

Gender Gaps in COVID-19 Vaccines

November 2021

COVID-19 vaccinations are quickly becoming a story of inequality. Gender inequality is a critical part of this story. In 22 of 24 countries where CARE has data, women are less likely to be vaccinated, and less likely to feel vaccines are safe.

There are massive local and global gaps in who can get vaccinated. Only 4.5% of people in low-income countries are vaccinated, and 79% of vaccinations have been in wealth countries. Tragically, wealth and geography are just two factors that skew access to vaccines. Another is gender. In many low and middle-income countries, women are less likely to get COVID-19 vaccines than men are. This compounds gender inequality women are already facing in health and decision-making.

Health Workers at Risk

Women make up 70% of health workers worldwide; They are most likely to be in roles that expose them to COVID. In [Sierra Leone](#), women health workers were 60% more likely than men to get infected with COVID-19. In [Jordan](#), 32% of female health workers, compared to 65% of male) are vaccinated.

In initial vaccine rollout where countries prioritize essential health workers, women should be more than half of people who receive vaccines. This is rarely the case.



A woman in Malawi vaccinates a young man

Gaps in vaccination

While in some parts of [wealthier countries](#), women are more likely than men to get vaccines, in lower and middle-income countries, women are less likely to get vaccines.

Recent research in [Asia Pacific](#) shows that women represent only 46% of people in the region who have gotten vaccinated. In [Bangladesh](#), 60% of people who have received at least one dose of vaccine are men. In [India](#), overall stats are that women are 48% of people getting at least one dose. In some states in India, the number falls to [32% of vaccines going to women](#). In [Timor Leste](#), the number is a shocking 34%.

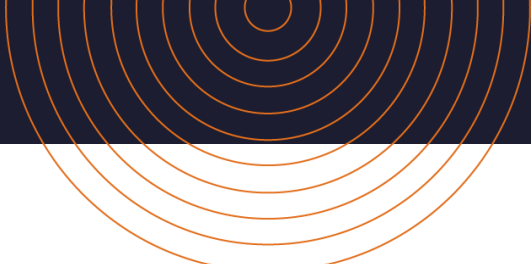
In [Iraq](#), CARE surveyed people in two governates, and found that 14% of men are vaccinated, but only 9% of women. In [South Sudan](#), women represent 70% of the people who test positive for COVID, but only 40% of the people getting vaccinated. In [Liberia](#), only 36% of fully vaccinated people are women.

How Many Women Vaccinated?

[Bangladesh](#): 40%

[Timor Leste](#): 33%

[Somalia](#): 30%



Women are less free to leave their homes

Women have to overcome many obstacles to get vaccinated. Women have a harder time getting to vaccination centers. Even before COVID-19, many women had to ask permission from men to go to a health clinic or access health care. They had less money and less access to transportation. COVID-19 makes that worse. [CARE's research](#) shows that 41% of women (and only 32% of men) report that COVID-19 reduces their mobility.

In [Iraq](#), 55% of women and 42% of men would have to travel more than 30 minutes to get a vaccine. In [Haiti](#), 26% of women (compared to 34% of men) would be willing to travel a long distance to get a vaccine.

Women struggle to access health services

38% of women are also saying that lack of access to health services is one of their biggest challenges in COVID-19. In [Jordan](#), women are 10 percentage points less likely to have registered for vaccines. Female health workers are half as likely as male ones to have gotten vaccines.

Women get less information

In [Iraq](#), 64% of men and 52% of women know where they could get a vaccine. 50% of men and only 30% of women know how to register for a vaccine.

Low trust in Vaccines

Women are also less likely to believe vaccines are safe. In one health district [Malawi](#), women are 4 times less likely to trust the vaccine (10%) than men (40%) due to fears regarding infertility and population control.

Only 36% of women (compared to 42% of men) in [Haiti](#) would be willing to get vaccinated. In [Jordan](#), 83% of women and 67% of men are hesitant to get vaccines.



Data Gaps

Very few countries are consistently tracking gaps between men and women in COVID-19 vaccines, masking major inequalities. In the 11 countries in [Asia Pacific](#) included in the COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker, only India and Bangladesh are consistently reporting sex-disaggregated data on COVID-19 vaccinations.

None of the major global datasets for tracking COVID-19 vaccinations publish sex-disaggregated findings. In the US, only [38 states publish](#) sex-disaggregated data.

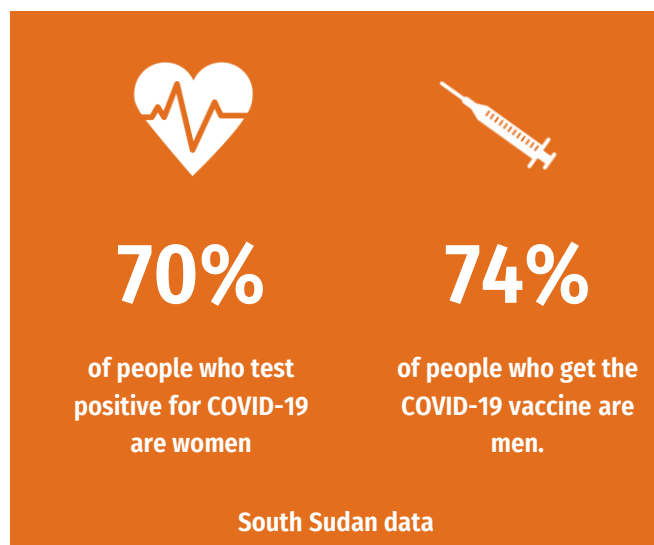


Table of Vaccination Rates by Gender

| Country | Women | Men |
|--|-------|-----|
| Bangladesh (of people with one dose) | 40% | 60% |
| Burundi (of people with one dose) | 30% | 70% |
| Cambodia (population with one dose) | 89% | 98% |
| Chad (of people with one dose) | 34% | 66% |
| Ecuador (population with one dose) | 30% | 27% |
| Guatemala (population with one dose) | 53% | 74% |
| India (of people with one dose) | 48% | 52% |
| Iraq (population CARE surveyed) | 9% | 14% |
| Jordan (health workers vaccinated) | 32% | 65% |
| Liberia (of fully vaccinated people) | 36% | 63% |
| Mali (of people fully vaccinated) | 43% | 57% |
| Malawi (of people fully vaccinated) | 46% | 54% |
| Peru (of people fully vaccinated) | 53% | 47% |
| Somalia (of people with one dose) | 30% | 70% |
| South Sudan (of people with one dose) | 40% | 60% |
| Timor Leste (of people with one dose) | 34% | 66% |

Table of Vaccine Hesitancy Rates by Gender

| Country | Women | Men |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Cameroon | 68% | 54% |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 46% | 37% |
| Haiti | 64% | 58% |
| Jordan | 83% | 67% |
| Malawi (in one district) | 10% | 40% |
| Nigeria | 25% | 20% |
| Pakistan | 25% | 20% |
| Philippines | 75% | 79% |
| Sierra Leone | 85% | 85% |
| Uganda | 20% | 25% |

Data Sources

This data comes from a variety of sources. Wherever possible, we used the most recent percentage of people who have received at least one vaccine. (For example, in Chad, 34% of people who have received one dose are women). If that was not available, the numbers represent the percent of women (or men) in that country who have received one dose. For example, 89% of women and 98% of men in Cambodia have received one vaccination. When that was not available, we looked at vaccine hesitancy numbers.

Selected Sources include:

[The COVID-19 Sex-Disaggregated Data Tracker](#). (2021).

[World Bank Support for Country Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#). (2021).

[GENDER AND COVID-19 VACCINES: Listening to women-focused organizations in Asia and the Pacific](#). (2021)