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.

WHOLE OF SYRIA
Risk Communication and Community Engagement Response

To what extent do you trust the COVID-19 vaccine?

Not at all
Very much
Not sure
Moderately
Little

What are your concerns/preoccupations about the COVID-19 vaccine?

- It’s not available to all
- I don’t need the vaccine
- I prefer to wait and see
- Not a good vaccine
- It won’t work (new variants)
- It’s not effective
- It can kill me
- I will infect me with COVID-19
- It will make me sick
- Side-effects

*Note: RCCE results achieved with funds from other programmes
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