

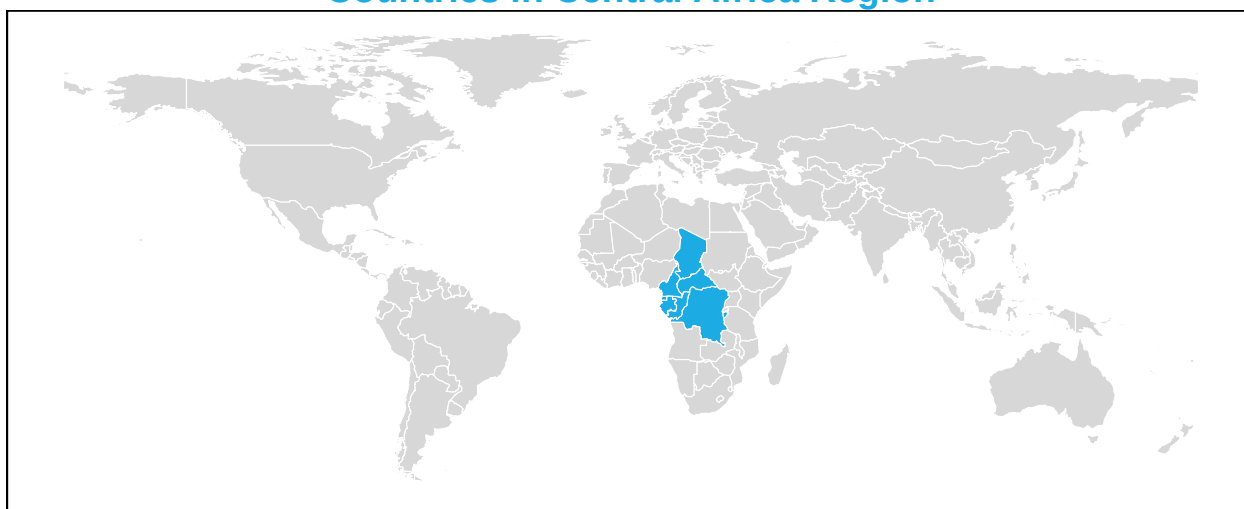
WUENIC Talking Points: Central Africa Region

Revision Year: 2025

Contents

Overview	2
DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children	4
DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children	6
MCV: Canary in the coal mine	8
HPV	10
Priority countries supported to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic	11
Appendix	12

Countries in Central Africa Region

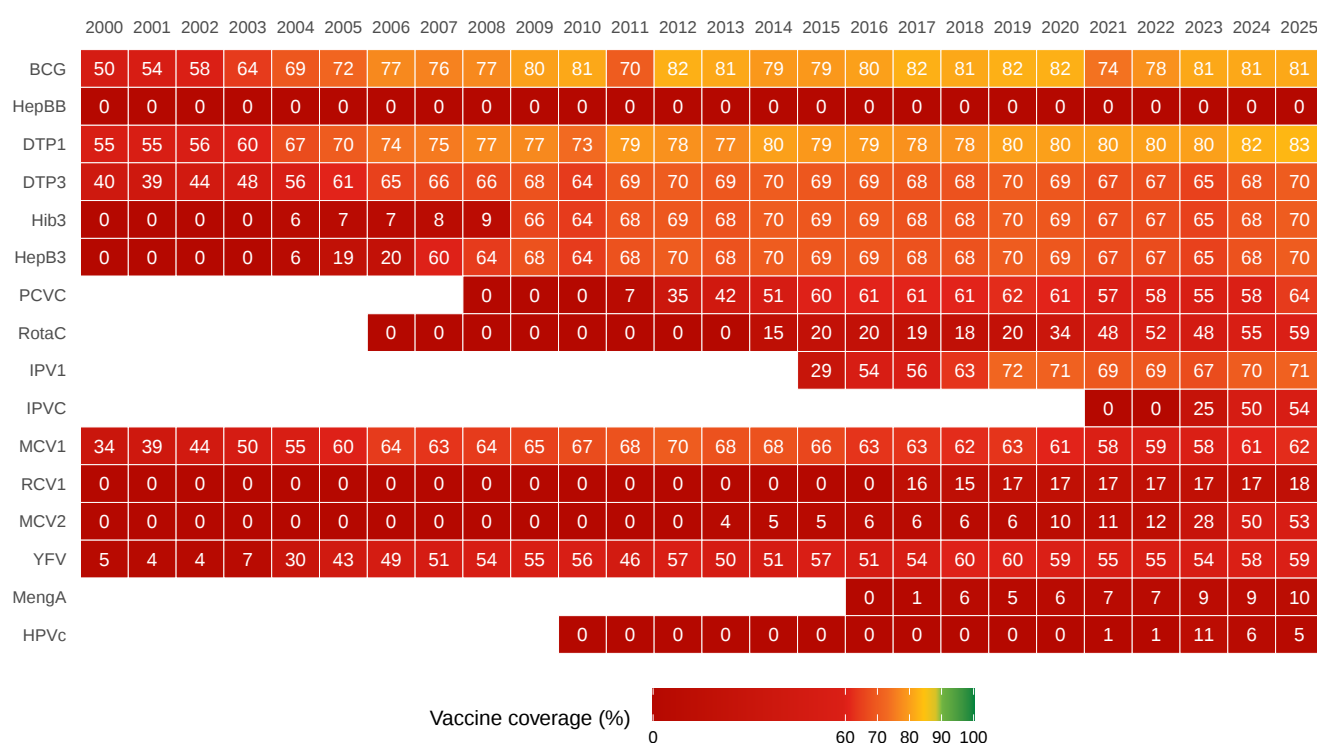


- The Central Africa region includes the following 9 countries: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Overview

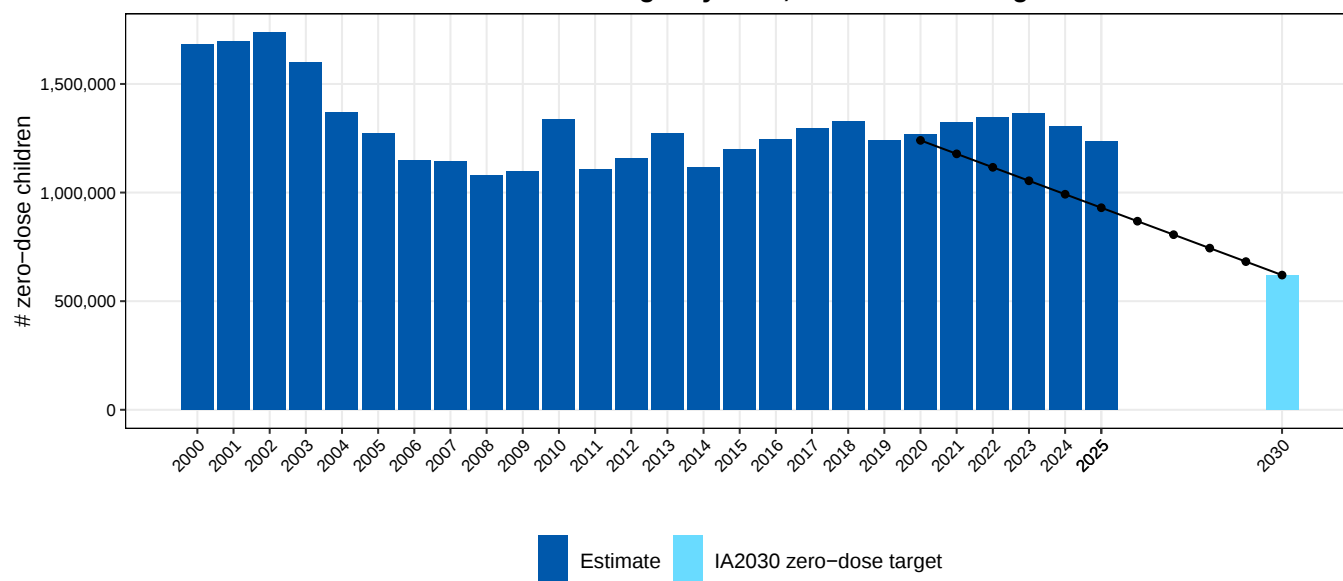
- While noting variations across countries and vaccines, none of the 15 childhood vaccines achieved an average coverage of 90% or higher within the Central Africa region in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 82% in 2024 to 83% in 2025, and coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 68% in 2024 to 70% in 2025. Coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 61% in 2024 to 62% in 2025.
- A total of 3 out of 9 countries reached target coverage (90%) for all 15 antigens, representing 33% of the region.
- There were 6 countries that did not meet the target coverage across all antigens: Burundi, Central African Republic, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (1.2 million) was approximately 33% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target of reducing the number of zero-dose children by half by 2030 in Central Africa region (930,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), Central Africa Region, 2000–2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

**Estimated number of zero-dose children,
2000–2025 and target by 2030, Central Africa Region**



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030. Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue bar is the target number of zero-dose children by 2030. The line and points show the yearly progress and trajectory to meet the target by 2030, based on a linear decline.

DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children

- The number of children vaccinated with DTP1 increased 18% from 5.1 million in 2019 to 6 million in 2025.
- DTP1 coverage in 2025 was 83%, higher than in both 2019 (80%) and 2024 (82%).
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (1.2 million) was approximately 33% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target in Central Africa region (930,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.
- In 2025, DRC and Cameroon represented approximately 64% and 11% of all zero-dose children in Central Africa (n = 1.2 million), respectively. DRC had the highest number of zero-dose children at 788,000, and Cameroon had the second highest at 132,000.
- In 2025, the lowest DTP1 coverage was observed in Central African Republic at 59%, followed by Gabon at 65%.
- There was one country in {reg} that achieved DTP1 coverage of 90% or higher in {rev_yr}{gt90_txt}. (11%) out of 9 countries in the region that achieved DTP1 coverage of 90% or higher in 2025 - Congo.

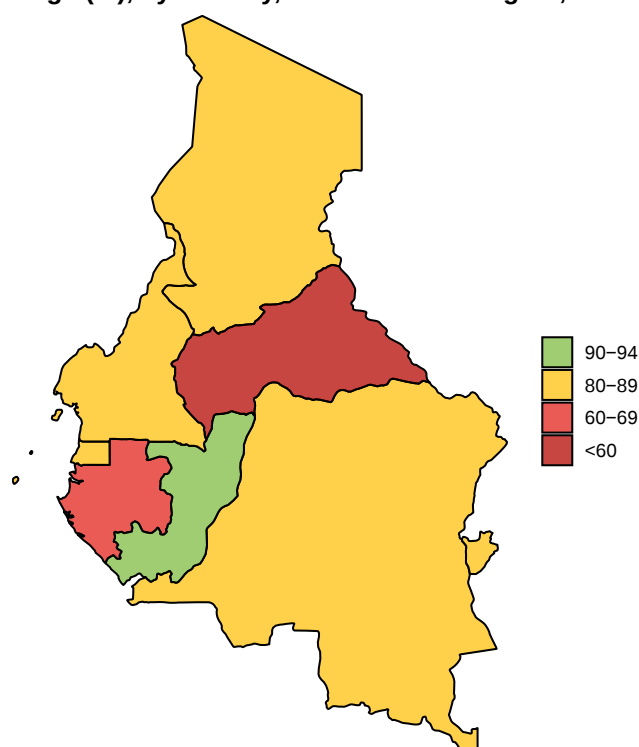
**DTP1 coverage (%), by country,
Central Africa Region, 2000–2025**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Congo	45	44	50	62	67	73	81	80	93	92	90	90	90	90	95	85	76	75	79	82	77	81	82	82	90	93
Burundi	88	90	91	93	95	96	99	99	98	99	99	99	98	98	98	97	97	94	94	97	98	96	93	89	89	89
Sao Tome and Principe	89	97	94	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	99	98	98	97	96	97	97	97	97	92	87	87	87
Cameroon	66	70	75	79	80	85	87	90	93	88	92	88	85	81	81	81	84	80	74	72	74	76	76	81	82	86
Chad	45	44	45	45	35	46	58	50	47	45	55	55	57	58	63	59	55	55	63	69	74	79	82	84	83	86
Equatorial Guinea	64	64	63	63	62	62	61	61	60	60	59	64	68	73	77	64	77	77	77	77	76	76	76	80	75	84
Central Africa	55	55	56	60	67	70	74	75	77	77	73	79	78	77	80	79	79	78	78	80	80	80	80	80	82	83
DRC	49	49	47	53	66	68	71	73	76	78	68	78	78	78	81	81	81	82	82	84	83	81	81	80	82	82
Gabon	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	81	85	81	82	82	86	80	77	87	83	81	78	77	69	76	65	73	62	65
Central African Republic	60	65	65	65	64	64	64	65	65	65	67	69	66	35	60	57	54	54	52	50	48	46	44	49	52	59



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP1 coverage in 2025.

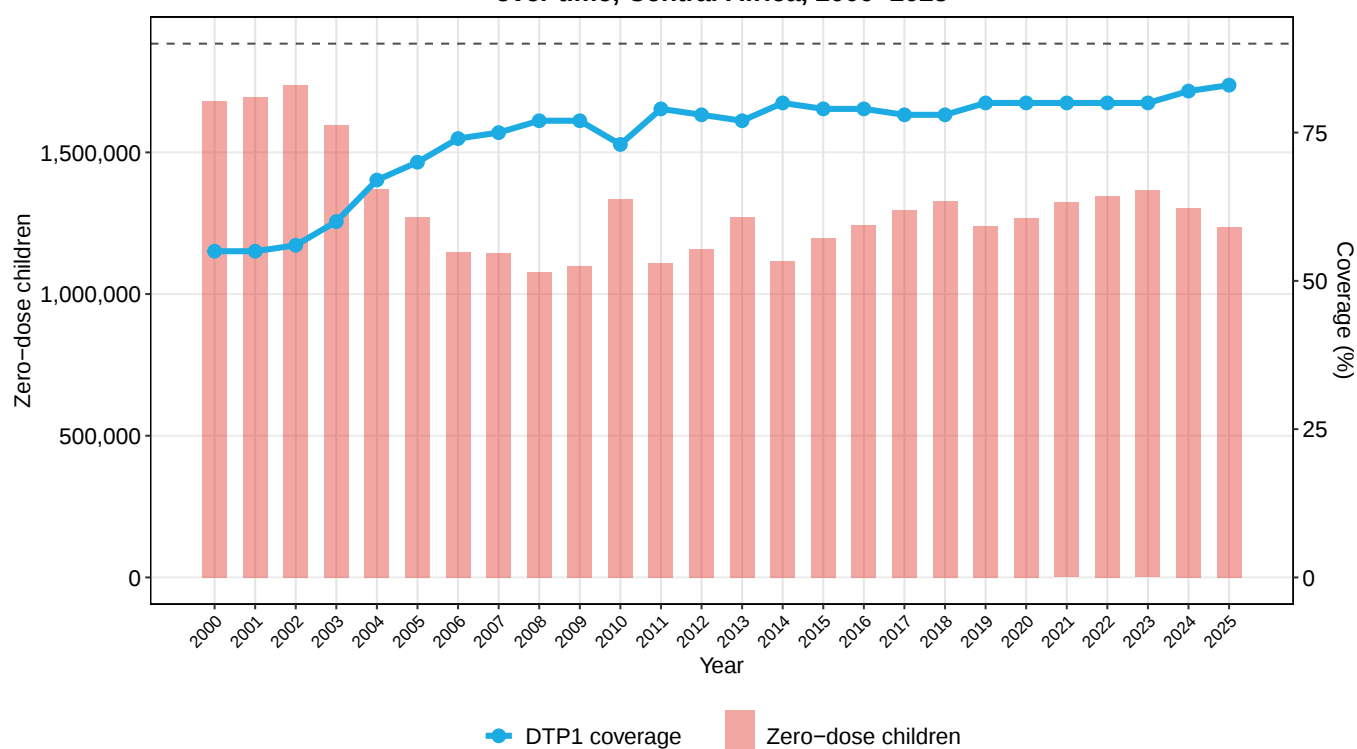
DTP1 coverage (%), by country, Central Africa Region, 2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.
This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF or WHO on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Central Africa, 2000–2025



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage

Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased 13.3% from 4.4 million in 2019 to 5 million in 2025.
- DTP3 coverage in 2025 was 70%, the same as in 2019 but higher than in 2024 (68%).
- In 2025, 16% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3, which was 4 percentage points higher than in 2019 (12%); high dropout rates imply poor ability to provide a complete series of vaccines early in life.
- In 2025, DTP3 coverage ranged from 46% in Central African Republic to 89% in Burundi.
- In 2025, DRC had DTP3 coverage of 65% and the highest absolute number of un- and undervaccinated children in the region (1.5 million), followed by Chad with 71% coverage and 250,000 un- and undervaccinated children.

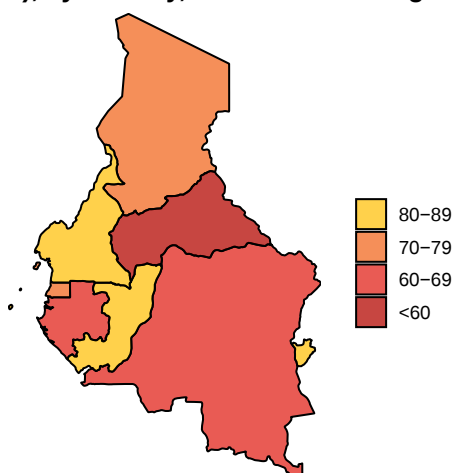
**DTP3 coverage (%), by country,
Central Africa Region, 2000–2025**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Burundi	80	81	81	82	83	87	92	99	92	94	96	96	96	96	95	94	94	91	90	93	93	94	91	89	89	89
Sao Tome and Principe	82	92	92	94	96	97	97	97	99	98	98	96	96	97	95	96	96	95	95	95	96	97	92	87	87	87
Congo	33	31	41	50	67	63	74	73	80	80	76	83	85	85	90	80	71	69	75	79	73	77	78	78	83	85
Cameroon	62	63	66	73	73	80	81	82	84	80	84	81	79	76	76	76	78	74	68	67	68	71	71	75	77	83
Equatorial Guinea	35	37	39	41	43	44	46	48	50	52	54	54	54	53	53	40	53	56	59	62	64	67	70	74	68	78
Chad	38	26	25	23	22	26	41	29	19	26	40	33	40	39	36	42	41	41	47	53	55	62	66	67	68	71
Central Africa	40	39	44	48	56	61	65	66	66	68	64	69	70	69	70	69	69	68	68	70	69	67	67	65	68	70
DRC	30	30	38	42	54	61	62	65	68	71	60	70	71	71	73	70	70	71	71	73	70	65	65	60	65	65
Gabon	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	81	82	76	67	75	82	79	70	80	75	75	70	70	63	75	60	70	61	62
Central African Republic	37	40	44	47	51	54	51	48	45	42	45	47	47	23	45	43	42	42	40	38	37	35	33	40	42	46



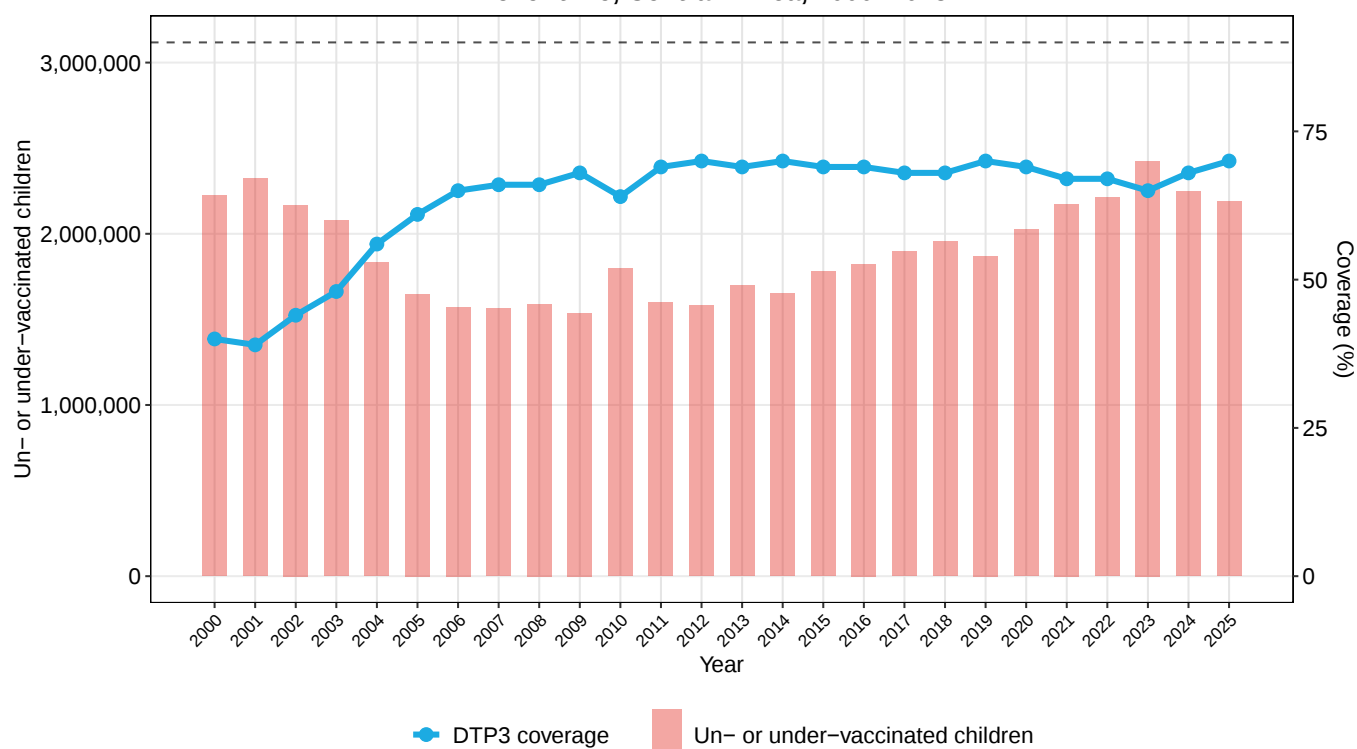
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP3 coverage in 2025.

DTP3 coverage (%), by country, Central Africa Region, 2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.
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DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Central Africa, 2000-2025

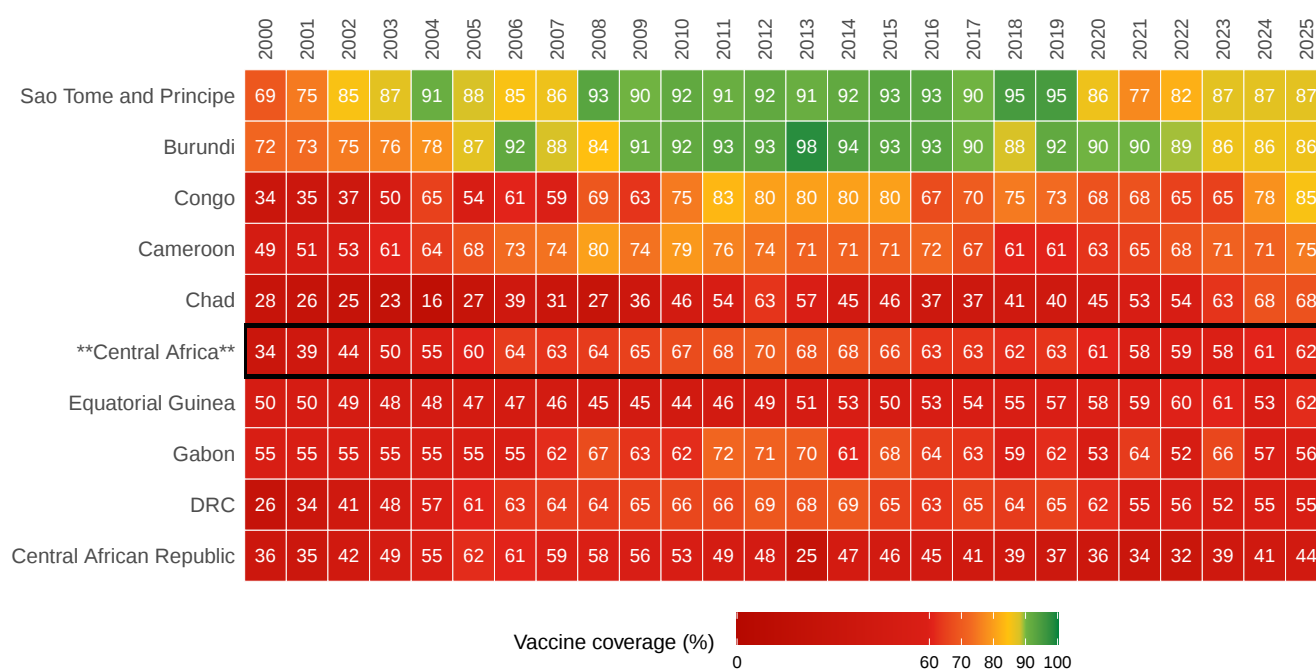


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

MCV: Canary in the coal mine

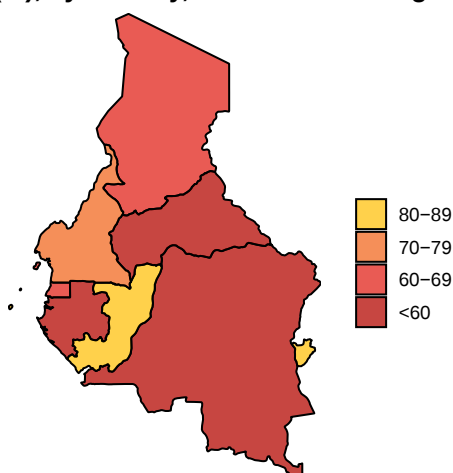
- MCV1 coverage in 2025 was 62%, the same as in 2019 and 2024.
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) in 2025 was 53%, higher than in both 2019 (6%) and 2024 (50%). This still leaves 2.8 million children without any protection and another 347,000 with only partial protection against the measles virus.
- In 2025, 26% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 26% dropout rate was 4 percentage points higher than in 2019 (22%) and higher than the 2024 dropout rate (25%).
- High DTP-MCV dropout rates imply poor retention in immunization programmes.
- 6 countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon) had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- In 2025, DRC had the highest number of children who did not receive the measles vaccine (2 million), representing approximately 71% of all children unprotected against measles in Central Africa (2.8 million).

**MCV1 coverage (%), by country,
Central Africa Region, 2000–2025**



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending MCV1 coverage in 2025.

MCV1 coverage (%), by country, Central Africa Region, 2025

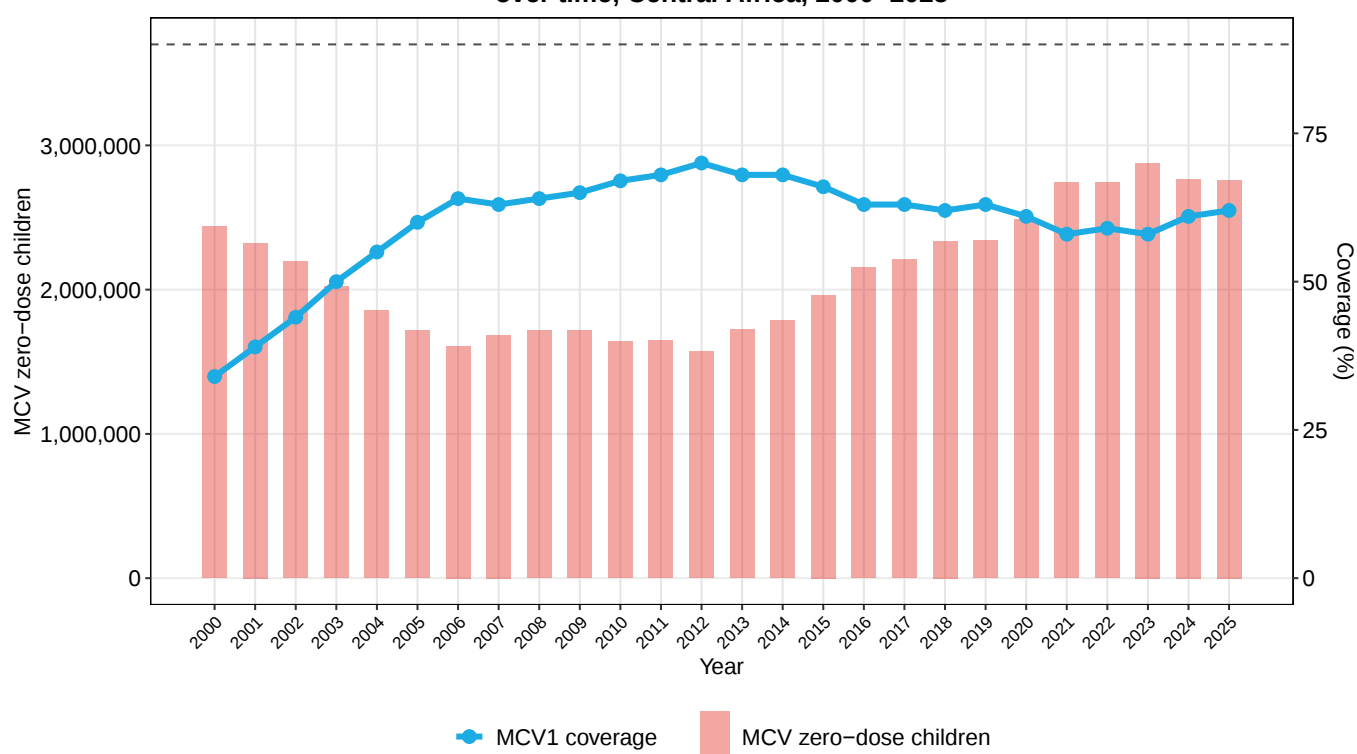


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.

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MCV coverage and MCV zero-dose children over time, Central Africa, 2000–2025



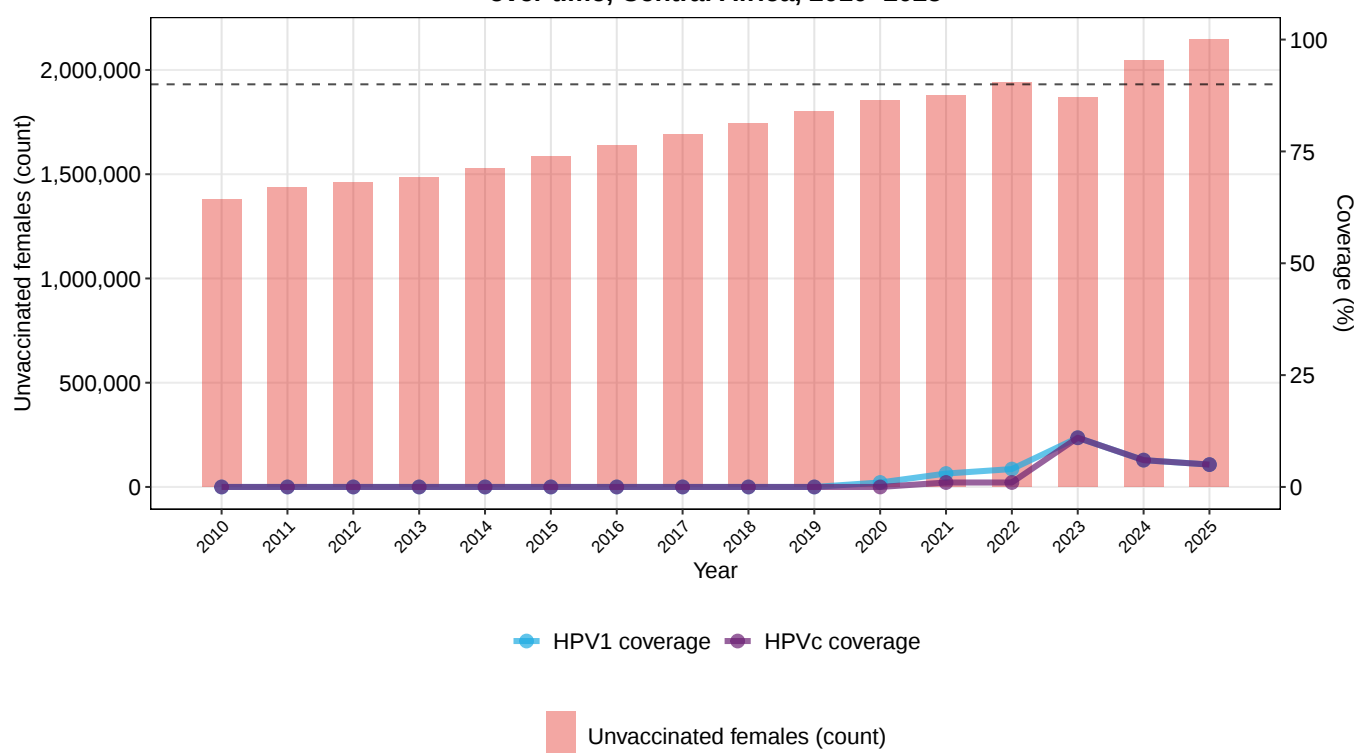
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage

Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

HPV

- Programme coverage of the first dose of HPV vaccine (HPV1) among girls stood at 5% in 2025, which was lower than the coverage of 6% in 2024.
- Coverage of the last dose (HPVc) stood at 5% in 2025, which was lower than the coverage of 6% in 2024.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, there were 2.1 million girls who did not receive any HPV vaccination.
- In Central Africa, 2 out of 9 countries (22%) had introduced HPV vaccination by 2025.
 - WUENIC HPV coverage estimates are available for all 2 of these countries in 2025.
- The 7 countries that had not introduced HPV vaccination are Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

HPV1 and HPVc coverage and unvaccinated females over time, Central Africa, 2010–2025



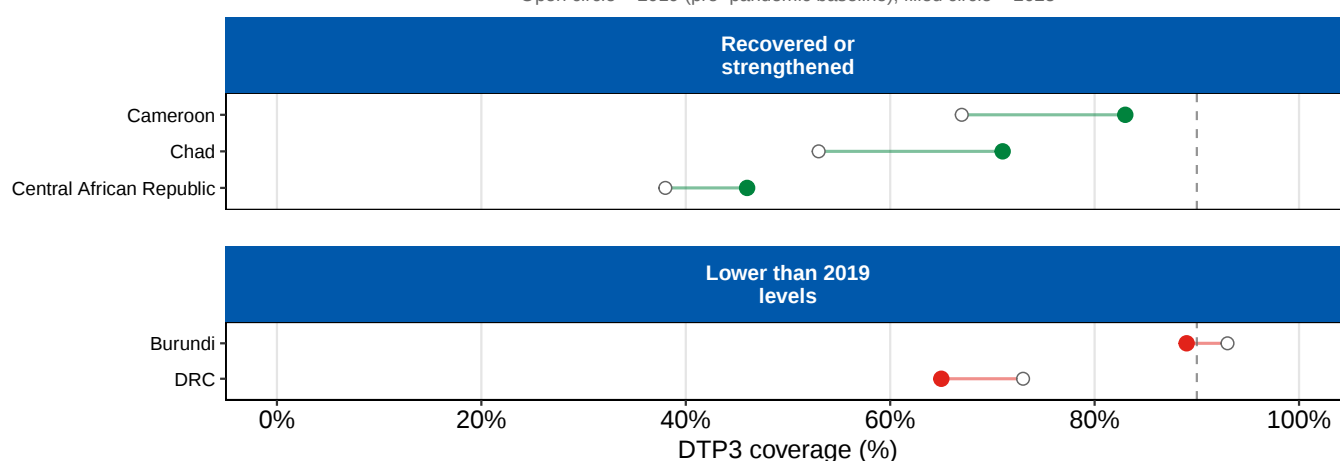
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Priority countries supported to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic

- Of the 35 countries that were globally supported for the Big Catch-up, 5 are in Central Africa.
 - Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Chad fully recovered to or exceeded its 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 2 countries (Burundi and DRC) have not yet recovered, with stagnation or decline from 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 2 countries (Cameroon and Chad) did not experience a decline in DTP3 levels compared to 2019.

DTP3 coverage recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, Central Africa

Open circle = 2019 (pre-pandemic baseline); filled circle = 2025



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage.

Countries shown are Big Catch-Up priority countries in Central Africa.

Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Recovery Methodology

This analysis tracks DTP3 coverage trends from 2019 to 2025 to assess post-pandemic recovery. Countries are categorized based on their progress toward 2019 baseline levels:

- **Recovered or strengthened:** 2025 coverage is equal to or higher than 2019 levels.
- **Partially recovered:** Coverage in 2025 is still below 2019 levels but has improved by at least 3 percentage points from its lowest point in 2020 or 2021.
- **Lower than 2019 levels:** Coverage in 2025 remains below 2019 levels and has shown less than 3 percentage points of improvement from its lowest point in 2020 or 2021.

Appendix

WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC)

Each year, WHO and UNICEF review national immunization data from Member States, including administrative and official coverage, survey estimates and contextual information, and use rules-based data triangulation approach to assess coverage. Estimates are produced independently, without borrowing data from other countries, and are not based on ad hoc adjustments. In some cases, they rely on a single source, typically nationally reported coverage. When data for a specific country-vaccine-year are unavailable, values from adjacent years are interpolated or extrapolated, and conflicting sources are assessed to determine the most reliable estimate, considering potential biases and expert opinion.

Methods:

- [Burton et al. 2009. WHO and UNICEF estimates of national infant immunization coverage: methods and processes](#)
- [Burton et al. 2012. A formal representation of the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage: a computational logic approach](#)
- [Brown et al. 2013. An introduction to the grade of confidence used to characterize uncertainty around the WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage](#)

These talking points present the latest WUENIC estimates (published 15 July 2026).

Definitions of immunization terms:

- Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG): vaccine against tuberculosis
- Hepatitis B birth dose, given within 24 hours after birth (HepBB)
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine, first dose (DTP1) and third dose (DTP3)
- Hepatitis B vaccine, third dose (HepB3)
- Haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine, third dose (Hib3)
- Inactivated polio vaccine, first dose (IPV1) and last dose (IPVC)
- Measles containing vaccine, first dose (MCV1) and second dose (MCV2)
- Rotavirus vaccine, last dose (RotaC)
- Pneumococcal vaccine, last dose (PCV)
- Yellow Fever vaccine (YFV)
- Meningococcal A vaccine (MengA)
- Human Papillomavirus vaccine, first dose (HPV1) and last dose (HPVc)

Additional resources: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/immunization/>