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News release

Majority of Kenyans believe resources intended for COVID-19 response have been lost to corruption, Afrobarometer study shows

An overwhelming majority of Kenyans say that resources intended for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been lost to corruption, Afrobarometer survey shows.

About six in 10 citizens say someone in their household lost a job, a business, or a primary source of income due to the pandemic, but far fewer report receiving pandemic-related assistance from the government. Overall, many Kenyans are satisfied with government's response to the pandemic, but they are less positive about government's relief efforts, and many believe that the pandemic-related assistance was distributed unfairly.

The study also shows that about three in 10 say they are unlikely to get vaccinated, and many of them cite issues related to vaccine safety as the main reason for their stance.

Key findings

- Close to nine in 10 Kenyans say they believe that “some” (15%) or “a lot” (73%) of the resources intended for the COVID-19 response have been lost to corruption (Figure 1). Only 2% think that none of these resources have been embezzled.
- About six in 10 (55%) say someone in their household lost a job, business, or primary source of income due to the pandemic, while 7% say a member of their household became ill or tested positive for COVID-19 (Figure 2).
- Nine in 10 citizens (92%) say their household did not receive pandemic-related assistance from the government, while only 8% report receiving it (Figure 3).
- Three-fourths (75%) say the government has done “fairly well” or “very well” in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - About six in 10 are also satisfied with the government's efforts to ensure that health facilities are adequately resourced (62%) and to minimize disruptions to children's education (57%) (Figure 4).
 - But only 36% think the government has done a good job of providing relief assistance for vulnerable households.
- Close to three-quarters (72%) of citizens say that the distribution of government support to citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic was “somewhat unfair” or “very unfair,” while just 25% say the distribution was fair.
- Close to three in 10 Kenyans (28%) say they have been vaccinated against COVID-19, while (43%) say they probably will. Three in 10 say they are “somewhat unlikely” (5%) or “very unlikely” (24%) to take the vaccine (Figure 5).
- Among citizens who say they are unlikely to get vaccinated, a majority cite concerns related to vaccine safety as the main reason for their stance: They don't trust the

vaccine or are worried about getting a fake or counterfeit vaccine (23%), they fear that the vaccine may cause COVID-19 or bad side effects (17%), or they think the vaccine was developed too quickly (15%) (Figure 6).

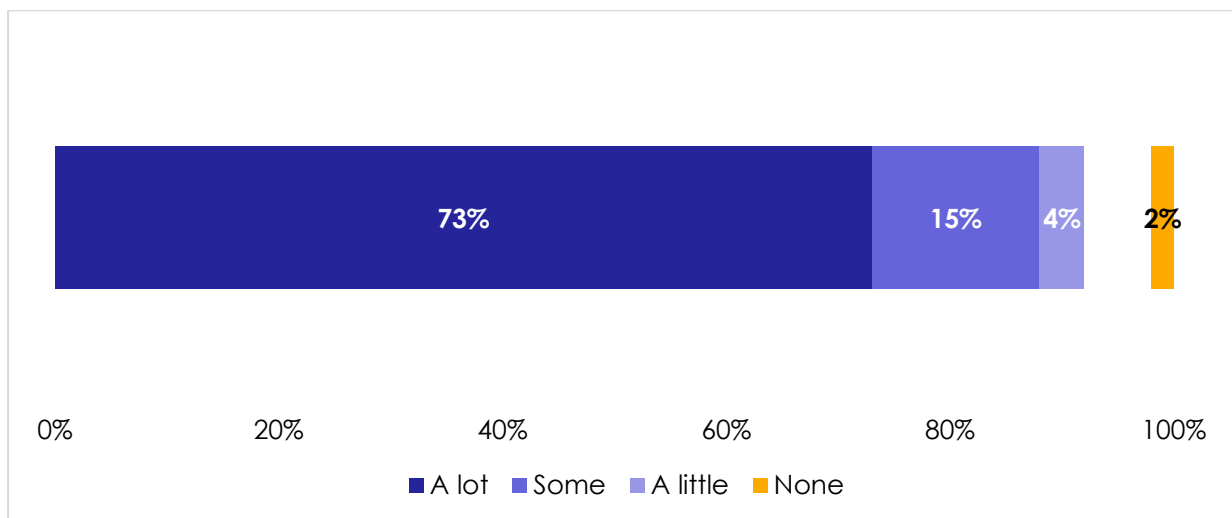
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Eight survey rounds in up to 39 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2022) are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Kenya, based at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, interviewed 2,400 adult Kenyans in November-December 2021. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2019.

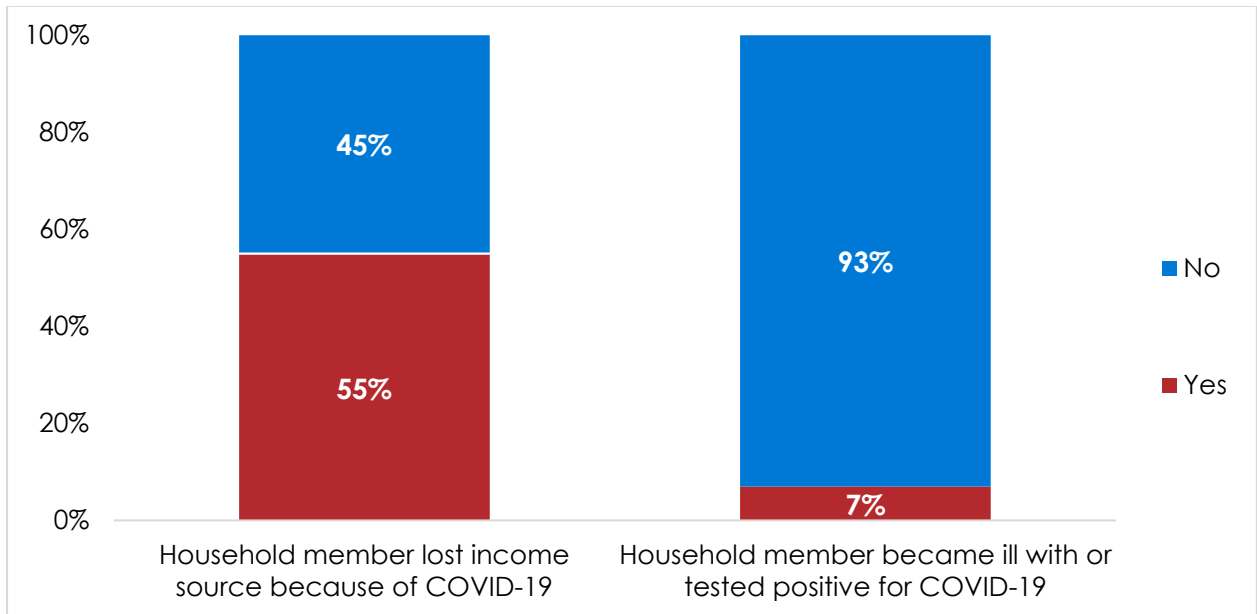
Charts

Figure 1: Perceived COVID-19 related corruption | Kenya | 2021



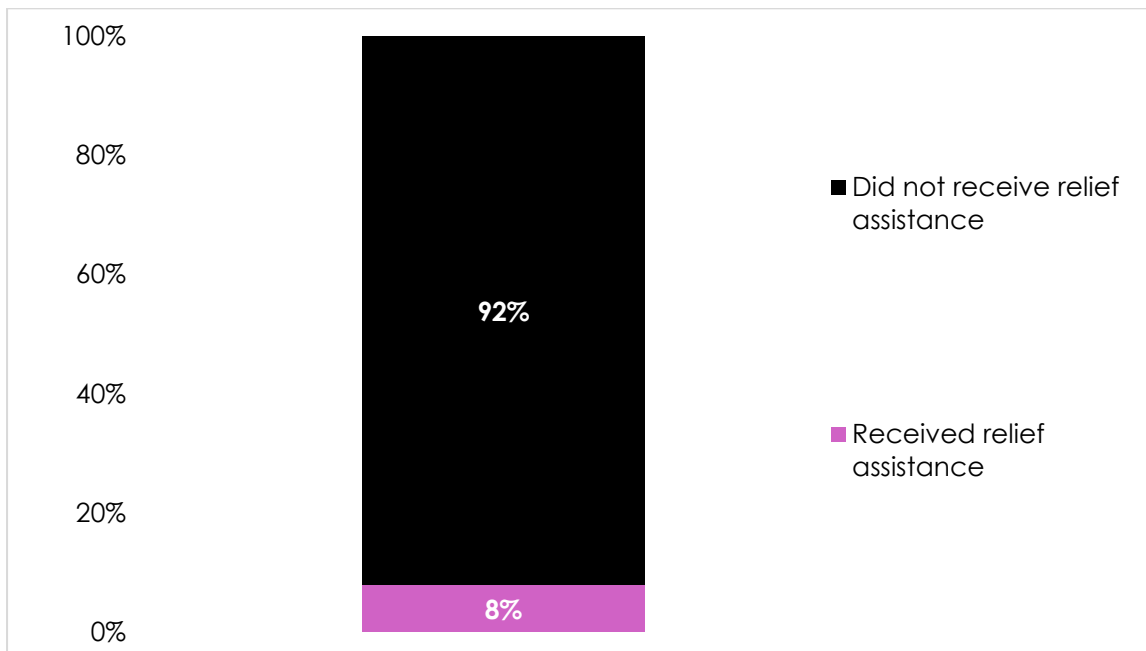
Respondents were asked: *Considering all of the funds and resources that were available to the government for combating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much do you think was lost or stolen due to corruption?*

Figure 2: Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic | Kenya | 2021



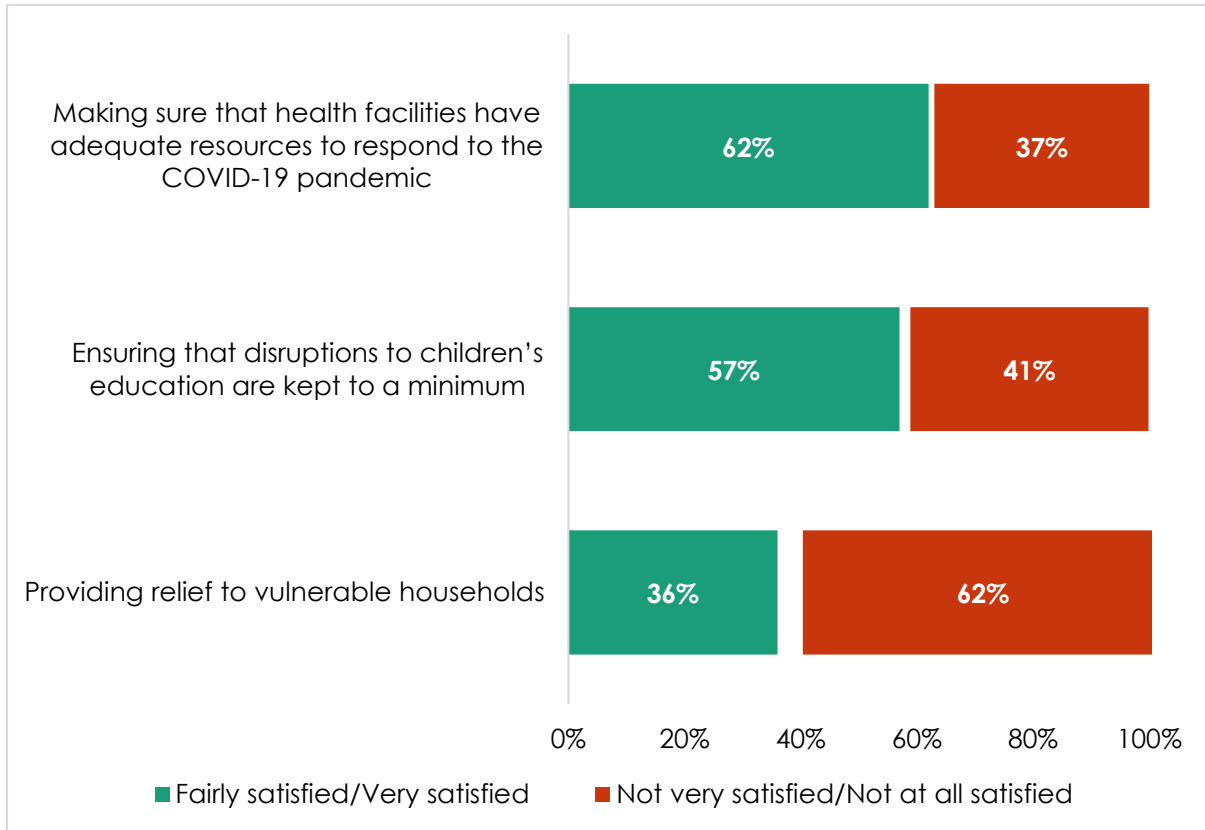
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic:
 Became ill with, or tested positive for, COVID-19?
 Temporarily or permanently lost a job, business, or primary source of income?

Figure 3: Received pandemic-related relief assistance? | Kenya | 2021



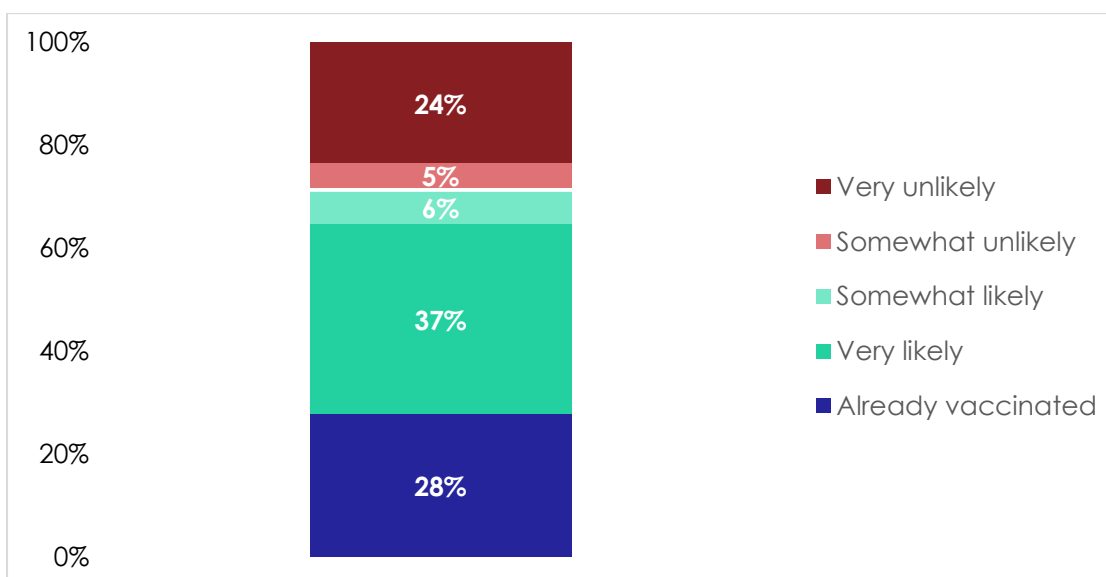
Respondents were asked: Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or your household received any assistance from government, like food, cash payments, relief from bill payments, or other assistance that you were not normally receiving before the pandemic?

Figure 4: Satisfaction with government's response to COVID-19 | Kenya | 2021



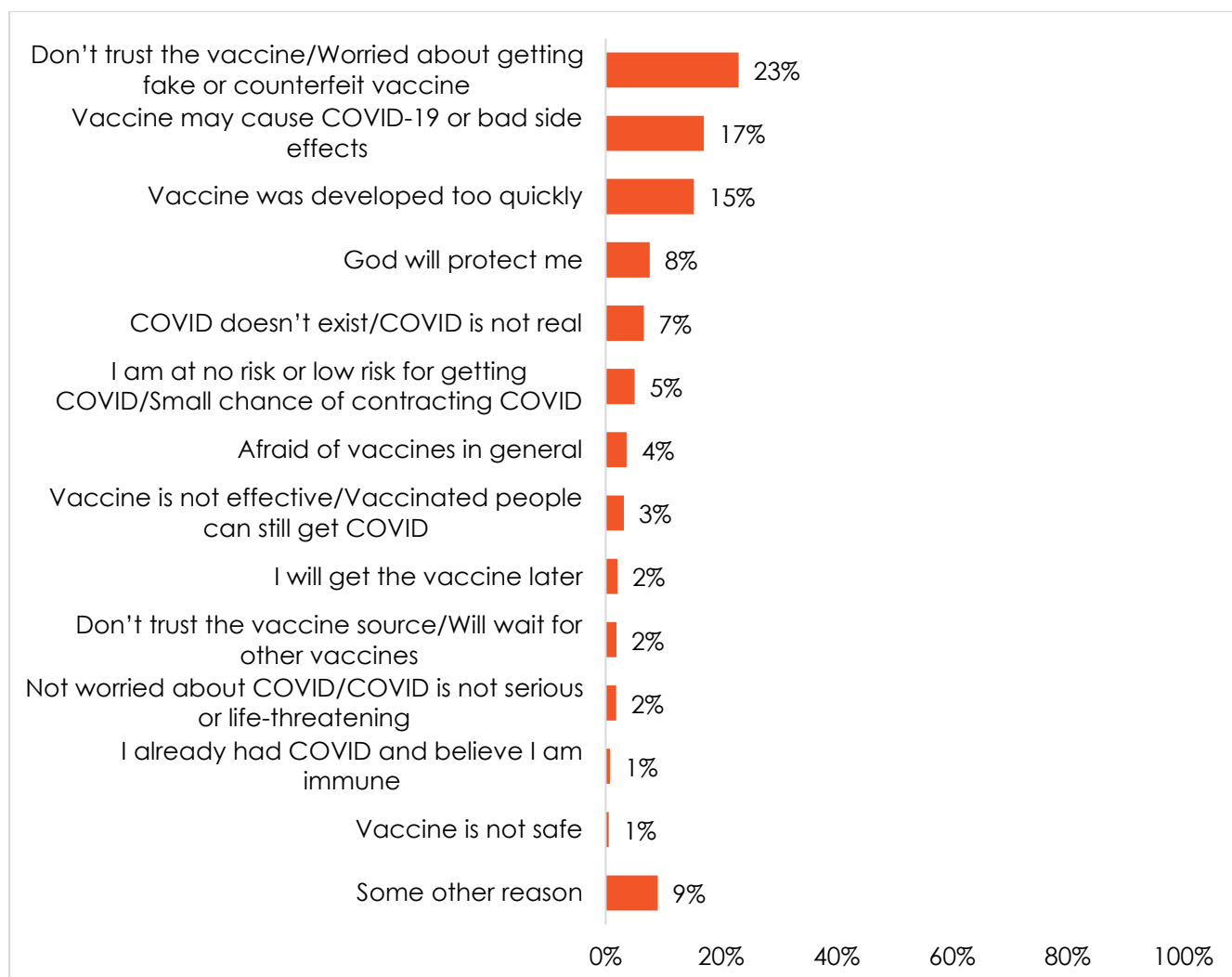
Respondents were asked: How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the government's response to COVID-19 in the following areas?

Figure 5: Likelihood of trying to get vaccinated | Kenya | 2021



Respondents were asked: If a vaccine for COVID-19 is available, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated?

Figure 6: Main reason for vaccine hesitancy | Kenya | 2021



Respondents who said they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 were asked: What is the main reason that you would be unlikely to get a COVID-19 vaccine? (Respondent who said they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are excluded)

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