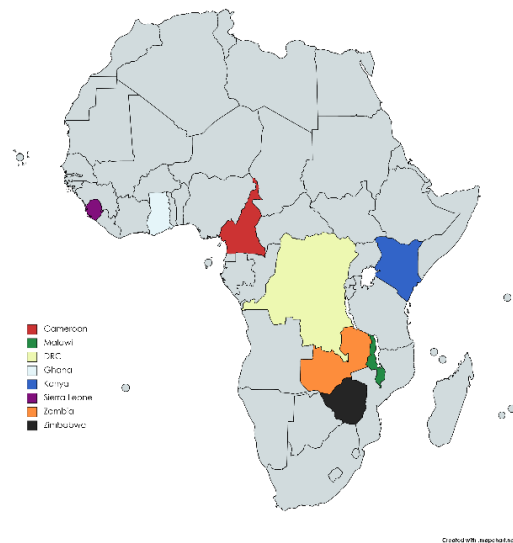


The community feedback data under consideration for this Brief was collected between **the 1st of December 2021 to 18th March 2022** and shared by Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) focal points **in 8 African countries**.

During the reporting period, community feedback was gathered during social mobilisation activities such as house-to-house visits, community meetings, face to face interviews and focus group discussions with community members in Kenya (1326), Cameroon (926), DRC (178) and Ghana (02) . Feedback was also received through National Society radio shows, hotline, Helpdesk and 2-way SMS in Malawi (145), Sierra Leone (52) and Zambia (9). Feedback was also received from National Society CEA focal point in Zimbabwe (10).

A key trend coming from community feedback has been related to the **COVID-19 doses and boosters**. Over the past few months, there have been several questions asking what the booster vaccine is and how it works in protecting people against COVID-19. A few of the questions were also related to the waiting period that is recommended between taking the 1st and 2nd dose and taking the booster. People also asked why the booster vaccine was important to take and whether it's mandatory to take it.

In addition, during the reporting period some of the questions asked were about



why the COVID-19 vaccines required two doses and a booster. This has also led some people to question the effectiveness of the vaccines because of the number of doses required to take.

There were also comments indicating that some people were not accepting of the COVID-19 vaccine booster because they had not heard of the booster before or received sufficient information on the vaccines, other people also believed that the vaccines including the booster could cause harm or lead to death.

However, over the reporting period there were also comments in favour of receiving the COVID-19 vaccines, with people saying they will or have already received the vaccine and some people said they prefer to take the vaccines that only require one dose such as AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK QUOTES ACROSS COUNTRIES

Questions, observations and beliefs about COVID-19 vaccine doses and boosters

Heard in: Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia

“When will booster vaccine be available?” – Kenya, Household visit, 03rd of February 2022

“Booster vaccine has added more toxin to kill more people” - Malawi, 2-way SMS, 18th of March 2022

“People say that the vaccine is a killer and not a protection against covid fever » - Malawi, 2-way SMS, 18th of March 2022

“How long are you supposed to wait for the booster vaccine after being fully vaccinated?” – Kenya, Household visit, 31st of January 2022

“Up to this time some people cannot understand the importance of booster. All what they need is Civic education” - Malawi, 2-way SMS, 18th of March 2022

“Why the Third Dose, does it mean the first did not work”- Zimbabwe, NS focal point, 1st of December 2021

What is the booster and why do we have to take it? – Zambia, NS radio show, 1st of December 2021

TO ADDRESS THIS FEEDBACK, WE NEED TO:

- Use existing structures to engage with communities about the COVID-19 vaccines and booster. Examples of local structures including local community- and faith- based organisations; fathers’ and mothers’ groups; schools; elderly clubs and youth groups.
- Work with local influencers such as community leaders, religious leader and local celebrities about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters and get their support for creating an enabling environment for vaccine uptake. Collaborate with local media to promote positive messaging around the vaccines and show examples of people who have been vaccinated and their experiences with the vaccine.
- Make sure that volunteers are updated on the COVID-19 vaccine booster developments including why they are recommended, how they work and their effectiveness and safety so that they can respond to questions and concerns from communities about the boosters. Adapt information materials and resources based on feedback from communities and evolving perceptions and concerns.
- This Viral Facts [video](#) can help explain the importance of boosters and how they work. You can also use WHO’s [video](#) which provides evidence-based information on the safety and effectiveness of the booster vaccine. There are also some FAQs on the safety and side effects of the vaccines, which can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON IFRC EFFORTS TO DOCUMENT, ANALYSE AND USE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON COVID-19 IN AFRICA, PLEASE CONTACT ELISABETH GANTER RESTREPO AT ELISABETH.GANTER@IFRC.ORG OR NAPOLEON NYANGHE EGO MEME AT NAPOLEON.NYANGHE@IFRC.ORG