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**Policy brief**  
July 2021



## COVID-19 vaccine acceptance in low- and middle-income countries and recommendations to increase uptake



### In brief

- This study analyses willingness to vaccinate against COVID-19 from surveys covering 10 low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.
- Willingness to vaccinate is considerably higher in these low- and middle-income countries (80% of respondents) than in the United States (67%) and Russia (60%).
- The results suggest prioritising vaccine distribution to low- and middle-income countries should yield high returns in promoting global immunisation coverage, and that vaccination campaigns in these countries should focus on countering negative perceptions.
- Personal protection against COVID-19 is the main reason given for vaccine acceptance in these low- and middle-income countries (91% of respondents). Concerns about side effects (48%) is the most common reason given for vaccine hesitancy.
- Health workers are considered the most trusted sources of information about COVID-19 vaccines (49% of respondents).
- This brief needs to be used with health workers to deliver vaccine information, including in 'door-to-door' settings, leveraging pre-vaccine attitudes, and focusing messaging on vaccine effectiveness to increase vaccine uptake in low- and middle-income countries.

This brief summarizes the findings of Arce et al., 2011.

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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.

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