REPORT ON COMMUNITY PERCEPTION TRACKER

NAIROBI REPORT

From left: Lucia Mildred and her children | Photo: Brian Otieno / Oxfam in Kenya
The Community Perception Tracker (CPT) is an approach that uses a mobile tool to enable staff to capture, analyze and understand the perceptions of communities during disease outbreaks. CPT's objectives are to better document on-going context, to swiftly and timely adapt our programming, to advocate on behalf of the communities, and to effectively monitor changes in comprehension and behaviors in the COVID-19 response.
SECTION I: MAIN TRENDS

**Vaccination** is the main trend in the last three weeks at 36%, followed by the impact of Covid-19 on livelihoods at 27%, how to prevent Covid-19 at 18%, measures by the government at 9%. The rest of the thematic areas are all at 3% as shown in the chart below.

### THEMATIC COVID PERCEPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Perception</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stigmatisation</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access Care/Hospital</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signs/Symptoms of Covid-19</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures by Government MOH</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to Prevent</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact on Livelihood</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>36%</td>
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What people said around the different themes

**Vaccinations**

- A vaccine has already been produced and it’s going to be accessible to all: at a small fee.
- Are there any side effects that the Covid-19 vaccines will bring after getting vaccinated?
- Are lactating mothers going to be vaccinated with the same vaccine?
- Coronavirus vaccine is just a way to reduce the population in Africa and the vaccine is not effective.
- Covid-19 is real but, they are afraid of the vaccine since they believe that the vaccine is not safe for human consumption.
- Do you think we will ever get a vaccination for the virus? This pandemic is frustrating.
- I am not ready to be vaccinated. I still need to see more vaccine trials put in place. More research on the appropriate vaccine ought to be done.
- I don’t trust anything made by Europeans especially a time like now where they are the ones who first got infected with the virus and now it is them who’ve come up with a vaccine. Maybe there’s something behind this vaccine towards the Africans.
- I don’t think I will consent to be vaccinated against the Coronavirus because I feel more research ought to have been done on the vaccine.
- As an essential worker, among those who are prioritized to be receiving the vaccine during the first phase. I don’t believe I’ve been affected by Covid-19, so I don’t need the vaccine.
- Kenya is a corrupt country. They will not vaccinate everybody as they say. This vaccine news will slowly die out the same way they said they would test everyone for Coronavirus which I’ve never seen in our local hospitals.
Now that there is a vaccine for the coronavirus, are students in the schools going to receive the vaccine because schools are one of the overcrowded places?

Will babies and lactating mothers be vaccinated against the Coronavirus?

### Impact on livelihoods

- A question was asked: what if the government offered some help to the society when Covid-19 was first reported, would most people have gotten into illegal businesses?

- All I need is financial support. My business collapsed during this Covid-19 period, and I’m suffering.

- As youth, Covid-19 has affected us; there are no jobs and some youth are now involved in criminal activities.

- Because of this pandemic, the government managed to give us cash transfers for some time and we never went without food.

- By staying home for several months, many students forgot their responsibilities in their communities, they started riding motorcycles businesses and the money they earned was used for parties and clubbing.

- Covid-19 affected us, especially as an adolescent; it reached even to a point where buying a sanitary towel was a luxury.

### How to prevent Covid-19

- A good number of people believe that Alcohol can be used to prevent the Covid-19 virus.

- As elderly people, we are at a higher risk of this virus. The government should see how to get us basic needs so that we don’t have to go to work and mingling with the others in the community.

- As we come close to March 12, 2021, positive cases have started to be forced to rise and death cases are on the rise so that the curfews can be extended.

- Avoid unnecessary movements or gathering of people because most people are not tested, and they might have Covid-19 and they don’t know it.

- Because of this pandemic, most people now wear masks everywhere and it suffocates people a lot.

### Measures by the government

- A friend has always been travelling to Uganda to buys goods that she sells in Kenya, but when she gets to the border, she undergoes so many procedures before she could be allowed to get into Uganda.

- According to me, I don’t believe in this disease, politicians are busy doing rallies with millions of mask less crowds following them and no one gets infected.

- Corona is here to stay. The government should open and remove curfews for us to get back to normal.

- Coronavirus has done worse than good, for example, you cannot even trust your family members to wear a mask.

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The practices are mainly on measures taken to prevent covid-19 and concerns, on the vaccines and impact of Covid-19 on the livelihoods. Few questions and beliefs were on misconceptions around the vaccines that are expected to arrive in the country by end of the month.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the perception gathered it is apparent that the community have doubts and misinformation on COVID-19 vaccines. Efforts are required to provide more information on the vaccination to allay fears and misinformation regarding the efficacy of the vaccine and side effects. Similarly, the effects of the pandemic on people’s livelihood is still very high and families are struggling to meet basic needs such as food and dignity kits for women and girls.

Based on the foregoing, the following suggested recommendation are given to provide a way forward in addressing the negative beliefs and foster the adoption of positive practices and behaviour for prevention and control of Covid-19 based on the information collected.

- Working closely with health departments to give real-time information on covid-19 vaccines to alleviate fear and misconceptions around the vaccines.
- Organize dialogue meetings with different organized groups to reinforce the adoption of positive practices to reduce prevent transmission of Covid-19.
- Organise community forums to share feedback on perceptions and gather more questions/fears on vaccination to share with county health departments for action.
- Advocate for the expansion of safety-nets and social assistance programmes to mitigate severe impacts on livelihoods.
Context

These perceptions were collected: 40% through informal conversations, 28% through household meetings, 20% through community meetings, and 12% through WhatsApp’s groups as shown on the chart below.

### THEMATIC COVID PERCEPTION

- **Stigmatisation**: 3%
- **Access Care/Hospital**: 3%
- **Signs/Symptoms of Covid-19**: 3%
- **Measures by Government MOH**: 9%
- **How to Prevent**: 18%
- **Impact on Livelihood**: 27%
- **Vaccination**: 36%

### Incidence of Covid-19 among the families

None of the family members who shared the feedback has had any household member infected by Covid-19.

### Sex, age, and Disaggregated Disability Data

Most of the perceptions were collected from men (36%) and women (24%). Comparatively few perceptions were also collected from children (boys and girls) same to persons with disabilities 33%. Physical disability accounted for 100%, None of the women who shared the feedback was either pregnant or lactating.

### Source of information

The sources of information however varied: 40% from word of mouth, 20% from close family members, 12% from neighbours, 12% from the TV, 12% from social media, and 4% from the radio. Which were the main channels of receiving information.

### Where perception was collected from

- **36% Men**
- **24% Women**
- **12% Girls/Boys**
- **12% Boys**
- **9% Girls**
- **4% Man/Woman**
- **4% All Gender**

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**Physical Disability**

- accounted for
- **100%**

**None**

- of the women who shared the feedback was either pregnant or lactating
Ann Gakenia Shosh is a 69 year old single grandmother and mother taking care of 7 children in the Mukuru Kwa Njenga informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya | Photo: Asha Jaffar / Oxfam in Kenya