

Kampala, Uganda  
4 June 2021

## News release

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### Ugandans willing to be vaccinated despite doubts about vaccine safety, Afrobarometer study shows

Almost three-fourths of Ugandans say they are likely to try to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if a vaccine becomes available and the government says it is safe, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

However, only about half trust the government to ensure that any COVID-19 vaccine is safe before it is used in this country. A quarter of Ugandans believe prayer is more effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection.

These findings speak to the observed low uptake of the current COVID-19 vaccination program. According to World Health Organization statistics, 672,395 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered in Uganda as of 2 June 2021. If mass vaccination is to succeed, stakeholders will have to work to increase public confidence in the available vaccines.

#### Key findings

- Seven in 10 (71%) of Ugandans say they are “somewhat likely” or “very likely” to try to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if a vaccine becomes available and the government says it is safe (Figure 1).
- However, only about half (49%) say they trust the government “somewhat” or “a lot” to ensure that any COVID-19 vaccine is safe before it is used in this country.
- Trust in the government’s ability to ensure vaccine safety is particularly weak among urban residents (38%), citizens with secondary (38%) or post-secondary (38%) education, supporters of the political opposition (24%), residents of the Central region (23%), and youth (45% among 18- to 30-year-olds) (Figure 2).
- About one in four citizens (27%) believe that prayer is more effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection, while 44% think a vaccine is more effective than prayer (Figure 3).

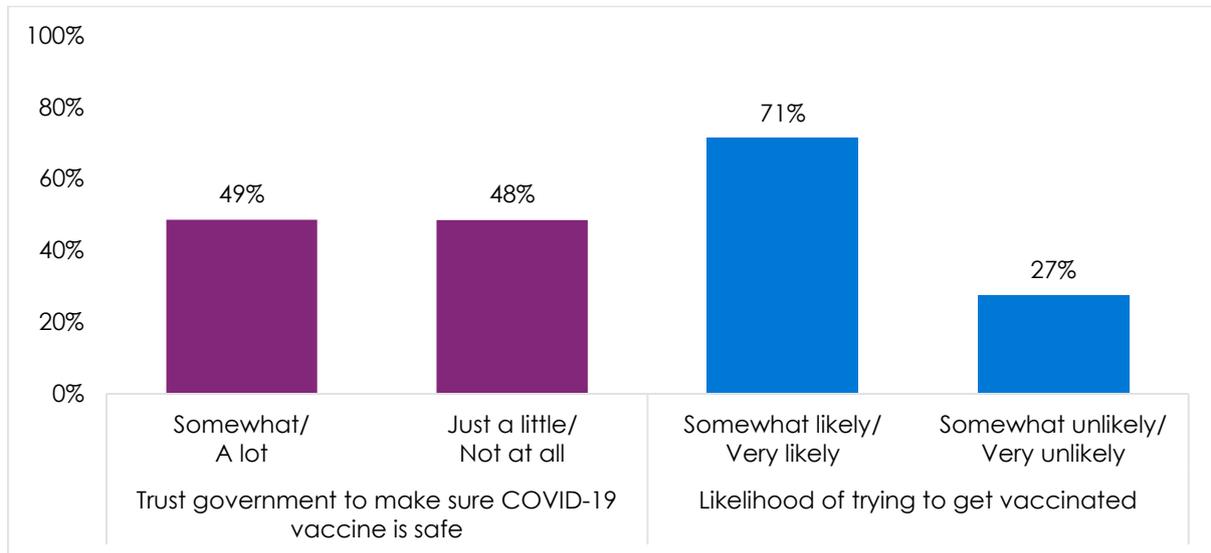
#### Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that has provided reliable data on experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life in 38 African countries since 1999. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice with nationally representative samples.

With financial support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, the Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Limited, interviewed 2,400 adult Ugandans between 22 December 2020 and 7 January 2021 in 300 enumeration areas across 110 districts. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. This was the 11th Afrobarometer survey in Uganda since 1999.

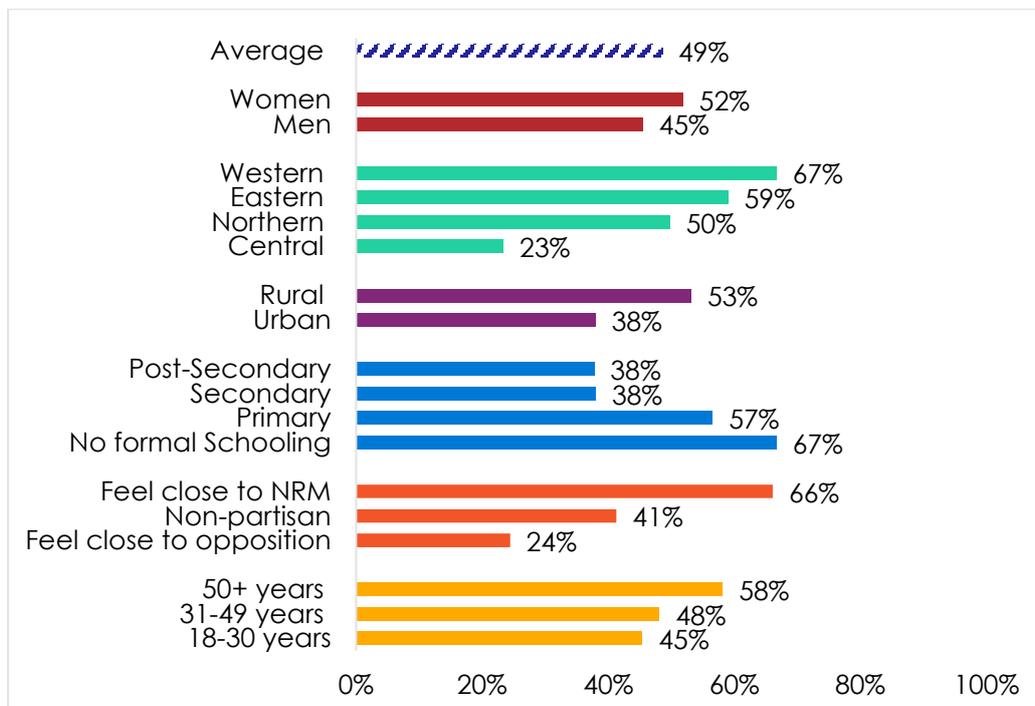
## Charts

**Figure 1: Attitudes toward COVID-19 vaccine | Uganda | 2021**



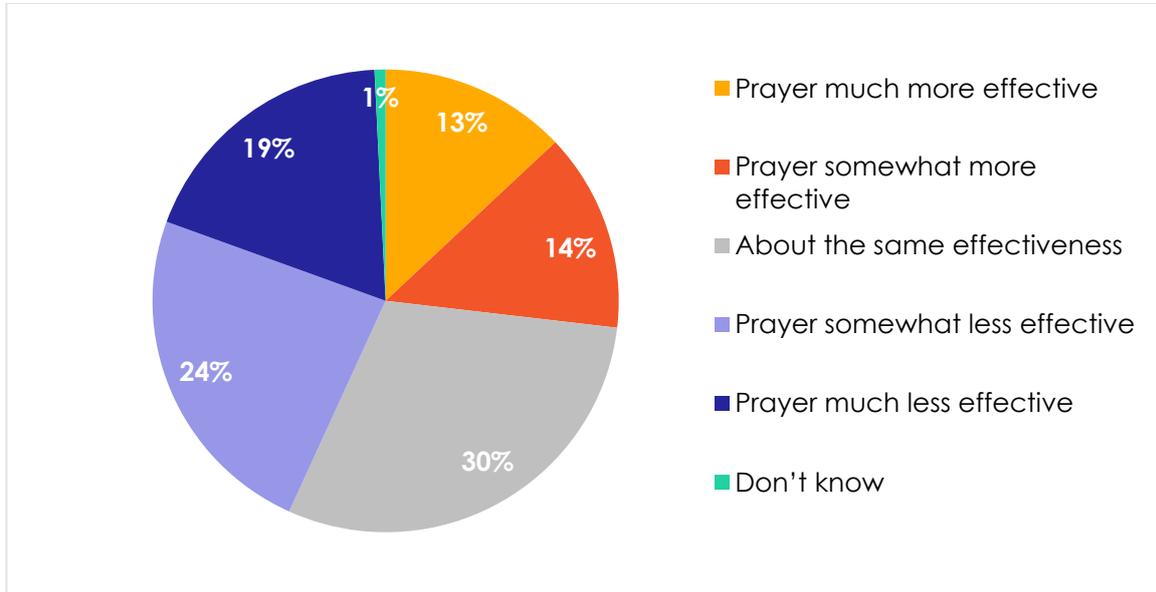
**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered to Ugandan citizens is safe before it is used in this country? If a vaccine for COVID-19 becomes available and the government says it is safe, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated?

**Figure 2: Trust in government to ensure safety of vaccine | by demographic group | Uganda | 2021**



**Respondents were asked:** How much do you trust the government to ensure that any vaccine for COVID-19 that is developed or offered to Ugandan citizens is safe before it is used in this country? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

**Figure 3: Prayer vs. vaccine: Which is more effective against COVID-19? | Uganda**  
 | 2021



**Respondents were asked:** Do you think that prayer is more effective or less effective than a vaccine would be in preventing COVID-19 infection?

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