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## SOLOMON ISLANDS RED CROSS

# Transferring knowledge and promoting community-led actions

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# The Problem

## Situation overview

- Scattered Islands and remote communities
- Low uptake of vaccine: as of June 2022, only around 25% of the population is fully vaccinated
- Poor health system and lack of clinics
- Close knit community living



A group sharing ideas for their plan at Tubuhu Community in Guadalcanal.

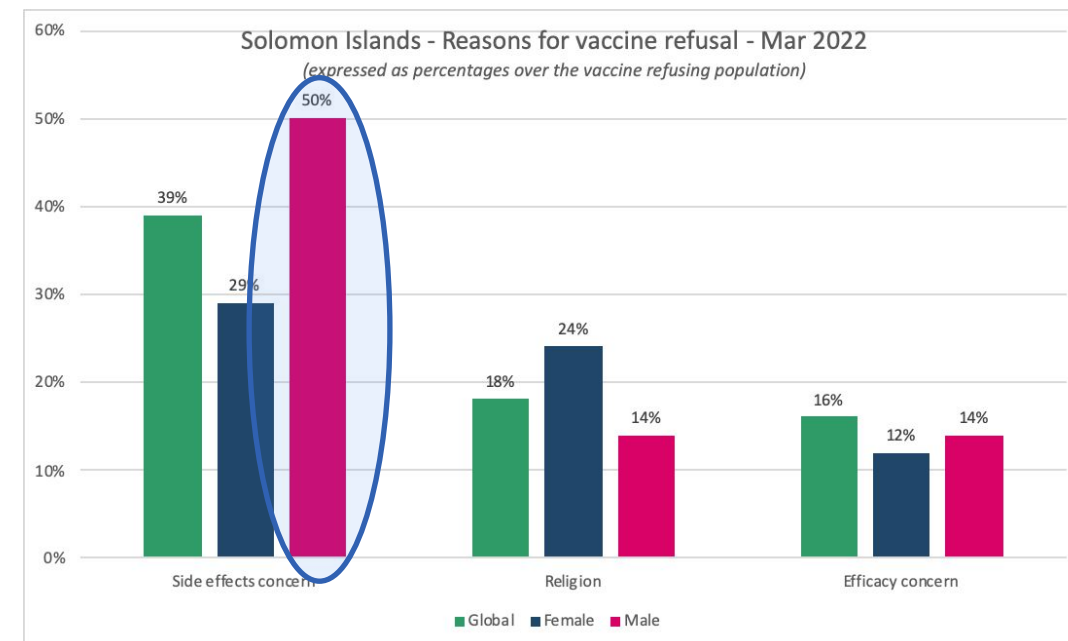
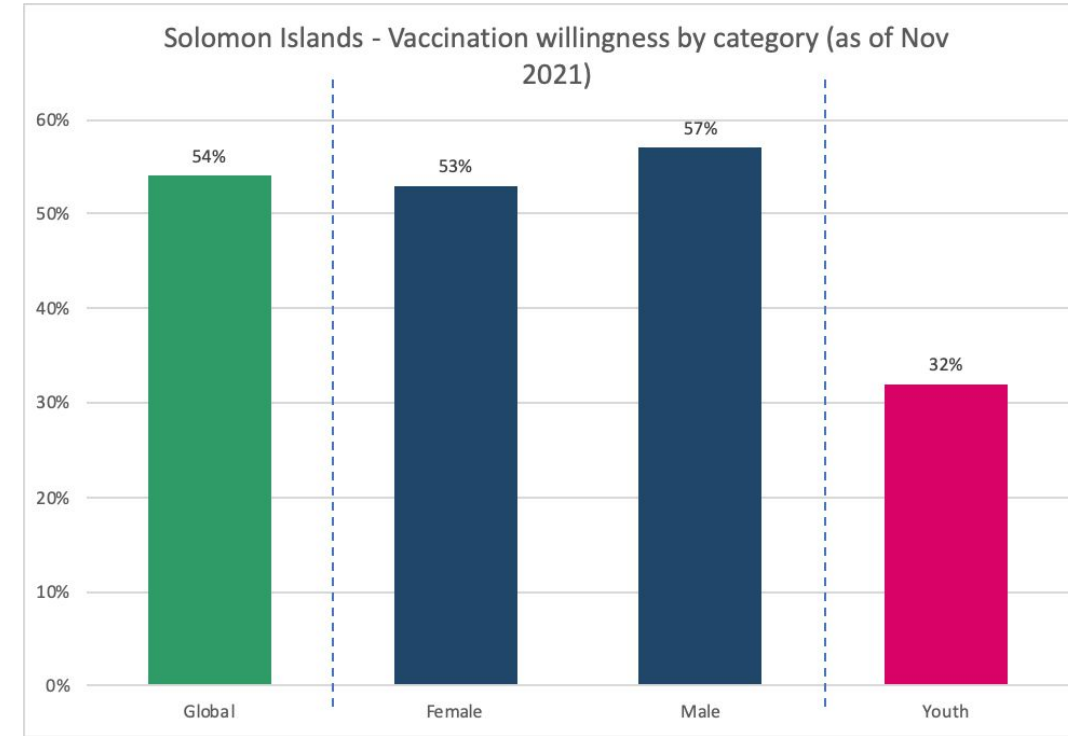
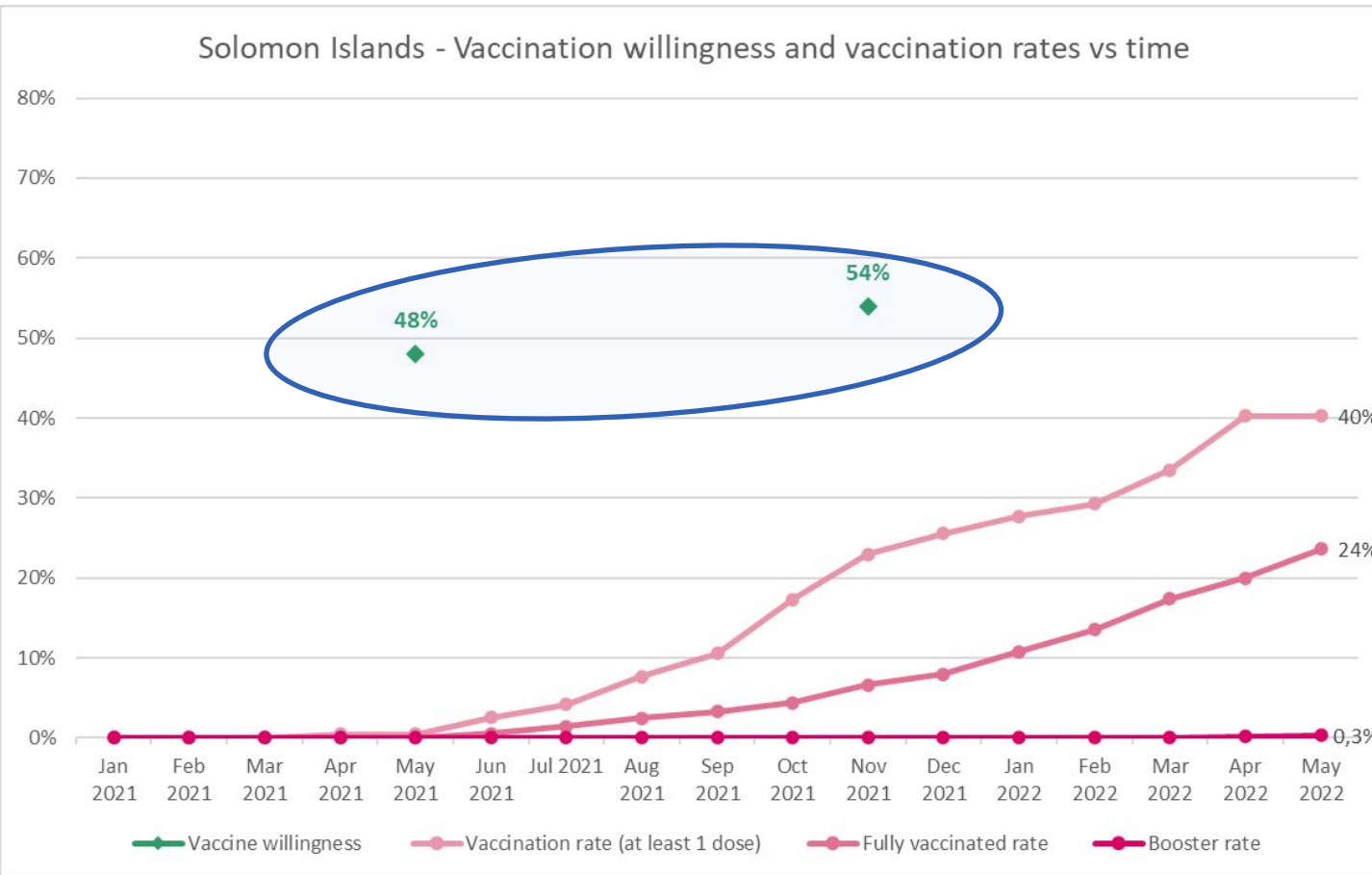
## Problem statement

Based on the revision of secondary data, community feedback, social media monitoring and regular interaction with community members, challenges include:

- Misperceptions and lack of information about COVID-19 vaccine and preventative measures.
- Concerns with efficacy and side effects of vaccines
- The lack of community preparedness greatly increasing risk of contraction among vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

*“Is this COVID-19 vaccine safe to take or not?”  
– woman, 50-59, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands.*

*“We heard that herbs and traditional methods work better than vaccine.” – woman, 50-59, Western Province, Solomon Islands.*



Source: [RCCE Collective Service dashboard](#)

# The Solution

## ACTIONS

- Based on the lessons learnt exercise during a mock lockdown in July 2021 and consultation with Ministry of Health, a “**Community Preparedness Planning approach on COVID-19**” was rolled out into 15 communities
- Volunteers were trained in rolling out a community preparedness tool
- Workshop on COVID-19 Preparedness Plan with the communities
- Creation of **COVID-19 community committee** with roles and responsibilities to roll out public health and social measures in their communities
- Facilitated the **development of a community plan of action**
- Committee members sharing information, promoting community action, capturing feedback and addressing misperceptions
- 15 community preparedness plans developed and more than 170 community members participated in the COVID-19 preparedness planning exercise.



Training COVID-19 committee members on how to safely put on a mask during a session at Kobiloko community in west Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province.

*“I've heard that the Coronavirus will be here to stay forever, and that there's no cure for it.” – Woman, 80+, Western Province, Solomon Islands.*



## MEASUREMENT

- Meetings with community leaders to understand change and perceptions
- Consultation with COVID-19 committee members
- Community feedback on vaccines and questions/perceptions/beliefs/concerns on vaccination efforts including access to the service
- Preparedness plan actions & results

**Primary group engaged:** cross section of community members including the elderly and tribal groups across remote and diverse provinces.



Volunteers from Malaita Branch collecting community feedback in Sigita'e community, ward 1 Central Kwara'ae, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands.

# Outcomes and Key Learnings

## Outcomes and Impact

- Communities are better informed and leading action to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in their community
- COVID-19 committee members play critical role to support with information on vaccines and counter rumours
- More people encouraged to get the vaccine

*“The COVID-19 vaccine has been very helpful during the outbreak. It helped people to recover quickly from COVID-19.”*

*– Man, 18-29, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands.*

*“The vaccine is good because it helps us protect ourselves from the disease and if we get infected we will not get severely ill.”*

*– Man, 30 -39, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands*

## Key Learnings

- The intervention was inclusive and ensured participation of various community members including the elderly and tribal groups.
- Engagement of tribal groups and elderly helped advocate for vaccine uptake and positive behaviour.
- Mobilization of volunteers and staff to transfer knowledge and reach remote communities.
- Importance of understanding community context through community consultations and secondary data before adapting the preparedness planning process.

*“These committees are extremely successful in raising awareness and in safeguarding our vulnerable people.”*

*– Mata Lita, volunteer, Western Province, Solomon Islands.*

## Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Our World  
in Data

Total number of people who received at least one vaccine dose, divided by the total population of the country.

+ Add country



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 21 June 2022

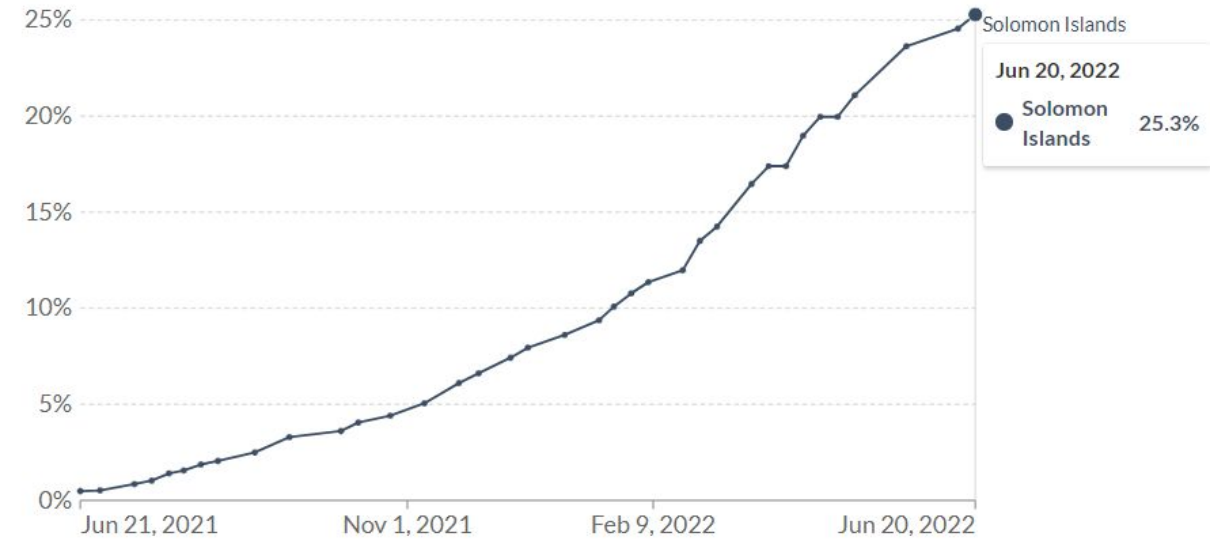
OurWorldInData.org/coronavirus • CC BY

## Share of people who completed the initial COVID-19 vaccination protocol

Our World  
in Data

Total number of people who received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol, divided by the total population of the country.

+ Add country



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data - Last updated 21 June 2022

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Note: Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.

*“Last year, there were a lot of us who were not serious about being vaccinated. Following community transmission and awareness, many men and women within the village have now got their jabs.”*

*- COVID-19 Committee Member, Horobau Community, west Guadalcanal, Guadalcanal Province.*

*“I fully understand about COVID-19 vaccine now and I am willing to come forward for vaccination.”*

*– Female, 50-59, Western Province, Solomon Islands.*





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# THANK YOU

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