

Authors

Julio Saul Solís Arce
WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Shana Warren
Associate Director, Path-to-Scale Research & Research Scientist

Niccoló Meriggi
International Growth Centre

Alexandra Scacco
WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Nina McMurry
WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Maarten Voors
Wageningen University & Research

Georgiy Syunyaev
Columbia University

Amyr Malik
Yale University Institute for Global Health

Dean Karlan
Northwestern University

Michael Callen
London School of Economics and Political Science

Matthieu Teachout
International Growth Centre

Macartan Humphreys
Columbia University

Mushfiq Mobarak
Yale University

Saad B. Omer
Yale University Institute for Global Health

Andrea Guariso
Trinity College Dublin

Jakob Svensson
Stockholm University

Matthieu Teachout
International Growth Centre

Macartan Humphreys
Columbia University

Saad B. Omer
Yale University Institute for Global Health

Staff

Shana Warren
Research Scientist for Path-to-Scale Research

Samya Rahman
Research Analyst

Gloria Ayesiga Eden
Research Associate

Elliott Collins
Research Economist and Director of Poverty Measurement

Margarita Rosa Cabra Garcia
Senior Research Associate

Sofia Jaramillo
Senior Research Manager

Anthony Kamwesigye
Associate Research Manager

Gisele Manirabaruta

Jean Leodomir Habarimana Mfura
Research and Policy Coordinator

María Juliana Otalora
Research Analyst

Touba Bakary Pare
Senior Field Manager

Laura Polanco
Research Associate

Achille Mignondo Tchibozo
Research Manager

Mushfiq Mobarak
Yale University



- This study analyzes willingness to vaccinate against COVID-19 from surveys spanning 30 low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.
- Willingness to vaccinate is considerably higher in those low- and middle-income countries (80% of respondents) than in the United States (67%) and Russia (50%).
- The results suggest prioritizing vaccine distribution to low- and middle-income countries should yield high returns in promoting global immunization coverage, and that vaccination campaigns in those countries should focus on reducing acceptance bias in specific.
- Personal protection against COVID-19 is the main reason given for vaccine acceptance in those low- and middle-income countries (91% of respondents). Concerns about side effects (10%) is the most common reason given for vaccine hesitancy.
- Health workers are considered the most trusted sources of information about COVID-19 vaccine (48% of respondents).
- This brief focuses on using health workers to deliver vaccine information, including in "tier-1" settings, leveraging pre-vaccine attitudes, and focusing messaging on vaccine effectiveness to increase vaccine uptake in low- and middle-income countries.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in Low-And Middle-Income Countries and Recommendations to Increase Uptake

In a collective effort bringing together 15 studies, researchers from over 30 institutions surveyed over 20,000 individuals between June 2020 and January 2021 on questions regarding respondents' vaccine acceptance and hesitancy and their most trusted sources for vaccination advice. During some surveys, results from COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials had yet to be announced, and during later surveys, governments had started approving vaccines for use. The fast-moving nature of COVID-19 information may change people's perceptions about vaccines by the time they are widely available in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Over the past six months, the body of evidence demonstrating the safety and efficacy of available COVID-19 vaccines, which have been given to millions of people, has become clearer. At the same time, severe, but rare, side effects may have undermined public confidence.

July 19, 2021