GeoPoll

2020
YEAR END REPORT

How those in 6 African nations have adapted to a year like no other and their predictions for the future

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Table of Contents

Introduction

2020 will forever be defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left virtually no region untouched and changed both the daily habits and financial outlooks for a vast segment of the global population. Mask usage and social distancing are now commonplace, and millions have lost jobs or income due to the economic downturn that has been a result of the pandemic. Sectors including retail, agriculture, and education have had to adjust to drastic shifts in individual habits, and supply chains worldwide have been severely disrupted.

While sub-Saharan Africa has not experienced as many COVID-19 cases as other regions, countries throughout the area have been under varying levels of restrictions which have nevertheless had a huge impact on life. A report by GeoPoll in July 2020 found that 76% in 6 countries in sub-Saharan Africa had lost income due to COVID-19, a figure that is influenced by the large percentage of the population who operate in the informal economy. Organizations including the World Bank and World Food Programme have warned of the rise in food insecurity due to high prices for goods and income loss, among other factors.

Consumer spending is also experiencing changes; as the holiday season approaches, a study from McKinsey in South Africa found ongoing reductions in discretionary spending, and that 88% of households expect to spend the same or less on the holidays as they did last year. This change in spending and shopping habits is likely to have impacts on both brands and media agencies for months to come, and may spur longer-term changes in the usage of online shopping and mobile money throughout the region.

Despite the economic hardships currently being experienced, many are now turning to the next phase of the virus; the production and global distribution of a vaccine. In November, Pfizer and Moderna both announced that their vaccines have been found to be highly effective in preventing COVID-19, with several other pharmaceutical companies close behind them in the race to complete a vaccine. This news means that a vaccine will likely be available to high-priority individuals such as healthcare workers as soon as December 2020, and will be more widely distributed sometime 2021.

The success of a vaccine at ending the pandemic depends largely on a high percentage of the population taking the vaccine, and studies have indicated varying levels of support for taking a vaccine. A Gallup study in November found that 58% of surveyed adults in the US would take a vaccine, an increase from 50% in September, while another multi-country study found that those in China were most likely to report that they would take a vaccine, and those in Russia least likely to say they would take a vaccine. These answers may be informed by varying levels of trust in government and the spread of conspiracy theories regarding a vaccine contents that have been more prevalent in some regions than others.

With these topics in mind, in November 2020 GeoPoll conducted a study in Côte D'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa to gauge how lives have changed in 2020, people's views on the future, and their willingness to take a vaccine. This report compares results from this most recent study with GeoPoll's previous studies, which covered topics from perception of the disease to the economic impacts of COVID-19 in multiple African countries. The main topics covered in this study are:

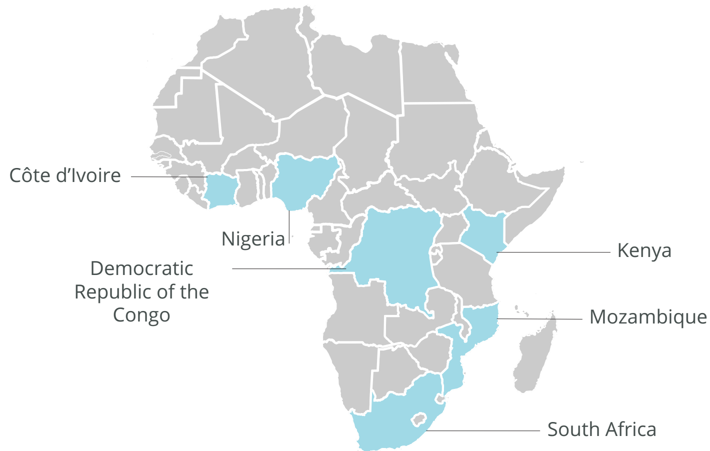
- Changes to routines, mental, and physical health since COVID-19
- The ongoing economic impact of COVID-19
- Changes to consumer spending, ecommerce and mobile money usage during COVID-19, and predicted holiday spending in 2020
- Perceptions of vaccines and willingness to take a COVID-19 vaccine

Findings are summarized in this report, and an interactive dashboard with data can be viewed here.

Overview of Current COVID-19 Situation in Each Country

In order to best interpret the results from GeoPoll's study, we must understand the current situation regarding COVID-19 in each country, including the number of cases, time of peak virus cases, and government-imposed restrictions in place as of November 2020. As has occurred around the globe, restrictions in the six nations studied have changed over time, loosening and re-tightening as cases rise and fall. We have compiled the below information based on available information from the United States Embassy in each nation and the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Dashboard, which provides official reports of confirmed number of cases. While the actual number of COVID-19 cases is undoubtedly larger and there may be regional restrictions which differ from the below, these metrics provide country-level context that informs the analysis provided in this report.

COUNTRIES STUDIED



Côte D'Ivoire:

- 21,310 confirmed cases and 131 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring on July 13th 2020. Cases have remained low from September. See current cases.
- A State of Emergency is in effect with social distancing and reduction in movements encouraged. Travel is allowed and restaurants, schools, and universities are open and following social distancing guidelines. Restrictions in travel to and from Abidjan were lifted in July, though face masks are mandatory in public in the greater Abidjan area. Updated as of November 30th 2020. See current information.

Democratic Republic of Congo:

- 12,701 confirmed cases and 333 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring on May 27th 2020. Cases have risen slightly in the month of November. See current cases.
- Masks are required in public places but there are few country-wide restrictions on travel or business operations. Updated as of November 16th 2020. See current information.

Kenya:

- 83,316 confirmed cases and 1,452 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring on November 28th. Cases have risen throughout late October and November and are now at a higher reported peak than earlier in the pandemic. See current cases.
- Masks are required in public and as of September 28th gatherings over 15 people remain suspended. There is a nightly curfew in place from 10pm to 4am each day through January 3rd 2021. Some grade levels have resumed in person and Universities are open under strict guidelines. Updated as of November 23rd 2020. See current information.

Mozambique:

- 15,613 confirmed cases and 130 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring on September 29th. Cases have been declining since late October. See current cases.

- Mozambique transitioned from a State of Emergency to a State of Public Calamity on September 7th to gradually resume economic activities, and loosened restrictions on travel on October 29th. General safety measures including use of face masks and social distancing remain in place. Bars and informal stalls which sell alcohol are closed and markets have reduced hours of operation. Updated as of November 30th, 2020. See current information.

Nigeria:

- 67,412 confirmed cases and 1,173 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring June 15th. Cases have been relatively low and remain steady since September. See current cases.

- A ban on inter-state travel was lifted on June 29th and currently most basic services are open. Individual states had more restrictions earlier in the pandemic which have now been lifted. Mass gatherings of over 50 people are prohibited. See current information.

South Africa:

- 787,702 confirmed cases and 21,477 deaths as of November 30th, with the peak in reported cases occurring on July 25th. Cases have been slightly rising in November but remain well below their peak. See current cases.

- Following strict lockdowns and a full international travel ban, South Africa is now at the lowest lockdown level, which allows most normal activity to resume following health guidelines but recommends employees work from home when possible. Updated as of November 12th 2020. See current information.

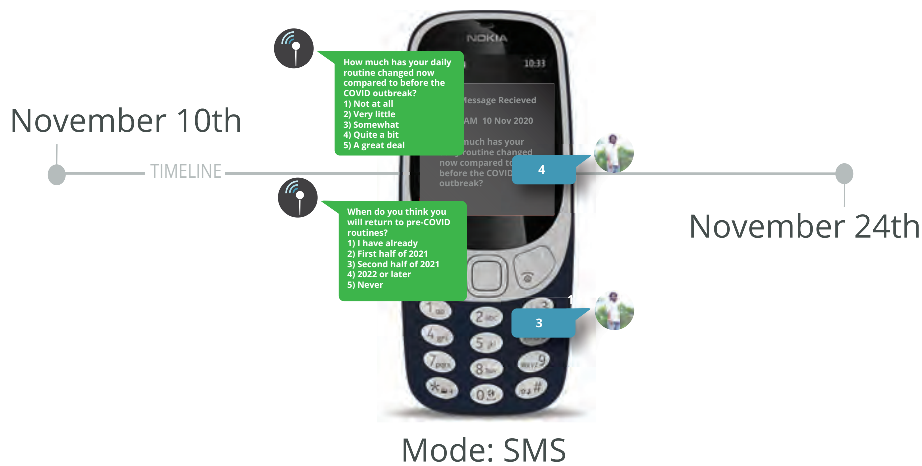
Methodology

This study was implemented by GeoPoll using our own mobile research platform and respondent database. For more information on the sample and methodology, and to request copies of the questionnaire and raw data, please contact info@GeoPoll.com.

Questionnaire and Mode

This study questionnaire was designed by GeoPoll's questionnaire team and translated where needed. The study was run in English in Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria; French in Côte D'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Portuguese in Mozambique. Data collection occurred from November 10th to November 24th 2020, with some countries completing data collection earlier than others.

METHODOLOGY



The study was run through SMS, in which a 2-way text message conversation takes place, with one survey question being sent at a time. Messages utilize short codes which are free to respond to, meaning respondents can participate even if they do not have airtime in their accounts. A small incentive in the form of airtime credit was provided upon survey completion.

Sample

This study was run in six countries: Côte D'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa. The total sample size was 500 per country and 3,000 total, which provides a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence interval. GeoPoll used a simple random sampling technique from GeoPoll's respondent database, a list of mobile subscribers in each country surveyed. The sample was nationally representative by age, gender and location (ADM1), with a natural fallout of Socio-Economic Class or Living Standard Measures in all markets. Total gender and age splits are were 50.4% female and 49.6% male, 38.3% ages 15-25, 28.2% ages 26-35, and 33.4% over 35. For more detailed sample breakdowns please visit our dashboard, which includes data by ADM1 location, or email info@GeoPoll.com.

While SMS surveys are generally able to reach wide portions of the population in most countries, the sample is made up of literate adults with access to mobile phones, and thus reaches wealthier and more educated populations than other modes such as Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

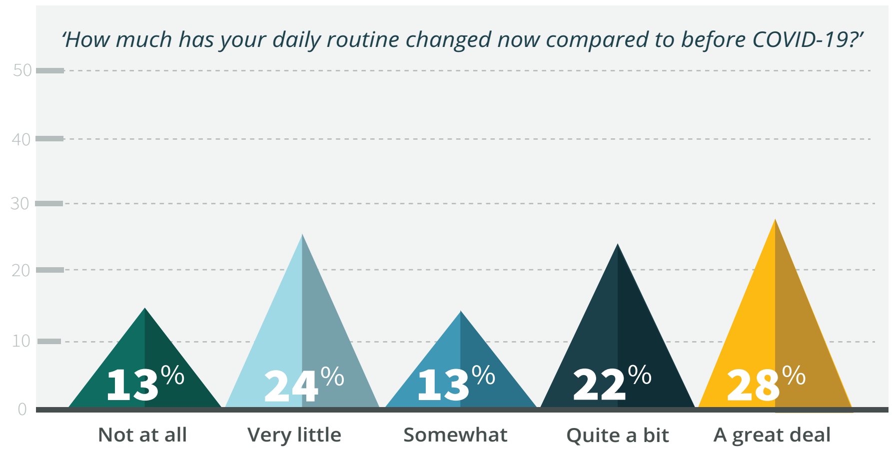
Results

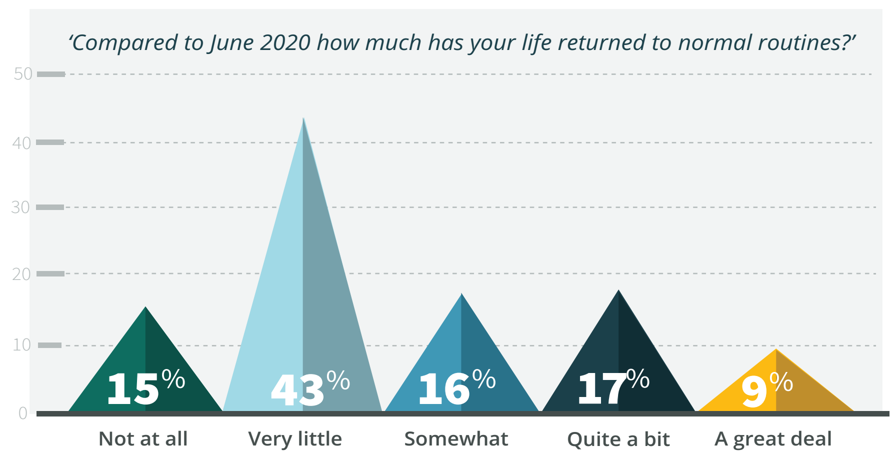
Changes to Routines and Biggest Challenges of the Pandemic

To ascertain shifts in general routines and if populations have returned to pre-COVID routines in certain countries, GeoPoll's study first examined changes in daily routine since the beginning of the pandemic and since June 2020. Overall, we found that since the COVID-19 outbreak a majority report their routines have changed either 'quite a bit' or 'a great deal', however 24% of respondents state that routines have changed very little and 13% state routines have not changed at all.

Those in Kenya and Mozambique were most likely to report routines have changed 'a great deal', with 38% of those in Kenya and 33% of those in Mozambique reporting the largest change in routines. Respondents in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has the lowest number of confirmed cases of all six countries and has few ongoing restrictions, were most likely to report that routines have either not changed or changed very little.

ROUTINE CHANGES DUE TO COVID-19





Examined by age, we see that those in the oldest age group were most likely to report that their routines have changed 'a great deal', at 33%, which could be due to warnings of the virus' worse impact on older populations. Both males and females report roughly equal levels of change in their routines.

Return to Normal Predictions

41% **of respondents believe they will return to pre-COVID routines in the first half of 2021**

GeoPoll also looked at how much life has returned to normal routines, finding that 43% state that compared to June 2020, 'very little' of their life has returned to normal. While 'very little' was the most common answer, over a quarter of respondents indicate that their lives have returned to normal either 'quite a bit' or 'a great deal', indicating a divide that is likely based on several factors including location, job type, and more.

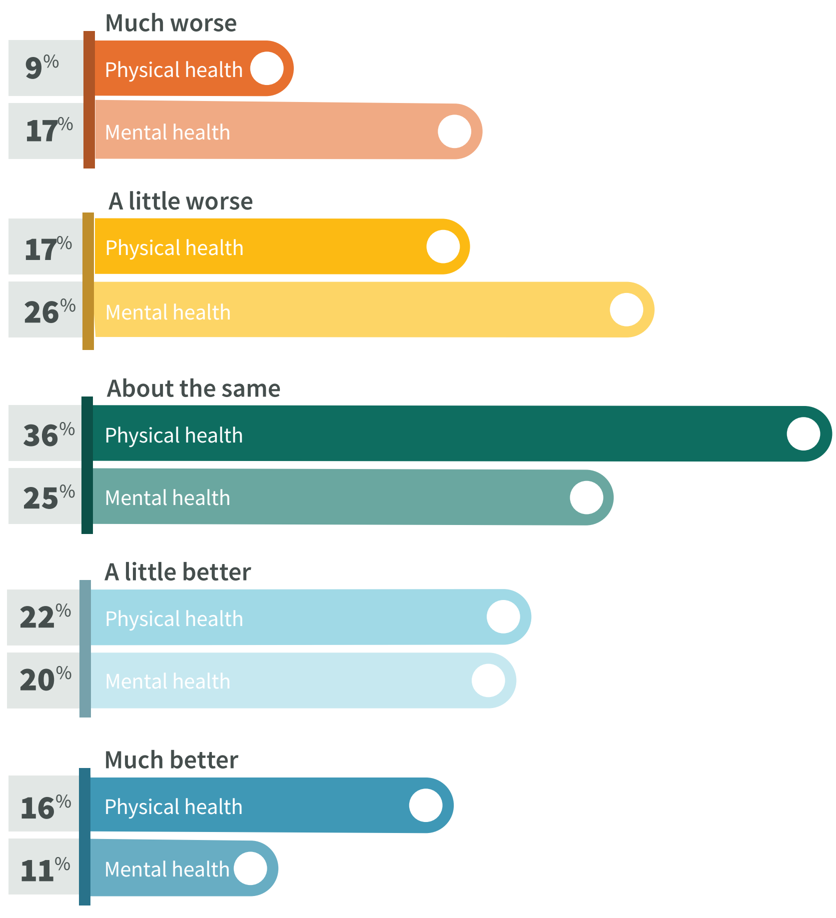
Additionally, 24% indicate that they have already returned to pre-COVID routines, while 41% believe that they will return to pre-COVID routines in the first half of 2021, and 17% in the second half of 2021, demonstrating that most populations believe that the impacts of coronavirus on daily routines will cease sometime in 2021. Those in South Africa and Kenya were least likely to report that they have already returned to normal routines, while respondents in Côte D'Ivoire were most likely to have returned to normal already. Showing similar trends in terms of how much routines have changed, those aged 36 and older were least likely to report that they have returned to normal routines already.

These findings indicate there is a split in the populations of these countries; While a larger portion of the population report major changes in their routines, over a third of respondents have not changed their routines much. While we observed some differences by country and age group, there were not significant differences by demographics, solidifying GeoPoll's earlier finding that the effects of COVID-19 on routines and ability to work cut across demographic groups.

Physical and Mental Health Effects of COVID-19

Both mental and physical health have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In one study in the United States, it was found that 53% of adults reported that their mental health had been negatively impacted by coronavirus, and the World Health Organization has reported that the pandemic has resulted in disruptions to critical mental health services around the globe. In addition to mental health challenges experienced by the general population, one study found that nearly one in five people who are diagnosed with COVID-19 struggles with anxiety, depression, or insomnia. Additionally, even for those who do not contract COVID-19, there are concerns that physical health will suffer due to a lack of regular exercise and other changes to wellbeing caused by quarantines and closure of facilities including gyms.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COMPARED TO PRE-COVID



GeoPoll's study found that the pandemic is having negative effects on mental health in the six countries studied, while physical health is more stable. When looking at physical health we found that the largest group reported their physical health is about the same as last year, while 26% report it being a little worse or much worse and 38% report their physical health being a little better or much better. The results for mental or emotional health were more varied, with 43% stating their mental health is either a little or much worse than last year, 31% stating it is a little better or much better, and 25% that it is about the same.

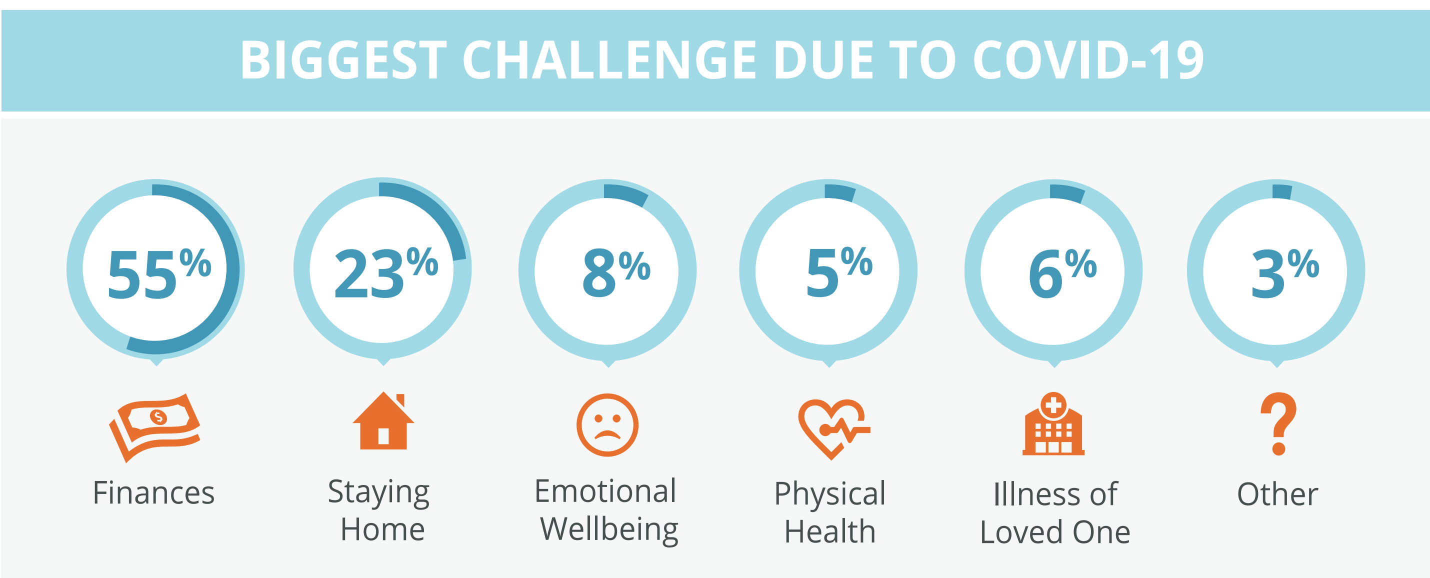
The level of emotional distress examined differs by country, and we found that Kenyans reported being the worst off emotionally compared to last year, with 64% of Kenyans stating that they are feeling worse emotionally, compared to just 24% in Côte D'Ivoire. Given that cases in Kenya were rising at the time of this study and a nightly curfew was still in place, while Côte D'Ivoire has a low case count and relatively few restrictions, this finding could be due to the distress around case growth and length of the restrictions in Kenya. Within Kenya, those in Nairobi report the highest levels of emotional distress, with 75% of those in Nairobi compared to 62% of those in other regions reporting that their emotional health is worse this year compared to last year.

GeoPoll also found a link between financial suffering and emotional well-being; Of those who reported that their income had decreased a lot since June 2020, over a quarter of respondents state that their emotional health has gotten 'much worse', compared to just 10% of those whose incomes had decreased slightly, stayed the same, or increased.

Biggest Challenges of the Pandemic

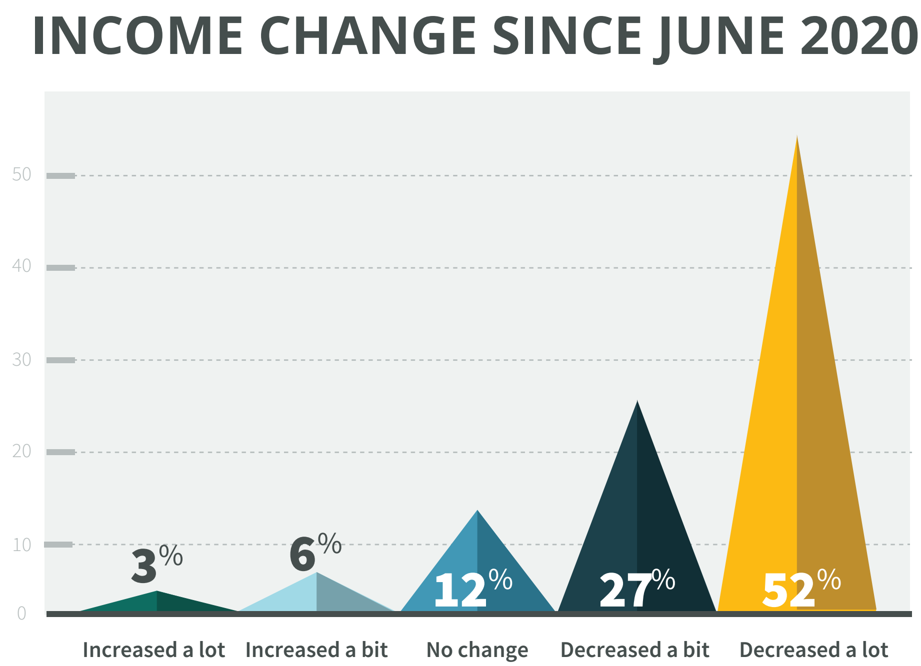
Further demonstrating the financial impact of COVID-19, when asked about the biggest challenges of the pandemic we found overwhelmingly that finances are the greatest challenge being faced. Over half of respondents report that finances are their biggest challenge, above both physical health and emotional wellbeing, staying at home, and the illness of a loved one. Staying home was the second most common answer at 23%, but when we examined this further we found that of those who reported staying at home was their biggest challenge, 44% state that it was because they are unable to work, demonstrating that the inability to work and financial challenges surrounding that are the biggest struggle for most during the pandemic.

Males and females reported similar challenges, however we did find that the youngest age group, those aged 15-25, were most likely to report that 'staying home' was a challenge. Of the youngest age group, 27% stated that staying home was their biggest challenge compared to 21% of those aged 26-35 and 20% of those aged 36 and older, who were both more likely to report finances as their biggest challenge.



Economic Impacts of COVID-19

As demonstrated above, finances are the biggest COVID-19 related challenge for a majority of those in the six countries studied. GeoPoll's previous study on the financial impact of the coronavirus found that 76% reported that their income had decreased since COVID-19. Our current study included follow-up questions on the same topic. We found that since June 2020, an even higher percent than in the initial study, 79%, stated that their income had decreased. In addition, 65% state that they are more concerned with paying their expenses now compared to June 2020, when 71% were already more concerned with paying expenses compared to pre-COVID.



These findings demonstrate that, even though restrictions have been loosened in all six countries studied, the economic impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt and for many have worsened over time. While all countries reported high levels of income decrease, Kenya had the highest percentage of respondents who reported their income had decreased a lot compared to June 2020, at 64%. In line with our previous findings, the youngest age group was least likely to say their income had decreased a lot. While this study did not examine differences in income change by job type, it is likely impacts continue to be felt especially by those in the informal sector, as examined in detail in our prior report.

45% **of respondents believe the financial impacts of COVID-19 will last at least 6 months**

GeoPoll also asked about the length of financial impacts of COVID-19, finding that almost half (45%) think financial impacts will last at least 6 months and 27% believe that the economic impacts will last over a year. Despite this, there are signs of encouragement regarding respondents' perceptions of their finances; 65% believe that in the next year their finances will get better, compared to just 17% who believe they will get worse, and 51% believe their country's economy will get better in the next year, while 26% believe it will get worse. Those in Kenya and South Africa are most likely to believe that both their and their country's economies will get worse within the next year.

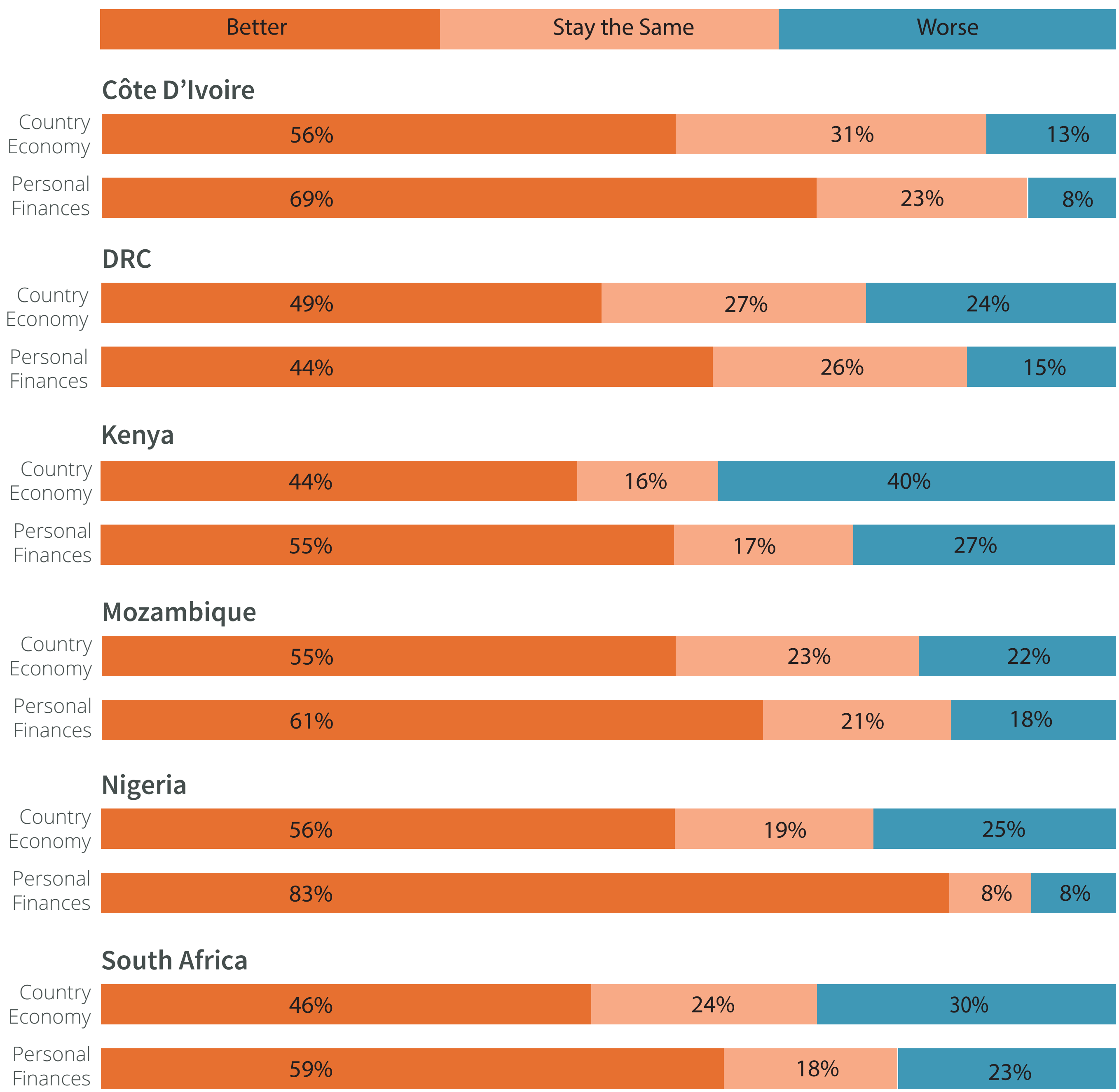
Examining results by age, we find that the youngest age group is most optimistic regarding the length of financial impacts, with 63% believing economic impacts will last up to 6 months, compared to 55% of those aged 26-35 and 47% of those aged 36 and older. The same trend appears when looking at personal financial predictions by age, with the youngest group being most likely and the oldest group least likely to predict their finances will get better in the next year. This could be due to older age groups bearing more responsibility for household expenses and other factors.

Those who reported income decreases since June were slightly less optimistic about their personal finances improving than those who have seen no change or income increases in the past few months, with 62% of those with income decreases believing their personal finances will improve, compared to 71% who have not experienced income decreases since June.

ECONOMIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

'In the next year, do you think your country's economy will get 1) Better 2) Worse 3) Stay the same'

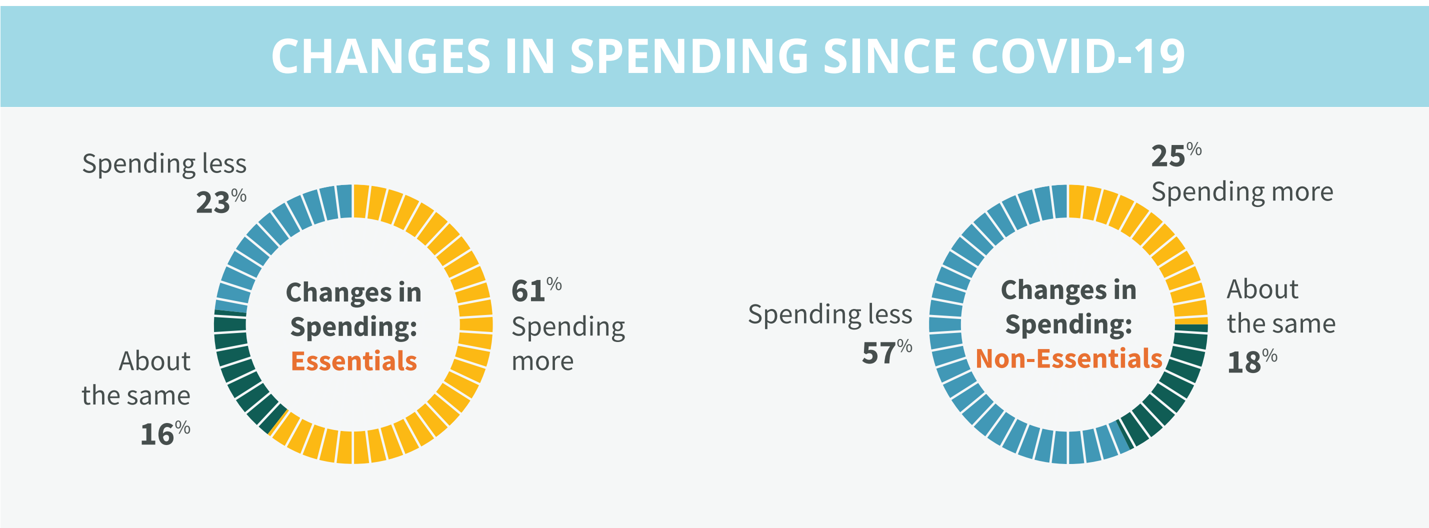
'In the next year, do you think your personal finances will get 1) Better 2) Worse 3) Stay the same'



Spending on Essentials and Non-Essentials

In our earlier studies, GeoPoll found that some food markets had closed, people were shopping less often than usual, and 41% were buying bigger pack sizes than usual. We also found that almost 60% reported a decrease in purchase of non-essential items. In this study we asked specifically about spending on both essential and non-essential items. We found that 60% reported spending more this year compared to last year on essential items such as food, while just 23% are spending less, likely reflecting an overall increase in food prices as a result of supply chain disruptions. Those in Nigeria were most likely to report spending more on essential items, with 82% of respondents noting this, aligning with findings from the Food and Agriculture Organization regarding high food prices in Nigeria. DRC reported the lowest levels of increase in essential goods prices, with 42% in DRC reporting spending more on essential items this year.

Looking at non-essentials, we find that 57% are spending less on non-essentials compared to last year. This is slightly less than the 69% who stated in April that their non-essential goods purchases had decreased, but still represents a large shift away from non-essentials. Those in Kenya were most likely to report that they are spending less on items such as beauty and clothing this year compared to last year. Unsurprisingly, those who reported decreases in income since June are more likely to have decreased their spending on non-essential items.



Online Shopping and Mobile Money Usage

We also examined mobile money usage and usage of online shopping. While online shopping and has increased during the pandemic in countries such as the United States, in the six sub-Saharan African countries studied we found that online shopping has decreased. Nearly 60% report that they are shopping online less frequently than last year, which could be related to the overall decrease in purchasing of non-essential items. Those in Kenya and South Africa had the largest groups who reported shopping online more frequently this year, at 22% and 21% respectively.

Our findings on mobile money usage in June 2020 indicated that mobile money was being used less often, with 60% of respondents stating their mobile money usage had decreased since COVID-19, likely due to an overall decrease in spending. In this study we find that, compared to last year, 45% report they are using mobile money less frequently, while 21% say they are using mobile money at about the same rates and 35% are using it more frequently.

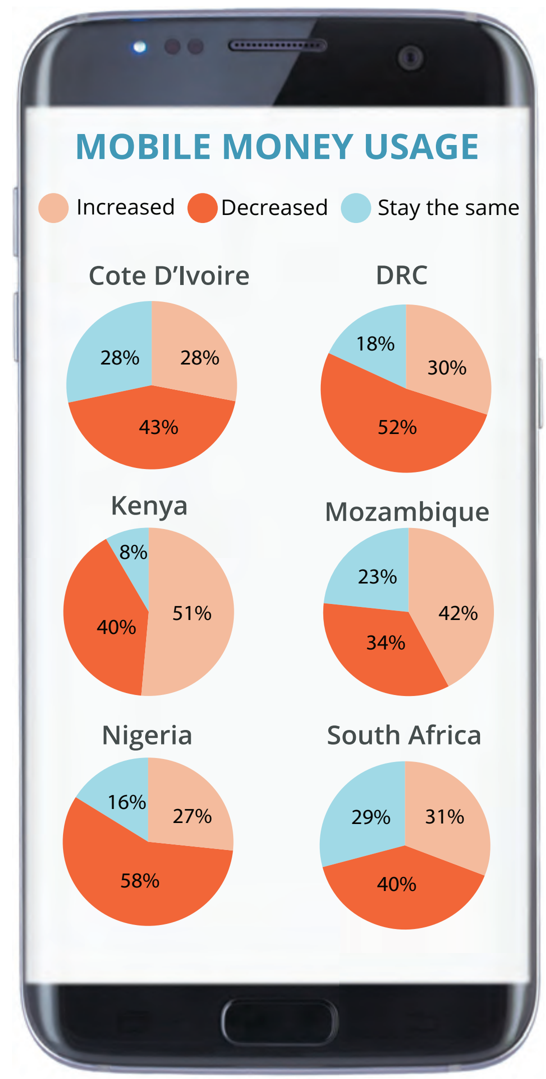
This finding differs by country, with 51% of those in Kenya, which has a well-established mobile money system, using the services more frequently. Mozambique also showed an increase in mobile money usage compared to last year, with 42% reporting they are using mobile money services more frequently. Although our earlier study found that the oldest age group had a slightly higher percent reporting they were using mobile money more frequently, we did not find the same in this study.

Holiday Spending

The 2020 holiday season is expected to be impacted by COVID-19 and related economic downturns, with studies finding that those in countries including South Africa are planning to spend less on the holidays this year than in the past. GeoPoll's study found similar results, with 40% overall stating that they will spend much less than last year, and 28% stating they will spend a bit less. Just under a quarter of respondents report they will spend more on the holidays this year, indicating that retailers should expect a decrease in holiday spending in 2020.

Those in Kenya, Mozambique, and South Africa report the largest decreases in holiday spending this year; 68% in Mozambique and South Africa will spend either much less or a little less, while 80% in Kenya state the same. Results are similar across both age groups and genders, indicating that the downturn in spending will cut across goods aimed at multiple demographic groups.

Demonstrating the wide-reaching effects of the pandemic on the holiday season, we found that spending on holidays will be down even for those who have not experienced income decreases since June. While 48% of those whose income has decreased plan to spend 'much less' on holidays this year, the same is true of 30% of those who have not seen their income decrease in recent months.

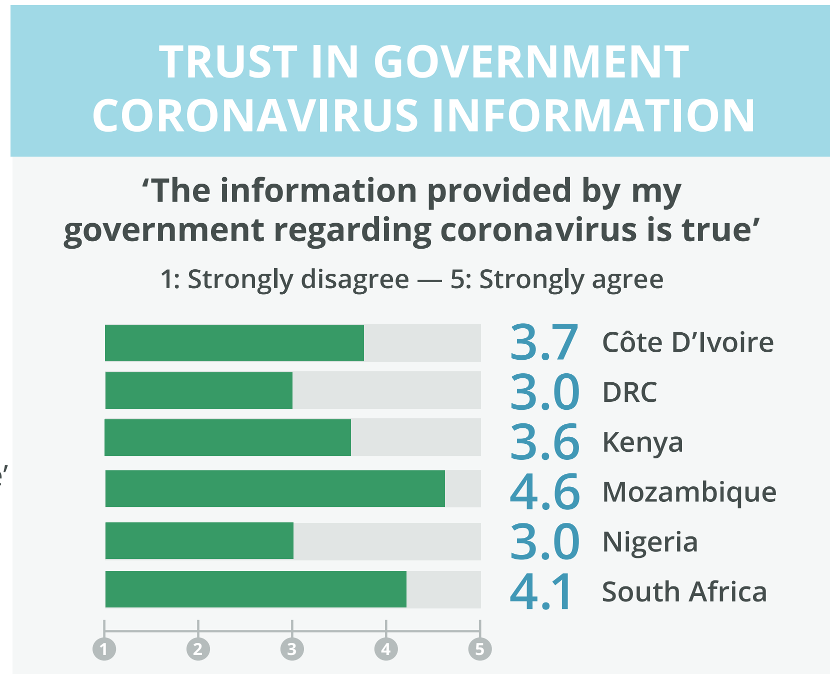


Trust In Information and Vaccine Acceptance

The last portion of our study examined overall perceptions of vaccines and the likelihood of those in Côte D'Ivoire, the DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa to take a COVID-19 vaccine once it is available. It should be noted throughout this section that news on vaccine developments and potential timelines for vaccine roll out has increased throughout the past few weeks. This study was run immediately following news that Pfizer's vaccine was found to be over 90% effective, but we cannot be sure the percent of respondents who have been following the vaccine developments or how this news may have impacted their responses.

Trust in Information

We asked one question regarding government trust in this study in order to ascertain the levels of trust in information coming in each country. Conspiracy theories regarding the origins of coronavirus and the seriousness of the virus have spread around the globe, and one study found that 60% of respondents in Nigeria believed that the fatality rate of COVID-19 had been exaggerated. GeoPoll's study found key differences by country in terms of levels of trust in COVID-19 information provided by governments, with those in Mozambique most likely to 'strongly agree' that the information provided to them is true, and those in DRC and Nigeria most likely to 'strongly disagree' that the information provided by their government is true.



The results from DRC and Nigeria show polarized views on this topic; in Nigeria, 35% strongly disagree and 37% strongly agree that the information provided to them around coronavirus is true, while in DRC 45% strongly disagree and 45% strongly agree with the same statement. There were not large differences observed by age or gender in terms of level of trust in government information.

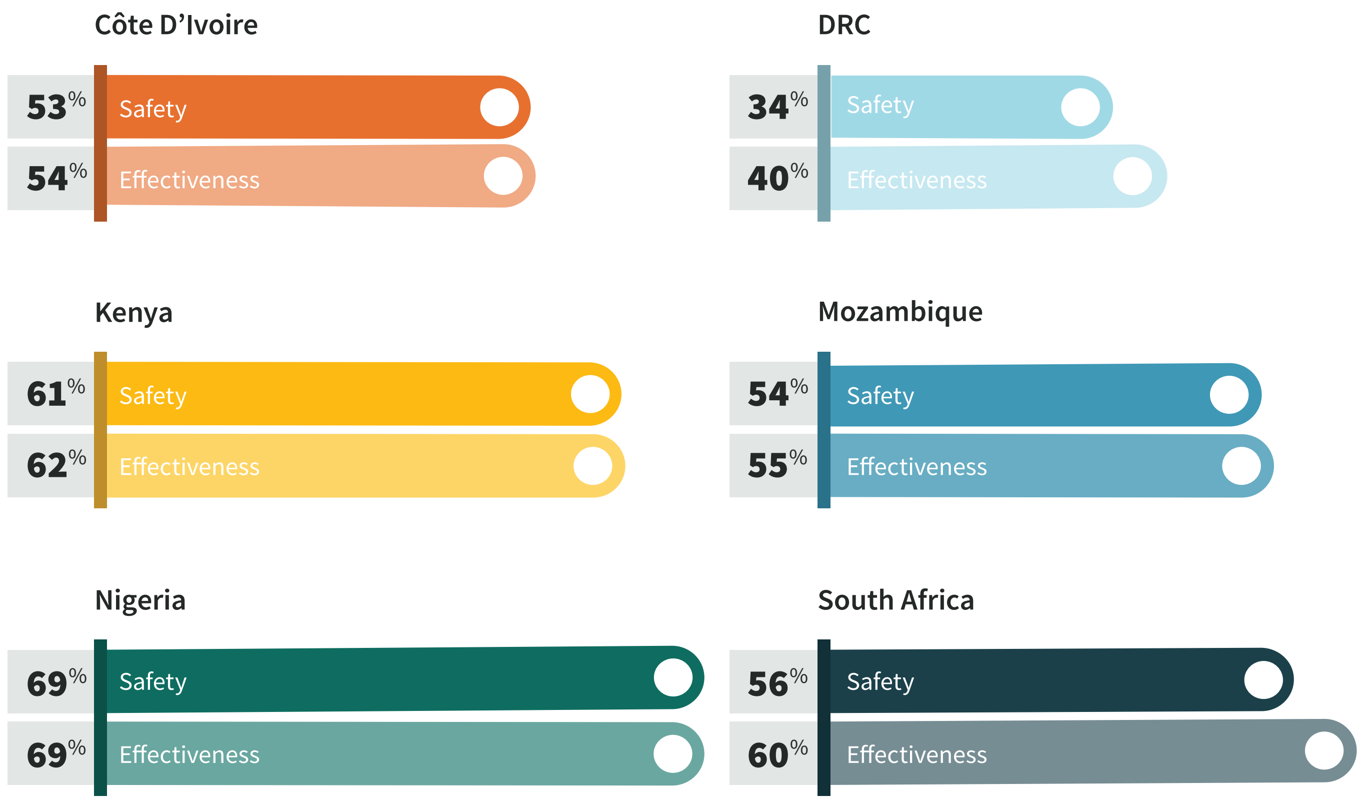
Safety and Effectiveness of Vaccines

Our first questions regarded the safety and effectiveness of vaccines in general. GeoPoll found that in terms of vaccine safety, a third of respondents 'strongly agree' that vaccines are safe, while an additional 21% 'somewhat agree' and 29% 'neither agree or disagree'. Confidence in vaccine safety is highest in Nigeria and South Africa, where 41% and 35% respectively strongly agree that vaccines are safe. Those in the DRC were the most likely to report that they strongly disagree that vaccines are safe, at 23% of respondents. There were no large differences observed by age and gender.

Examining vaccine effectiveness, we find similar results, with a third reporting they 'strongly agree' vaccines are effective and 24% somewhat agreeing with the same statement. Again those in Nigeria were most likely to strongly agree with vaccine effectiveness, at 40%, while those in DRC were most likely to strongly disagree. Overall slightly more respondents either strongly or somewhat agree that vaccines are effective than they agreed with vaccines being safe.

Comparing this question to the above findings around trust in government information, we found that those who were less confident regarding their government's information also reported lower levels of agreement with vaccine safety. Of those who strongly disagreed that their government was providing truthful information, 30% strongly agree that vaccines are safe, while 37% who strongly agreed that their governments information is truthful say the same regarding vaccine safety.

PERCENT WHO 'STRONGLY' OR 'SOMEWHAT' AGREE THAT VACCINES ARE SAFE OR EFFECTIVE



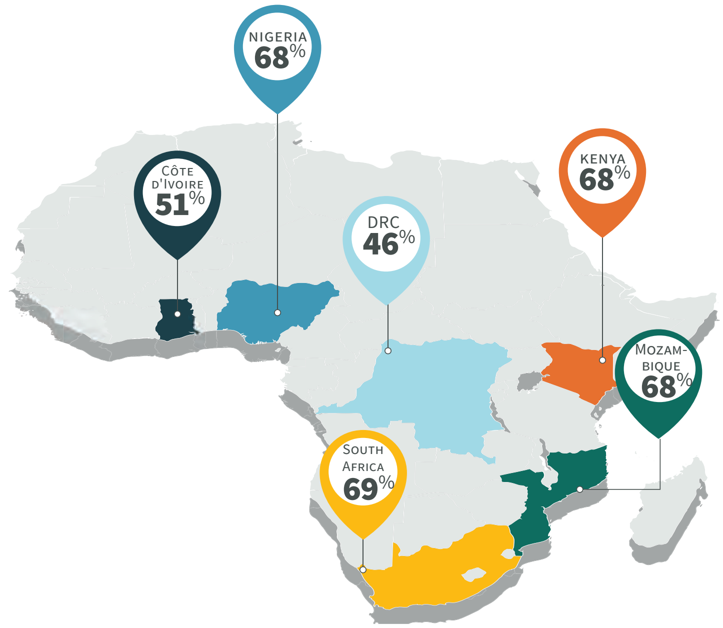
Likelihood to take a COVID-19 Vaccine

GeoPoll also asked 'If a COVID-19 vaccine was available for free today, would you get it as soon as possible?' and found that in total 42% stated they would 'definitely' get it as soon as possible, while '20%' stated 'probably'. This question showed interesting trends by country, with those in Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa reporting relatively high levels of likelihood to take a COVID-19 vaccine, while those in DRC and Côte D'Ivoire are less likely to take a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Although the youngest age group, those aged 15-24, reported slightly lower levels of enthusiasm regarding taking a COVID-19 vaccine than older age groups, the differences were quite small, with 59% of the youngest group and 62% of the oldest group reporting they would 'definitely' or 'probably' take a vaccine as soon as it was available.

When asked what concerns respondents most about a COVID-19 vaccine, safety was listed first, at 35%, followed by the ability for everyone to get the vaccine at 27%. Interestingly even in countries which had higher levels of agreement with vaccines being safe in general, such as Kenya, vaccine safety is the top concern when asking specifically about the COVID-19 vaccine. The youngest age group was most likely to be concerned over safety of the COVID-19 vaccine, with 37% of those aged 15-24 listing vaccine safety as their top concern.

Similarly to the findings regarding overall vaccine safety and effectiveness, likelihood to take a vaccine is impacted by trust in government information. Of those who either strongly or somewhat disagreed that their government was providing truthful information, 34% would definitely take a vaccine right away, while of those who agreed with their government's information, 47% would definitely take a vaccine as soon as it's available.

PERCENT WHO WOULD 'DEFINITELY' OR 'PROBABLY' TAKE COVID-19 VACCINE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



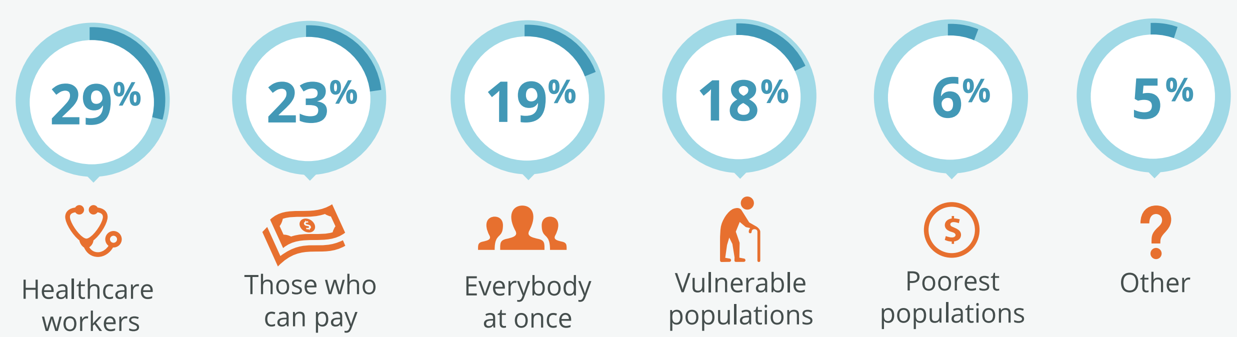
COVID-19 Vaccine Availability and Delivery

GeoPoll also examined when populations believe a vaccine will be available to the public, finding that the largest group, 39%, reported being unsure, while 31% believe a vaccine will be available between January and June 2020, and only 5% believe that a vaccine will not be available until 2022. Those in South Africa believe a vaccine will be available to the public the earliest, with 39% in South Africa believing that a vaccine will be available between January and June 2020, while respondents in the DRC are least sure about when a vaccine will be widely available.

Vaccine distribution and the question of what portions of the population will receive a vaccine first are being heavily discussed as vaccines go into production, with most reports stating that healthcare workers and elderly or vulnerable populations will be the first to receive a vaccine. GeoPoll's study found that, while 29% believe healthcare workers will receive a vaccine first, 23% believe that 'those who can pay' will get it first. Results for this question were also quite different by country; in the DRC and Côte D'Ivoire, the largest groups of respondents believe that everybody will get access to a vaccine at once, while those in Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria believe healthcare workers will get first access, and in South Africa the highest percent, 31%, think a vaccine will go to those who can pay. By gender, we find that males are slightly more likely than females to believe a vaccine will go first to those who can pay.

COVID-19 VACCINE DELIVERY PREDICTIONS

Who do you think will get a vaccine first?



Conclusion

GeoPoll's study on the impacts of COVID-19 across several African nations finds that those who are struggling the most are in the countries which have enacted more severe restrictions, which has led to greater financial hardships and in turn increased emotional stress. Those in Kenya, which is currently experiencing a **second wave of cases**, and South Africa, which has had the **highest number of reported cases across Africa**, report high levels of income decrease and worse emotional states than those in the other studied countries.

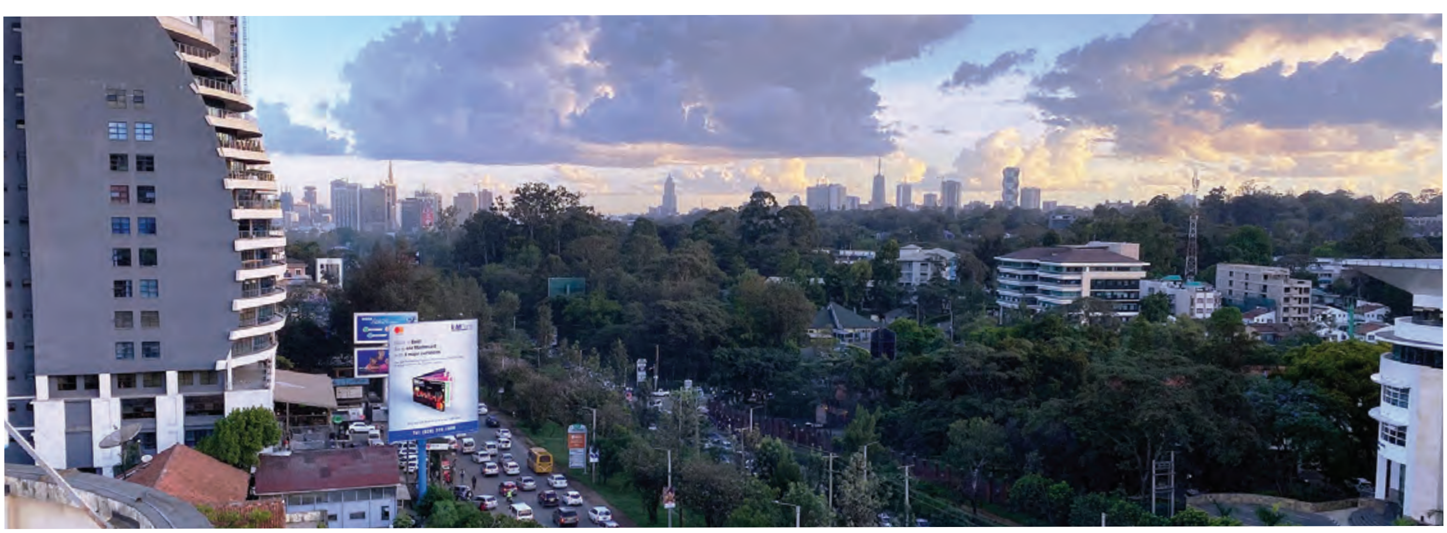
It is increasingly clear that the financial consequences of restrictions being put in place to stop the virus' spread are having secondary effects on many aspects of life, including mental health, consumer spending, and the ability to pay expenses. Even since June 2020, a majority have not returned to pre-COVID routine, and 65% are more concerned about paying their expenses now compared to in June. In addition, over a quarter of respondents believe that the economic impacts of COVID-19 will last more than a year.

Although this study demonstrates the ongoing difficulties related to COVID-19, there is also optimism among respondents regarding the future. A majority believe that both their personal finances and country's economy will improve within the next year, and most think that routines will return to normal sometime in 2021. While willingness to take a COVID-19 vaccine varies by country, overall we find that vaccine acceptance is in line with findings from **recent studies in countries such as the United States**, and in countries including South Africa, an even higher percent are likely to take a vaccine as soon as possible.

Over the coming months, GeoPoll will continue to monitor the long-term implications of COVID-19 and sentiments towards a vaccine in sub-Saharan Africa and around the globe. Sign up to be updated when GeoPoll releases new COVID-19 research here, and please contact us here if you require additional information regarding this study or would like to conduct your own research using GeoPoll's mobile-based data collection capabilities and global reach.

About GeoPoll

GeoPoll is the pioneer in providing remote, mobile-based research solutions throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. GeoPoll combines a robust, multi-modal technology platform with a large database of respondents, direct connectivity to mobile network operators, and a team of expert researchers in order to gather valuable data in more than 80 countries around the globe. Working with partners including international development organizations, local NGOs, and global brands, GeoPoll facilitates projects that measure vital indicators around the world. For more information, please visit **www.GeoPoll.com**.



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