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January to August 2022

WHOLE OF SYRIA

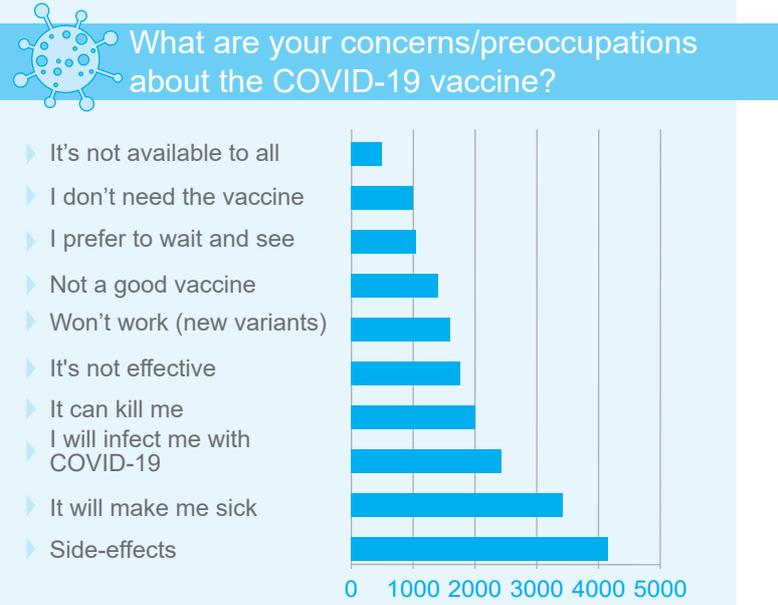
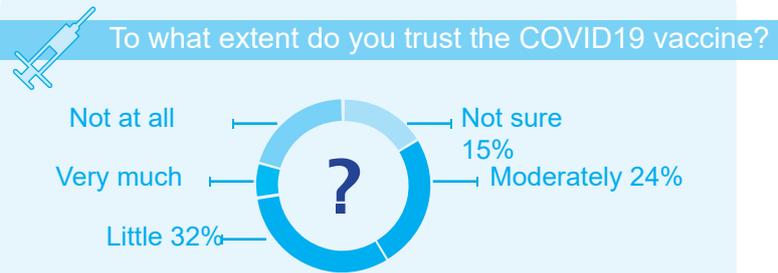
Risk Communication and Community Engagement Response

SITUATION

As of 25 June, according to WHO, **2,743,546 people (12.6 per cent of the population)** had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including **1,826,898 people (8.1 per cent of the population)** who were fully vaccinated.

Despite extensive efforts, data collected in health centres, schools and mosques in March-April 2022 showed a **reduction in terms of interest and trust in COVID-19 vaccination** among the general population, including among health workers. An initial analysis indicates that key reasons are a lack of trust in vaccine effectiveness, related to the type of vaccine; fear of side effects, especially related to reproductive health; and the feeling that it is no longer necessary.

- ▶ 51 per cent of the general population **want to get a COVID-19 vaccine**, down from 62 per cent in October 2021.
- ▶ 45 per cent of the general population and 30 per cent of health care providers **trust the vaccine**. Trust among health care providers has declined by 23 per cent since October.
- ▶ 37 per cent of the general population and 26 per cent of health care providers think the vaccine would have a **positive effect for them and their families' health**. This is down by 21 per cent and 32 per cent respectively since October.
- ▶ 42 per cent of the general population and 29 per cent of health care providers believe that their family members are **at risk if they do not take the vaccine**.
- ▶ 56 per cent of the general population **trusts their health care provider** to give them a COVID-19 vaccine, a decrease of 10 per cent since October.



*Note: RCCE results achieved with funds from other programmes

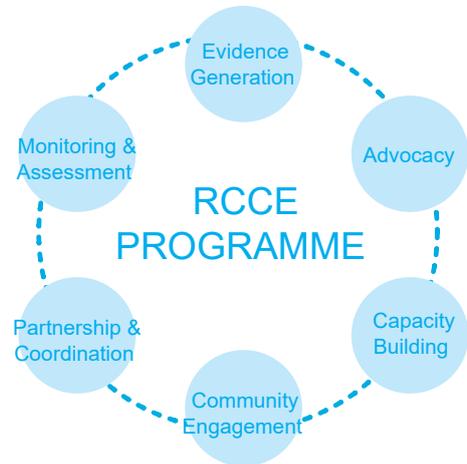
RESPONSE

UNICEF, as the lead of the RCCE Pillar, is using a wide variety of tools and platforms to increase demand for the COVID-19 vaccine in line with the National Vaccine Deployment Plan: Data generation and use; advocacy; partnership and coordination with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education, UN agencies and implementing partners; capacity building of service providers; media campaigns, including social media; community engagement with influential people; and monitoring and assessment. From April 2021 to March 2022, about fifteen million people (about 70 per cent of the population) have been engaged in two-way communication in 14 governorates.

Lessons over the past year show that RCCE interventions are most effective when social and structural challenges are being addressed. For example when:

- ▶ Government prevention measures are put in place to stop spread the infection during spikes in severe COVID-19 cases.
- ▶ People consider COVID-19 vaccination as their 'business card' to travel.
- ▶ Vaccines stated as more preferred, such as AstraZeneca, are available.

- ▶ Sufficient mobile vaccination and outreach teams are operating, to provide services in place.
- ▶ Professional health workers encourage people to get vaccinated, while responding to rumours and misinformation.
- ▶ The Departments of Health and NGOs are working together to educate and encourage people to get vaccinated.



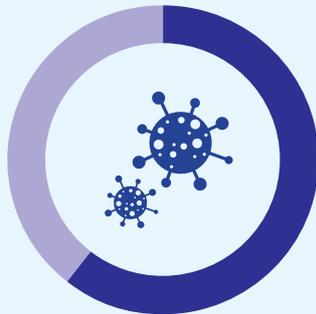
COVID-19 Vaccination

■ 2,743,546

Number of people received their first dose

■ 1,826,898

Number of people who are fully vaccinated



RCCE engagement and vaccination

- RCCE engagement
- Received at least 1 dose

