



Harare, Zimbabwe
11 July 2022

News release

Zimbabweans approve of government's COVID-19 response, but say relief assistance was distributed unfairly

Most Zimbabweans approve of the government's overall management of the COVID-19 pandemic, although few report receiving pandemic-related assistance and a majority believe that assistance was distributed unfairly, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

More than one-third of adults report that their household lost a primary source of income during the pandemic, but far fewer say they benefited from government assistance.

While most citizens say they have been vaccinated against COVID-19, about one in seven say they are unlikely to try to get vaccinated.

Key findings

- Almost two in 10 Zimbabweans (18%) say a member of their household became ill with COVID-19 or tested positive for the virus. Twice as many (38%) say someone in their household lost a job, business, or primary source of income due to the pandemic (Figure 1).
- More than seven in 10 citizens (72%) say have been vaccinated against COVID-19. One in 10 say they are "somewhat likely" (5%) or "very likely" (5%) to get vaccinated, while one in seven say it's "somewhat unlikely" (4%) or "very unlikely" (11%) that they will try to get vaccinated (Figure 2).
- Vaccine-hesitant respondents cite a wide variety of reasons they are unlikely to get vaccinated, most commonly related to mistrust of available vaccines (Figure 3).
- Three-fourths (75%) of citizens say the government has done "fairly well" or "very well" in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 4).
- Zimbabweans overwhelmingly (92%) report that they did not receive COVID-19 relief assistance from the government (Figure 5).
- Two-thirds (67%) of citizens say that the distribution of government support to citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic was "somewhat unfair" or "very unfair" (Figure 6).

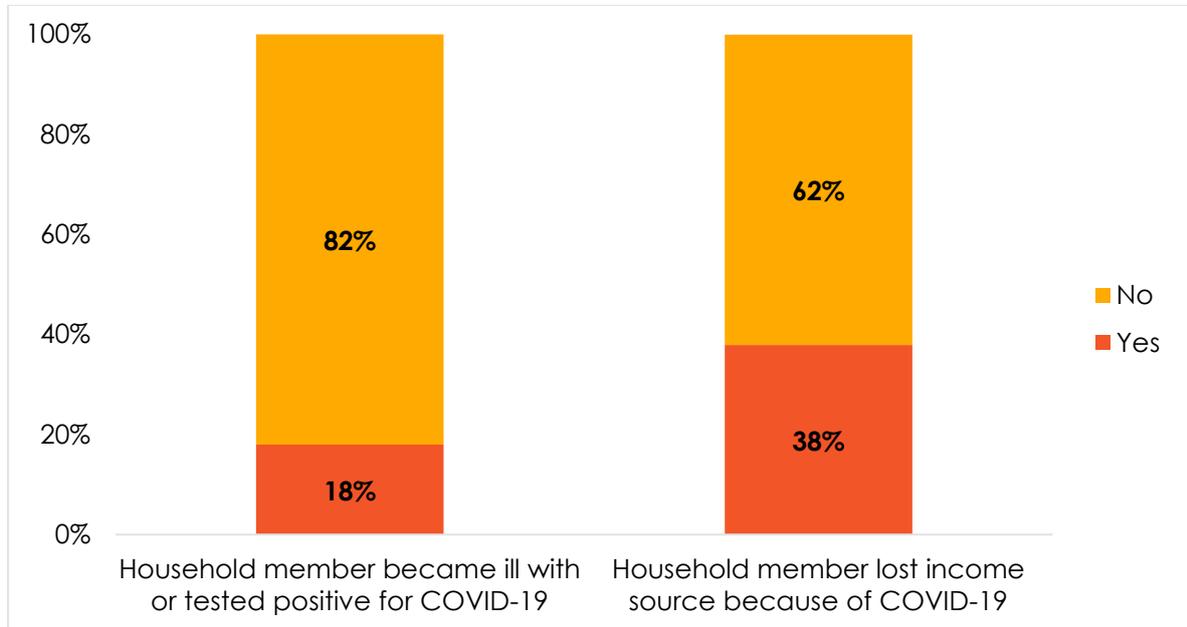
Afrobarometer surveys

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 Zimbabwe, led by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), interviewed 1,200 adult citizens of Zimbabwe between 28 March and 10 April 2022. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, and 2021.

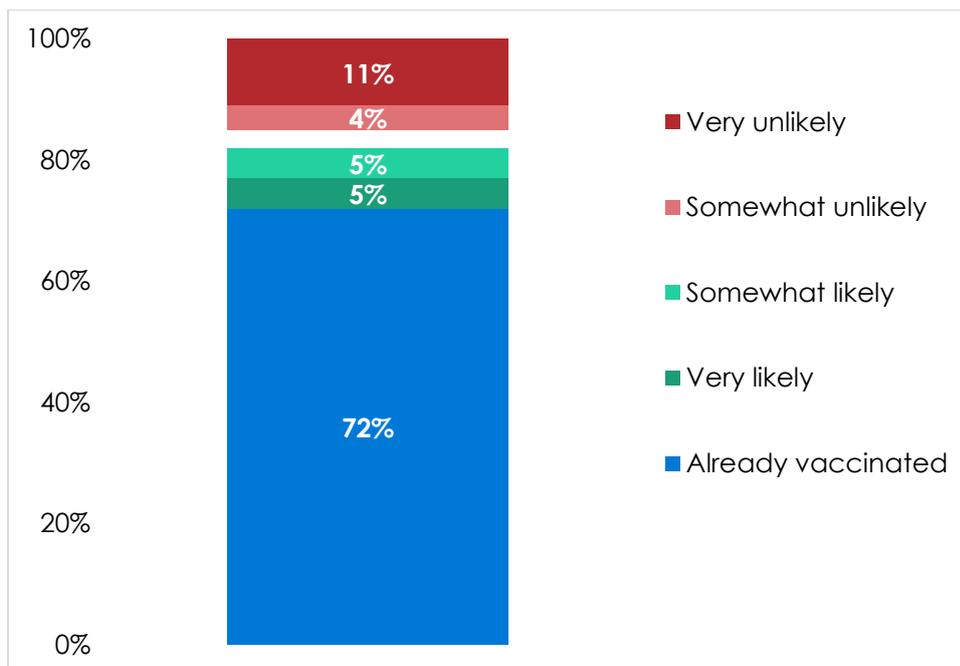
Charts

Figure 1: Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic | Zimbabwe | 2022



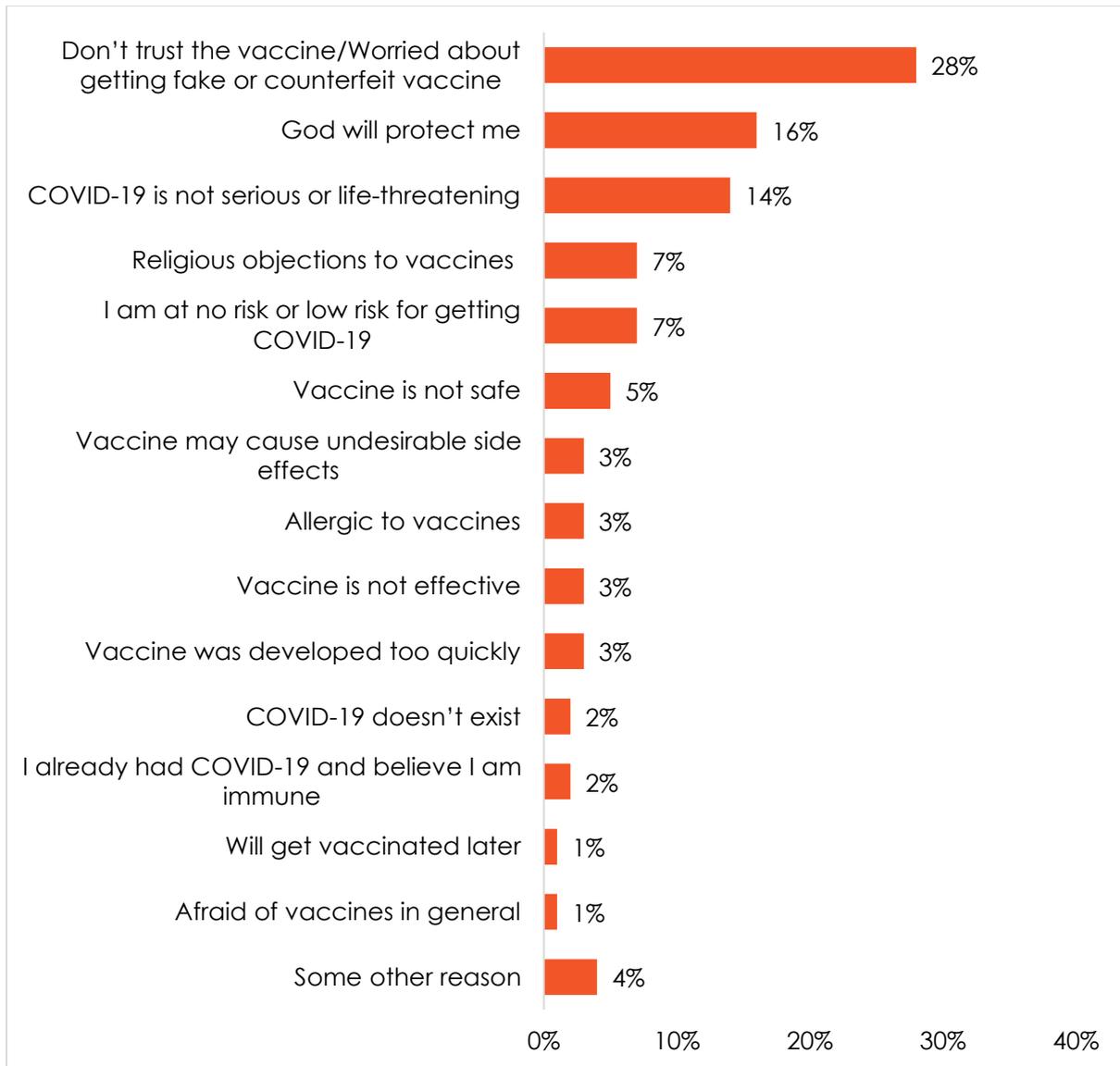
Respondents were asked: Please tell me whether you personally or any other member of your household have been affected in any of the following ways by the COVID-19 pandemic:
 Became ill with, or tested positive for, COVID-19?
 Temporarily or permanently lost a job, business, or primary source of income?

Figure 2: Likelihood of trying to get vaccinated | Zimbabwe | 2022



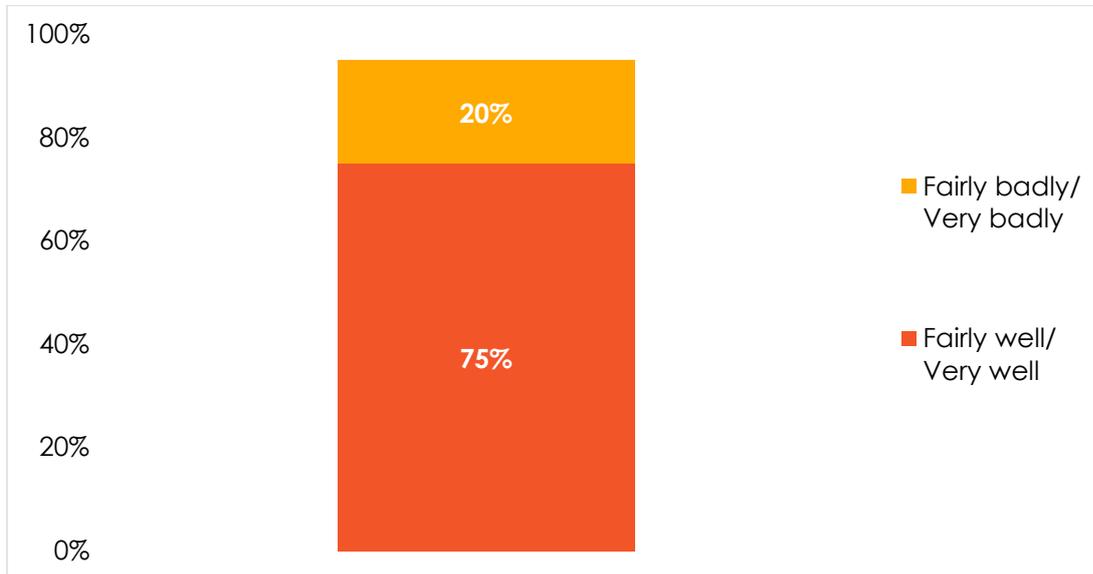
Respondents were asked: If a vaccine for COVID-19 is available, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated?

Figure 3: Main reason for vaccine hesitancy | Zimbabwe | 2022



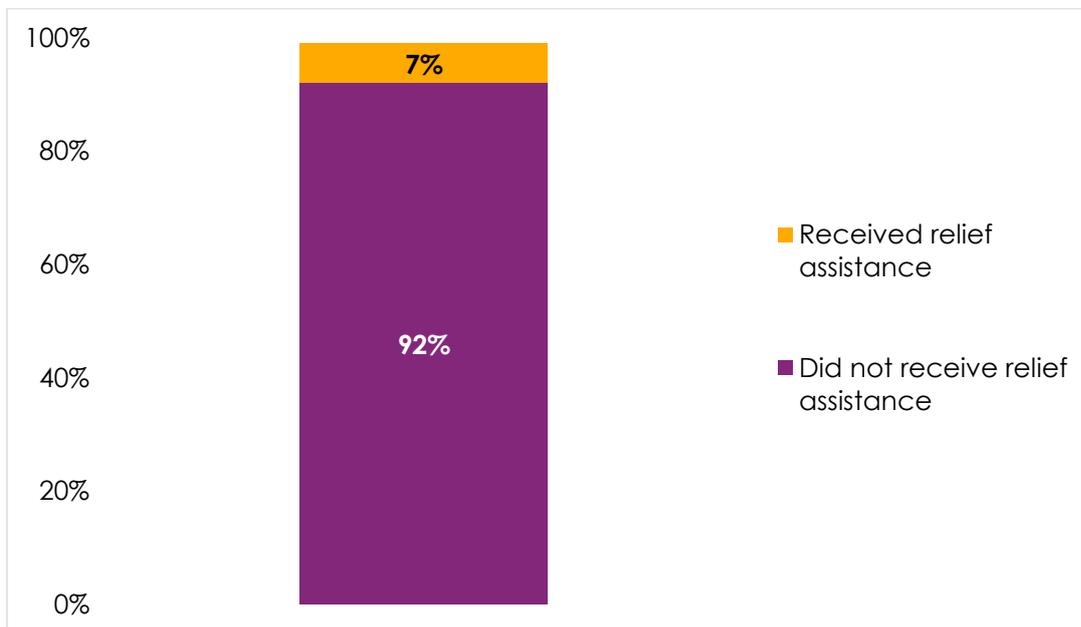
Respondents who said they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 were asked: What is the main reason that you would be unlikely to get a COVID-19 vaccine? (Respondent who said they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are excluded)

Figure 4: Government response to COVID-19 | Zimbabwe | 2022



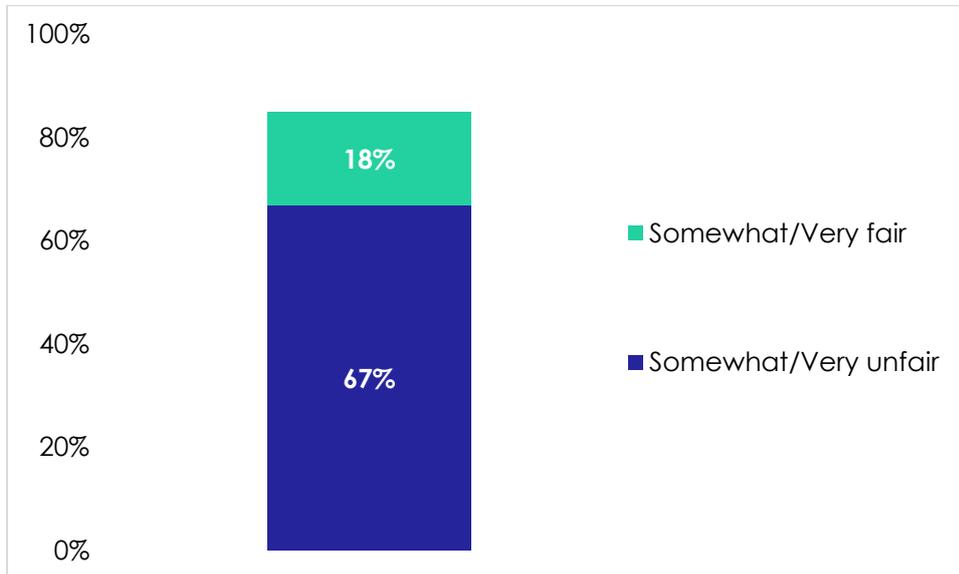
Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government has managed the response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Figure 5: Received pandemic-related relief assistance? | Zimbabwe | 2022



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 6: Was COVID-19 relief assistance distributed fairly? | Zimbabwe | 2022



Respondents were asked: Do you think that the distribution of government support to people during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example through food packages or cash payments, has been fair or unfair?

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