VACCINE CONFIDENCE IN AFRICA

Africa CDC, the Vaccine Confidence Project™, Janssen Pharmaceutica, and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have worked in partnership to conduct two waves of quantitative research in 2022. This followed an initial round of research in 2020 prior to the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out. The findings to date have provided a uniquely rich dataset of vaccine confidence throughout the pandemic in Africa, down to sub-national level.

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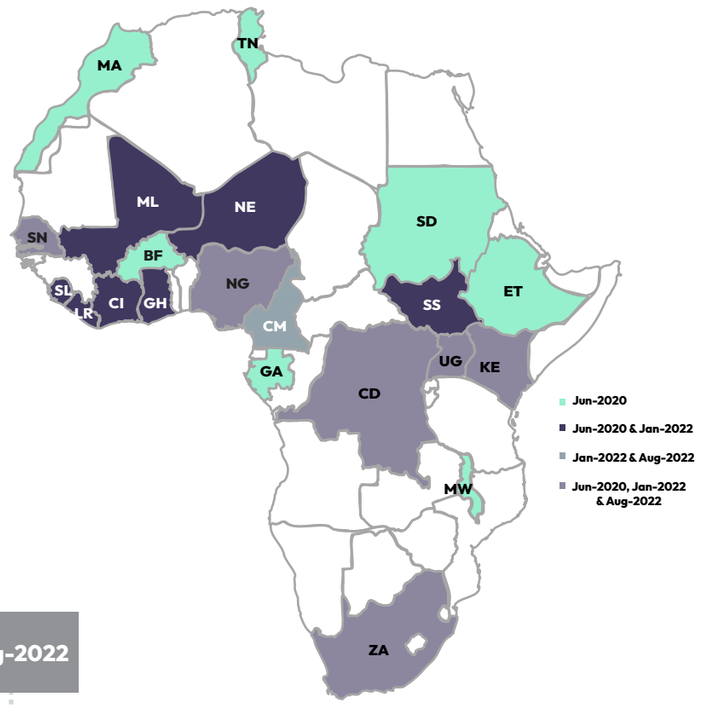
Methodology

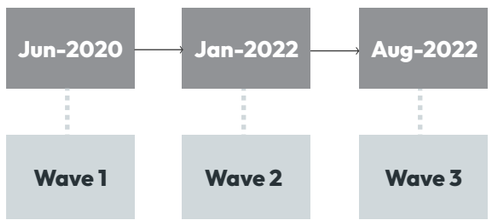
6 Countries surveyed across all three waves of data collection: Jun-2020 (pre-COVID-19 vaccine roll-out), Jan-2022 and Aug-2022 (post-COVID-19 vaccine roll-out). These were: South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, the DRC, Senegal and Kenya

8 Countries surveyed across the first two waves of data collection: Jun-2020 and Jan-2022. These were: South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, the DRC, Senegal, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Niger

F2F Face-to-face methodology using random household probability sampling

38K* Interviews in 21 countries across 3 waves of data collection, with a nationally representative sample in each country





*Base sizes: (Jun-2020: n=16,699, Jan-2022: n=15,375, Aug-2022: n=7,179)

Key learnings

CASES OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES ARE ON THE RISE
Africa has witnessed a surge in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases over the past year. Almost 17,500 cases of measles were recorded in the region between Jan-March 2022, marking a 400% increase on 2021.*

VACCINE CONFIDENCE HAS DROPPED
The pandemic has made vaccine confidence (and therefore uptake) volatile. Our research reveals concerning fluctuations in confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, and vaccines in general.

AT A SUBNATIONAL LEVEL, CONFIDENCE VARIES SIGNIFICANTLY
Through sub-national monitoring of confidence between 2020 & 2022, we have identified regions where vaccine hesitancy is most concentrated, and where the greatest risks to immunisation programme disruption lie.

CONFIDENCE INFORMS COVID-19 & WIDER VACCINE UPTAKE
By tracking vaccine confidence over time we know that people are more likely to take a COVID-19 vaccine if they believe they are safe, important and effective. The data also shows that confidence informs intent to accept other types of vaccine.

THERE IS DEMAND FOR MALARIA VACCINES
6 in 10 would definitely accept a malaria vaccine if offered to them. This rises to 7 in 10 for those who are vaccine confident.

AGE IS A KEY FACTOR IN HESITANCY
Young people aged 18-24 are more likely to have rejected any vaccine for themselves and are the least likely to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

*Countries are expected to attain and maintain measles vaccination coverage of 95%, with two doses to reach measles elimination. In 2019, 6 countries in the African region (Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Botswana, Rwanda, Mauritius) attained 95% coverage with first dose measles vaccination, while only three (Morocco, Tunisia, Zambia) met this target in 2020, according to estimates by WHO and UNICEF.

What this partnership offers

GLOBAL DATA, LOCAL IMPACT
Providing communities and decision makers with critical insights to support the design of policies and interventions that reduce vaccine inequalities, and promoting a more cohesive approach to vaccine hesitancy research across the continent.

A NETWORK OF INFLUENCE
This unique research informs evidence-based decision making for Africa CDC as well as for African governments and their Ministries of Health, public health partners and multi-national organisations including WHO, UNICEF, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the EU Commission.

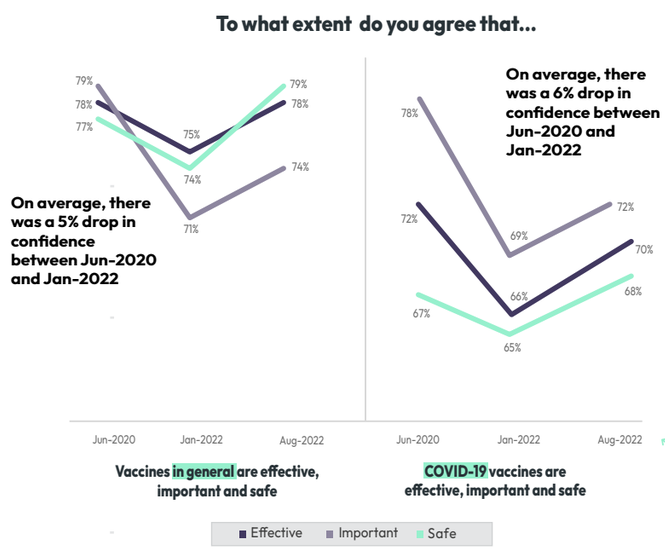
"Perceptions are very important. Vaccine hesitancy is something that is growing globally. This is just not with the COVID-19 vaccine, it was present even before COVID-19. We know the sentiment that some people have against some of the common childhood vaccines, so it is really important for us to understand confidence levels across the continent and the hesitancy that is there."

\- Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Head of the Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa CDC

REAL WORLD IMPACT

- **Africa CDC's Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative.** Key insights from the research will be used to inform the design of activities being implemented as part of Africa CDC's Saving Lives and Livelihoods Initiative, including the Bingwa project; which aims to establish a network of COVID-19 Youth Champions across the continent to accelerate the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa. Bingwa aims to:
  i. Make a direct, attributable contribution to vaccinating 70 million African youth against COVID-19;
  ii. Make an indirect contribution to bridging the 727 million COVID-19 vaccination gap in Africa.
- **Roundtable, November 2022.** Findings from the research were shared with Africa CDC, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates Ventures, The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, The Vaccine Data CoLab and other research and implementation partners. The findings will be used to inform Gates Ventures' selection of countries to become Exemplars In Global Health - a programme that captures the drivers of success which have made extraordinary progress toward improving health outcomes.
- **Open-source Data to Support Implementation.** Through publishing interactive data dashboards and the Vaccine Confidence Index map, this data will be accessible for hyperlocal, real-time decision-making on the ground to improve vaccine uptake.

There was a sharp drop in the Vaccine Confidence Index* between Jun-2020 and Jan-2022, and despite a slight resurgence in Aug-2022, confidence has not yet returned to pre-vaccine roll out levels



*The Vaccine Confidence Index™ (VCI) is a battery of standardised survey questions designed to measure the perceived safety, effectiveness and importance of vaccines.

The VCI provides a longitudinal measure of vaccine confidence across six countries that participated in all three waves of data collection, and enables the investigation and monitoring of changes in vaccine sentiment over time and place, to create geospatial mapping.

Respondents are defined as 'confident' if they agree to the 3 statements on safety, effectiveness and importance. Respondents are defined as 'hesitant' if they disagree to at least one statement on safety, effectiveness and importance.

These charts present VCI data from the six countries that were surveyed consistently across all three waves of data collection (South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, the DRC, Senegal and Kenya).

This matters because data shows COVID-19 vaccine confidence is associated with COVID-19 vaccine uptake...

38% of the unvaccinated population in Aug-2022 **who score confident on the index** would accept a COVID-19 jab as soon as it was available to them.

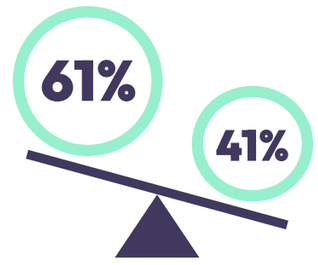
Tracking the VCI index against COVID-19 uptake shows that populations are more likely to be vaccinated if they are confident.

Across the two waves of research conducted post-vaccine roll-out there is a clear correlation between those who are vaccine confident and those who have accepted the COVID-19 vaccine.

...as well as uptake of other important, life-saving vaccines

would definitely accept a malaria vaccine if offered to them.

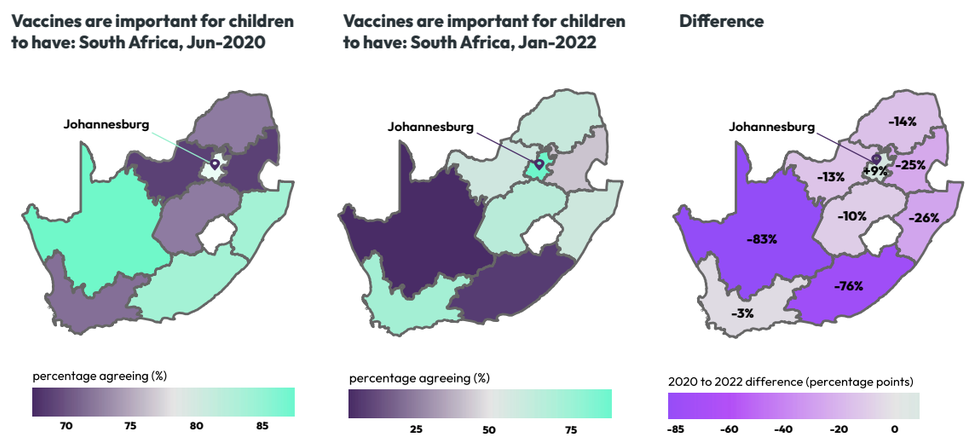
this rises to 7 in 10 for those who are vaccine confident, or have had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



of those who are vaccine confident would be willing to accept a vaccine - this drops to 41% among those who are vaccine hesitant.

Future efforts to address vaccine hesitancy must be targeted to young adults (18-24 year olds)...

...and to people in geographic regions where there have been consistent falls in confidence



Country	Sub-national regions with the most consistent falls across the VCI between Jun-2020 and Jan-2022	Regional characteristics
South Africa	Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Northern Cape	North and east; 50/50 urban rural split
DRC	Bandundu, Maniema, Kasaï-Oriental, Kongo-Central, and Sud-Kivu	Mid, east and west; majority urban (except Bandundu)
Kenya	Rift Valley	West; rural
Uganda	Northern Region	North; rural
Nigeria	Borno, Kano, and Federal Capital Territory	North, east and central; majority urban
Niger	Diffa and Zinder	East; majority rural
Côte d'Ivoire	Savanes	North; urban rural split
Senegal	No sub-national regions with consistent falls across the VCI	n/a

Rises in confidence on the VCI survey items occur in only six sub-national regions: Équateur (D.R. Congo); Bas-Sassandra and Lacs (Côte d'Ivoire); Tahoua (Niger); Dakar (Senegal); and Gauteng (South Africa). Future waves of data collection will allow us to see whether these trends become more or less pronounced over time, and whether hesitancy is translating into non-acceptance of treatments and vaccines for other diseases (for example, malaria, or Ebola). We can also investigate what is driving these pockets of subnational hesitancy further through research tools like booster samples and qualitative methodologies.

These charts present data from the 8 countries surveyed consistently between Jun-2020 and Jan-2022 (South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, the DRC, Senegal, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger).