



3rd Vanuatu Health Research Symposium
26-28 October 2022
Luganville, Santo, Vanuatu

Rapid formative assessment on additional, COVID-19 and routine vaccines in Vanuatu, 2021

Jean Jacques Rory¹, Rebecca Olul², Surenchimeg Vanchinkhuu², [Melissa Binihi](#)¹

¹Ministry of Health, Port Vila, Vanuatu. ²UNICEF, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Abstract

Background: UNICEF Pacific, the Australian Regional Immunization Alliance (ARIA) in partnership with the Ministry of Health conducted a rapid formative assessment, to study vaccine awareness, attitudes, and intentions among 564 Ni-Vanuatu caregivers of children in February and March 2021.

Methods: The caregiver survey, was conducted in the different provinces of Vanuatu assisted by a local NGO, Youth Challenge, supporting data collection, with focus on routine immunization, additional vaccines and potential Covid 19 vaccine introduction.

Results: A total of 564 caregivers aged 18 years and above participated in the study, of whom 82% (461/564) were female and 18% (103/564) male. The results indicated 88% caregivers of 0-5 years old were aware about the seriousness of Covid 19, 67% intended to administer the vaccine, 22% were unsure and 11% were not interested in the Covid 19 vaccine. The responses on the additional vaccines indicated, 94% caregivers of 0-5years old were willing to give their child Pneumococcal vaccine and 92%, Rotavirus vaccine. Whereas, for the caregivers of 8-12 years old, 80% were willing to administer the Human Papillomavirus vaccine for their child, 11% were unsure and 9% not interested. On the routine immunization, 86% of the caregivers confirmed their children having administered all the recommended vaccines for their age. However, 3% were unsure and 11% confirmed having administered no vaccine.

Discussion: The RFA provided an insight into on the community's perception indicating a positive trend on vaccines among the community, also about the misgivings, indicating a need for an alternative approach. The insights helped tailoring the strategy and the messages accordingly and suggesting a different approach for sections with low vaccine confidence.