those surveyed). Figure 4 shows that those who are hesitant believe that vaccines are harmful (42.3%); fear negative side effects (31.4%); believe that it is safer to wait (13.9%); generally dislike vaccines (13.1%); and believe that taking precautions will suffice (9.5%). This low rate of vaccine hesitancy is in line with data from other developing countries (Arce et al., 2021\*). The low rate of hesitancy in our sample may also reflect social desirability in survey responses, so that true rates of hesitancy are higher.

**FIGURE 4:** PRIMARY VACCINE CONCERNS FOR RESPONDENTS THAT ARE HESITANT



Respondents provided open-ended responses to the question: "Is there anything that makes you hesitant to take the COVID-19 vaccine?" which were categorized ex-post. \*Reference: Arce, J.S.S. et al. (2021) COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy in Low- and Middle-income Countries Nature Medicine 27, 1385-1394

For survey instruments, summary statistics, additional analyses, and future updates please see our **website**: <https://fordschool.umich.edu/mozambique-research/combating-covid-19>

**Questions? Comments?**  
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We thank Flavia Lorenzon and Kwasi Tabiri for excellent research assistance and Nick Pfost for the graphic design. Funded by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Innovation in Government Initiative through a grant from The Effective Altruism Global Health and Development Fund, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office awarded through [Innovations for Poverty Action \(IPA\) Peace & Recovery Program](#), the Michigan Institute for Teaching and Research in Economics (MITRE) Ulmer Fund, and the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health.

Suggested Citation: Allen IV, James, Maggie Barnard, Zach Brown, Patricia Freitag, Faustino Lessitala, Arlete Mahumane, Laston Manja, Ryan McWay, James Riddell IV, Tanya Rosenblat, Dean Yang, and Hang Yu. 2021. "Combating COVID-19 in Mozambique: Round 4 Summary Report." Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.