

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2021

Results of Survey on the Japanese Government's Response to COVID-19

Almost 90% Support Japanese Government's Free Distribution of Coronavirus Vaccines

Most Want to Prioritize Vaccine Distribution as Support

Japan Expected to Play a Major Role in Handling International Issues

From October 6 to October 11, 2021, Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) (Office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Chairman: Kiyoshi Kurokawa) conducted a nationwide online survey* (1,000 respondents; 494 male, 506 female; ages 18 to 79) regarding international support provided by the Government of Japan, including for vaccines, in the context of global health. The results of the survey showed that although only a few people knew the term “global health,” about half of respondents agreed that vaccines should be disseminated around the world. It was also revealed that almost 90% of respondents support Government efforts to distribute the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine to other countries and regions for free.

To end the fight against the pandemic, ongoing discussions on COVID-19 vaccine policies must consider human health on a global scale and a response to COVID-19 in developing countries must be taken through international cooperation. Furthermore, the Special Session of the World Health Assembly hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) from November 29 to December 1 reaffirmed the importance of equitable vaccine distribution in the context of global health. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Government of Japan has pledged to supply a total of 60 million vaccine doses and to provide “Last One Mile Support”¹ to ensure vaccines reach vaccination sites. According to the Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), one in two people in high-income countries are vaccinated compared to only one in 18 people in low-income countries. This gap will not only affect the economy, society, and the health of unvaccinated people in low-income countries, it may also have significant global impact by potentially causing new mutant strains to emerge or by disrupting economic and social activities connected by global value chains.

This survey examined how Japan should approach international vaccine-related issues as an advanced country and gauged public awareness of vaccine policies. A summary of survey results is as follows.

¹ Last One Mile Support: Since early March, Japan has been providing financial support to support cold chain system development to ensure the delivery of vaccines to vaccination sites. To date, a total of JPY13.7 billion has been provided to 59 countries and regions. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Japan’s COVID-19 Vaccine-Related Support”)

1. Equitable distribution of vaccines

When asked about the lack of progress in vaccinations in certain regions, such as Africa, the majority of the respondents (54.5%) stated, “Considering the global economy, the vaccines should be distributed around the world,” and others (34.8%) stated, “It is unfair that there is a difference in vaccine distribution by country.”

2. Measures from the Government of Japan to donate vaccines to other countries

Concerning the free provision of vaccines by the Japanese government to countries and regions in need of the COVID-19 vaccines, almost 90% (86%) expressed their support.

3. Japan’s role in addressing international issues.

Regarding Japan’s role in addressing international issues, about half of the respondents (47%) expected the Japanese government to play a “major role.”

4. Priorities of the Japanese government’s response to COVID-19 for other countries

When asked whether financial assistance or the donation of vaccine doses is more important when the Japanese government provides support to other countries, those who supported financial assistance (14%) were significantly outnumbered by those who supported the donation of vaccine doses (57%).

5. Public awareness of the term “global health”

When asked whether they knew and understood the term “global health,” the majority of respondents (83%) did not know the term or its definition.

Survey results showed that although the Japanese public is unaware of the term “global health” or its definition, they support the equitable distribution of vaccines and continuous vaccine donations from the Japanese government. Through these donations, they expect Japan to play a major role internationally. However, because the concept of global health is not widely known, there is still a lack of understanding regarding its meaning, purpose, and goals.

Due to the emergence of new mutant strains, the world continues to struggle against this unending pandemic. It is important for Japan to consider public health on a global scale in order to contain the pandemic through international cooperation, such as through the equitable distribution of vaccines in developing countries. It is also important to promote understanding that this equity will lead to economic recovery.

The Japanese government has announced they will establish a Global Health Strategy at the Health and Medical Strategy Promotion Council by June 2022. Moving forward, it will be important to incorporate lessons learned from the responses to this pandemic while considering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and obtaining understanding from citizens.

***Survey Overview**

Method: Online survey

Term: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 to Monday, October 11, 2021

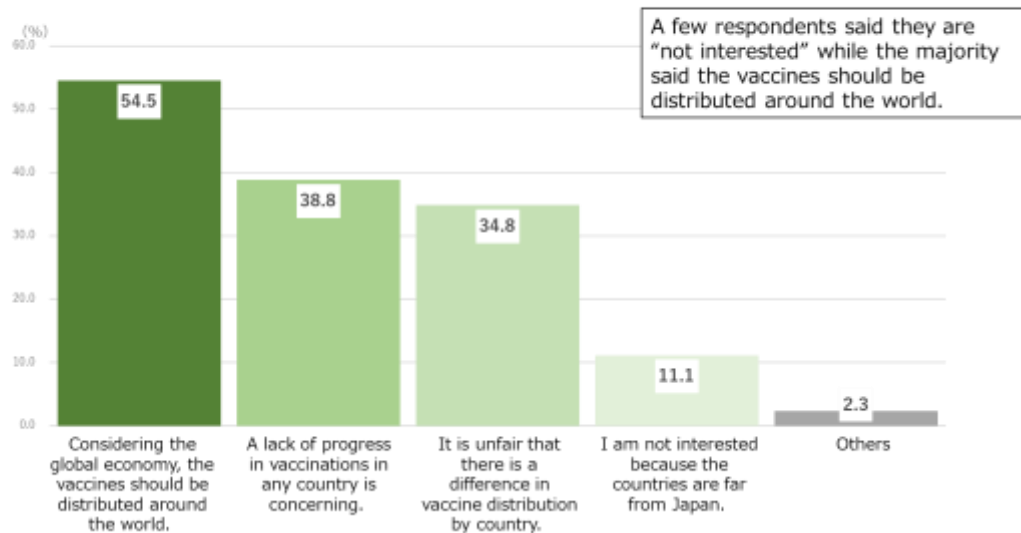
Sample size: 1,000 participants (Nationwide, Male: 494, Female: 506, 18 to 79 years old)

Organizer: Health and Global Policy Institute

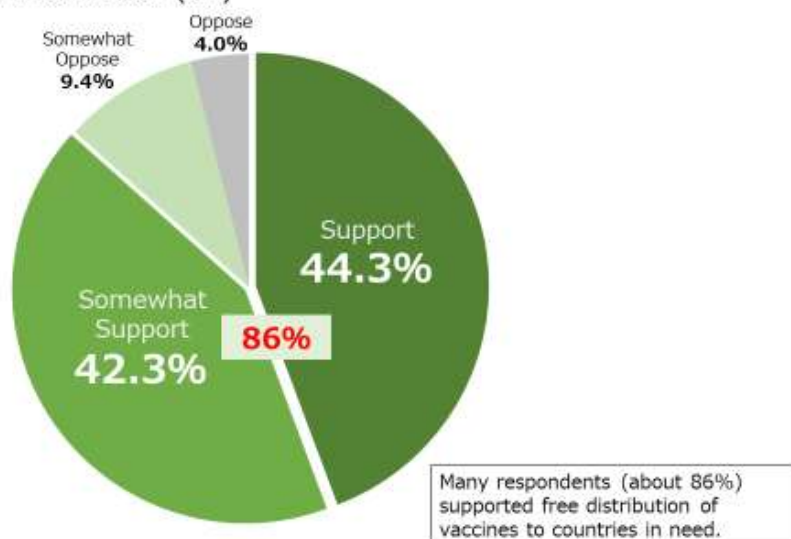
(added on December 15, 2021) The results (%) in the charts are rounded to the nearest unit so the figures may not add up to 100%.

Reference: Survey Results Graphs

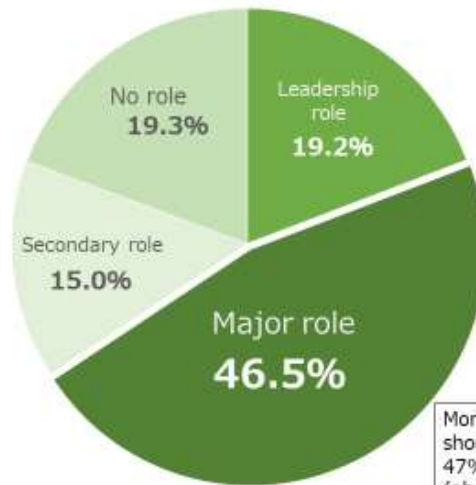
Q1 There is a lack of progress in vaccine distribution in Africa and other countries. Please select the statement that best describes your thoughts on this matter. (MA)



Q2 The Japanese government is providing free vaccines to countries and regions that need COVID-19 vaccines. Please select the response that best describes your thoughts on this matter. (SA)

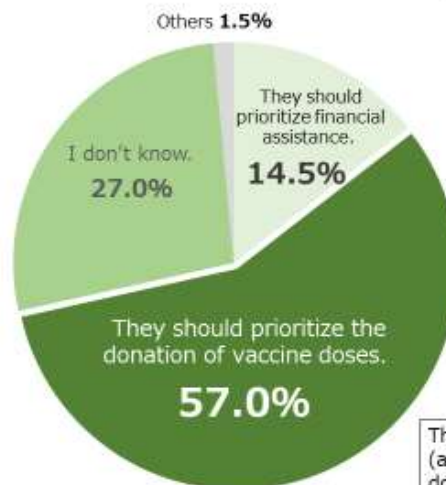


Q3 What do you think Japan's role is in addressing international issues? Please select from the options below. (SA)



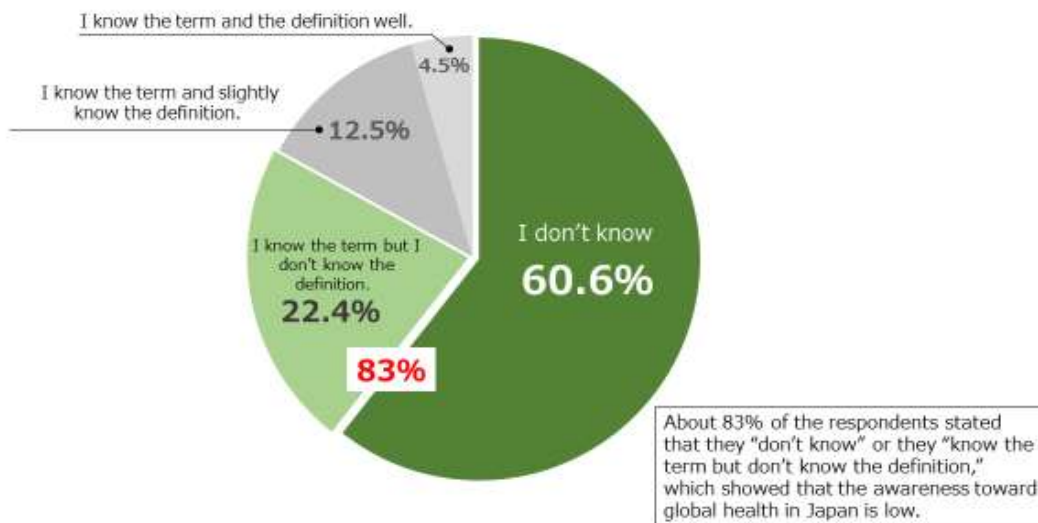
More respondents thought Japan should play a major role (about 47%) rather than a leadership role (about 19%).

Q4 Which do you think the Japanese government should prioritize in its support for COVID-19 responses in other countries: financial assistance or the donation of vaccine doses? Please select from the options below. (SA)



The majority of the respondents (about 57%) stated that the donation of vaccine doses should be prioritized.

Q5 Are you aware of the term “global health”? Do you know its definition? (SA)



For inquiries about the survey data, please contact:

Health and Global Policy Institute

Otemachi Financial City Grand Cube 3F 1-9-2, Otemachi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004 JAPAN

Tel: 03-4243-7156 Fax: 03-4243-7378 E-mail: info@hgpi.org

About Health and Global Policy Institute:

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan think tank.

Our mission is to help citizens shape health policies by generating policy options and by gathering various stakeholders including leading experts from Japan, citizen and patient representatives, healthcare providers, policymakers, and economists. Together, we work to achieve policy implementation by conducting surveys and policy proposals for citizen- and patient- driven healthcare, important health policy issues, global health, and other fields. For more information about HGPI, please visit our website at <http://www.hgpi.org/>.