

Gavi CSO fund manager mechanism

Learning brief: Understanding vaccine uptake and community attitudes in Mauritania: insights from a KAP survey

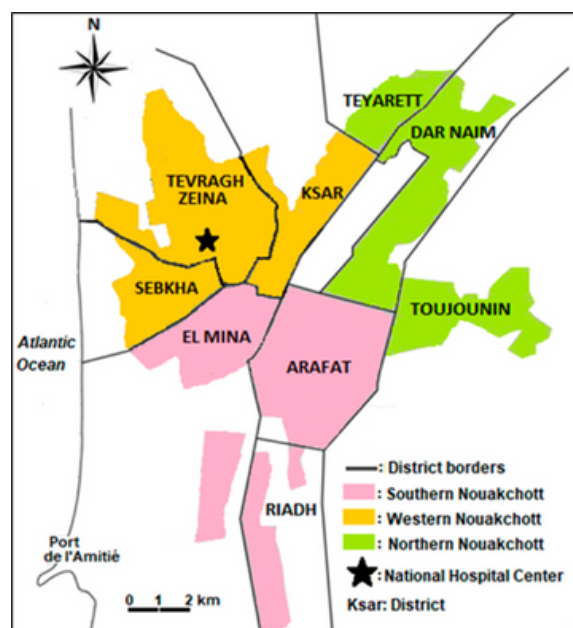
Introduction

In urban and peri-urban districts of Nouakchott, Mauritania, vaccine uptake is good but missed communities remain.

While 73% of children are *fully vaccinated, 2.6% remain 'zero-dose' (ZD), highlighting gaps in access and equity.**

To better understand the drivers of vaccine demand and the barriers to uptake, Santé Globale conducted a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey as part of its Gavi-funded 'Vacciprotect' project. The findings offer valuable insights for strengthening immunisation outreach and community engagement in missed populations.

*Fully vaccinated children have received all age-appropriate doses per the national vaccination schedule. **ZD children have not received even a single vaccine shot. Gavi defines ZD children as infants who have not received the first dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) by the end of their first year of life.



'Vacciprotect' project health districts

Top three takeaways from the KAP survey

1

Vaccine uptake is promising but uneven

In Nouakchott Sud, Nord and Ouest, 73% of children under 21 months are fully vaccinated while 24.4% of children are under-immunised and only 2.6% children are ZD.

2

Community confidence in vaccines is high

92% of mothers expressed strong confidence in vaccines.
84% reported they were not exposed to negative vaccine information.

3

Barriers to access remain

Key challenges include transport costs (37%), long travel distances to health centres (24%) and vaccine shortages (24%).

About Santé Globale and 'Vacciprotect' project

Santé Globale is a Mauritanian NGO founded in 2012 and a grantee of Gavi's civil society organisation (CSO) fund manager mechanism. Its 'Vacciprotect' project operates across three health districts in Nouakchott, aiming to improve access to vaccine services and maternal and infant healthcare in urban and peri-urban communities.

Survey methodology and scope

To inform project design, **Santé Globale** conducted a mixed methods KAP survey focused on:



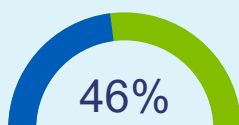
Data was collected from **790 mothers of children under 21 months** using digital tools and statistical software to ensure analytical rigour.

Key findings from Nouakchott districts, Mauritania

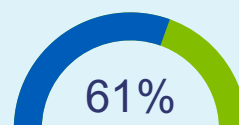
Knowledge gaps



of respondents were unaware of the measles vaccination timeline



of respondents did not know when to receive a single routine vaccine



of respondents did not know the routine immunisation schedule

Confidence and perception

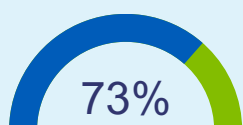


of respondents expressed strong confidence in vaccines



of respondents had not encountered negative vaccine messaging

Coverage



of children are fully vaccinated

Common barriers included:

- Travel distances
- Transport costs
- Vaccine shortages



Gender roles in vaccination

Mothers are primarily responsible for vaccinations in Nouakchott districts, Mauritania

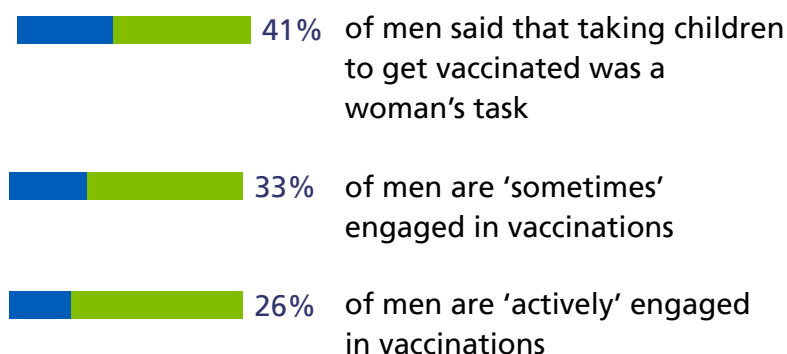


Photo credit: OSFSR/2025

Recommendations for civil society and health workers

The KAP study offers actionable guidance for improving vaccine uptake, specifically:

- Bridge information gaps through targeted outreach and sensitisation workshops
- Address physical barriers by improving transport options and reducing waiting times
- Engage local decision-makers in outreach design and delivery
- Use social media to highlight the tangible benefits of vaccination and counter misinformation.

Learning in action: shaping future work in Mauritania

Insights from the KAP survey have directly informed Santé Globale's project design, including:

- Mapping zero-dose and under-immunised children
- Refining outreach strategies
- Enhancing service accessibility planning
- Strengthening healthcare worker training.

Applying lessons beyond Mauritania

Other CSOs and country programmes can draw from this experience by:

- Considering similar barriers and solutions in their own demand-generation efforts
- Conducting KAP studies to establish baselines and set informed project targets, especially where data is limited.

About the Gavi CSO fund manager mechanism

To help increase immunisation coverage in lower-income countries, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance launched a series of opportunities for civil society organisations (CSOs) to deliver projects reaching zero-dose children and under-immunised communities.

Gavi is supported by [MannionDaniels](#), a global health and social development consultancy, which is working with [Oxford Policy Management \(OPM\)](#) in a consortium to manage an end-to-end fund manager mechanism.



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