

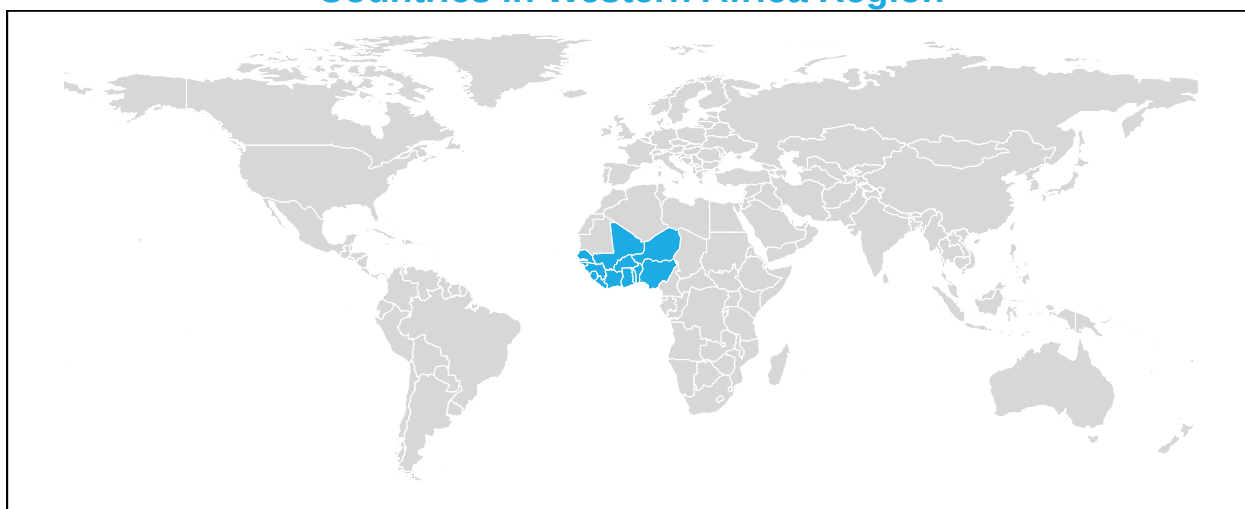
WUENIC Talking Points: Western Africa Region

Revision Year: 2025

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Countries in Western Africa Region

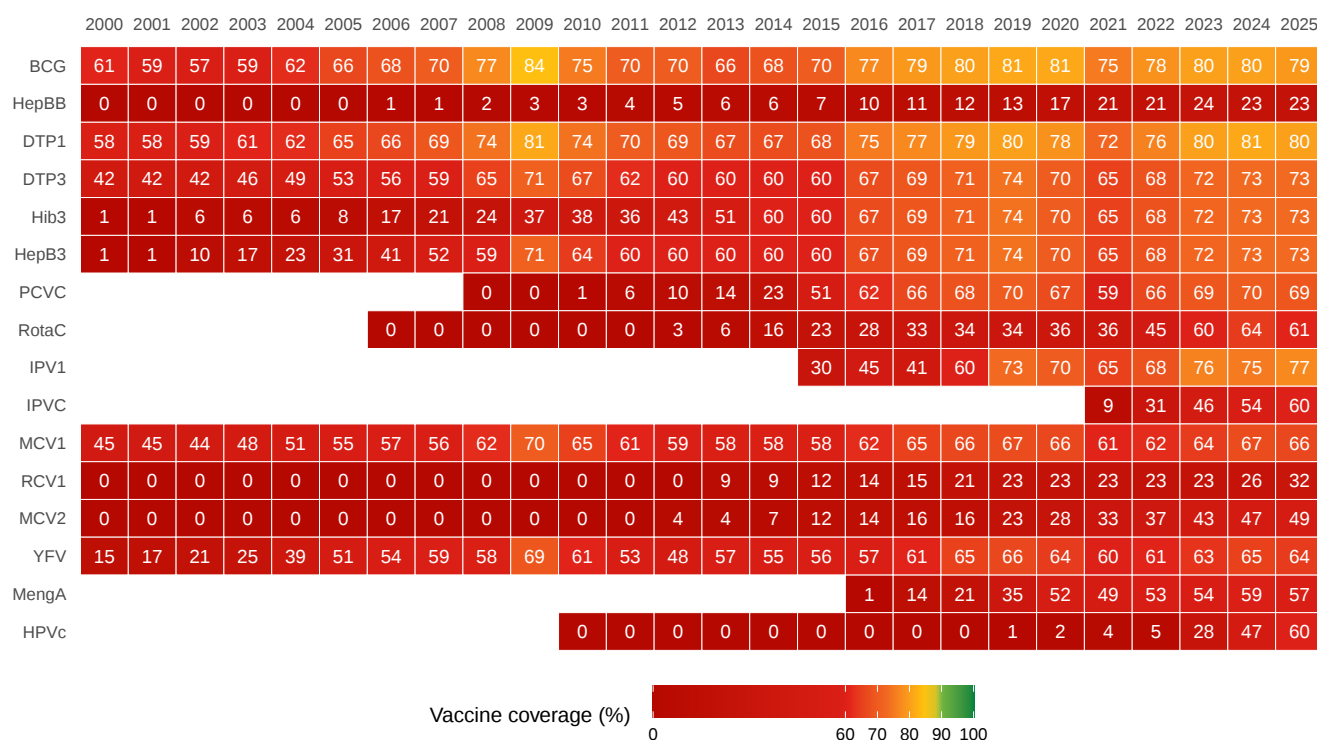


- The Western Africa region includes the following 15 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

Overview

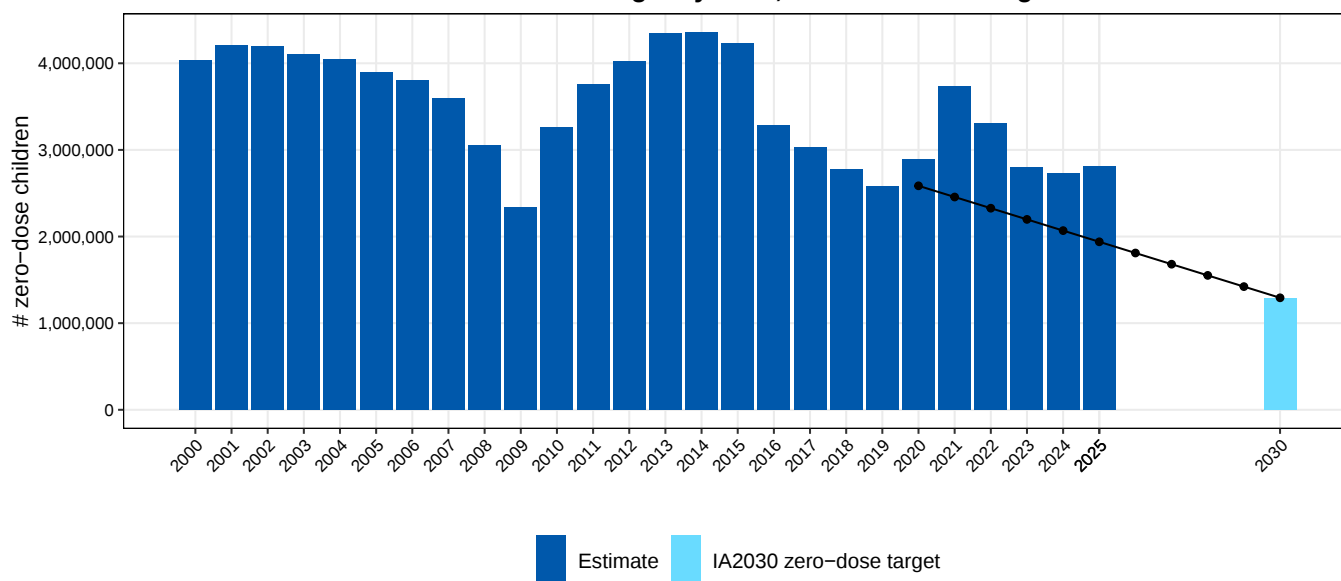
- While noting variations across countries and vaccines, none of the 15 childhood vaccines achieved an average coverage of 90% or higher within the Western Africa region in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 81% in 2024 to 80% in 2025, and coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (73%). Coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 67% in 2024 to 66% in 2025.
- A total of 12 out of 15 countries reached target coverage (90%) for all 15 antigens, representing 80% of the region.
- There were 3 countries that did not meet the target coverage across all antigens: Gambia, Guinea, and Nigeria.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (2.8 million) was approximately 45% 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 Western Africa region (1.9 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), Western 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, Western 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 6.4% from 10.7 million in 2019 to 11.3 million in 2025.
- DTP1 coverage in 2025 was 80%, the same as in 2019 but lower than in 2024 (81%).
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (2.8 million) was approximately 45% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target in Western Africa region (1.9 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.
- In 2025, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire represented approximately 77% and 6% of all zero-dose children in Western Africa (n = 2.8 million), respectively. Nigeria had the highest number of zero-dose children at 2.2 million, and Cote d'Ivoire had the second highest at 156,000.
- In 2025, the lowest DTP1 coverage was observed in Nigeria at 70%, followed by Guinea at 78%.
- There were 10 (67%) out of 15 countries in the region that achieved DTP1 coverage of 90% or higher in 2025.

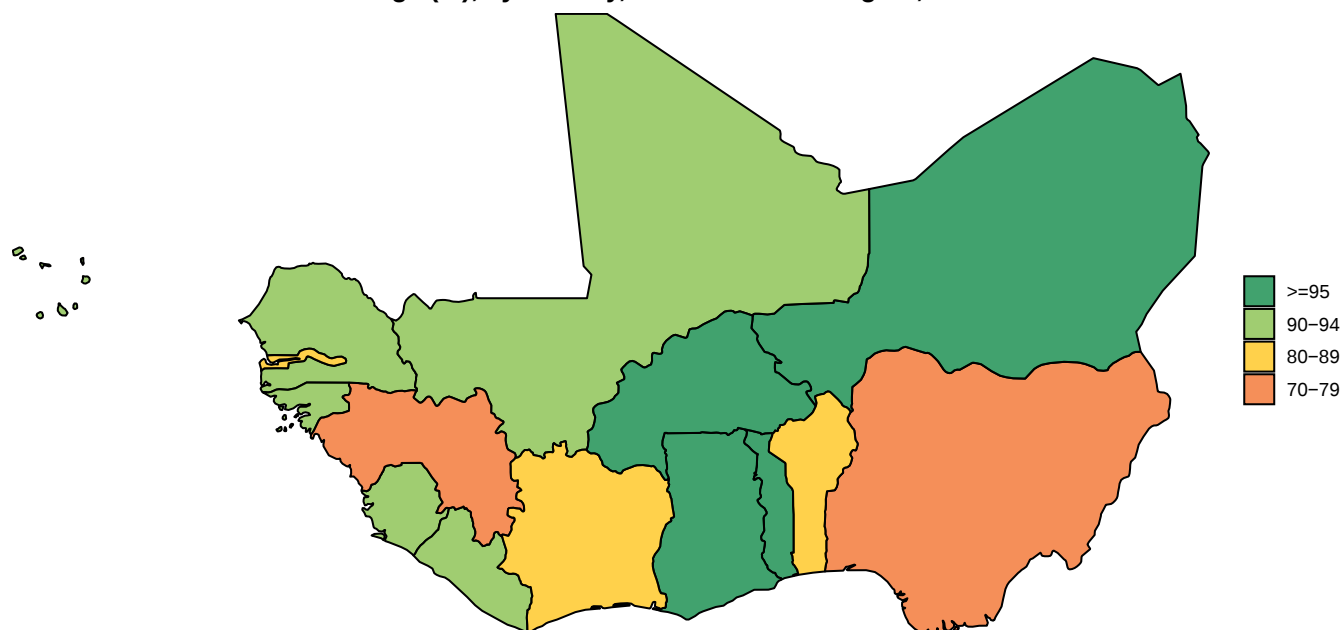
**DTP1 coverage (%), by country,
Western Africa Region, 2000–2025**

	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
Ghana	88	81	84	87	88	88	87	96	96	96	96	94	92	94	99	97	94	99	97	97	94	99	99	99	99	99
Burkina Faso	85	87	89	90	90	91	91	92	93	93	93	93	94	94	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
Niger	46	48	51	53	56	58	64	69	76	81	83	86	87	89	95	93	92	95	91	92	93	94	96	94	95	95
Togo	80	63	75	83	83	91	91	94	92	93	97	94	94	94	89	88	89	89	90	93	92	94	95	95	95	95
Senegal	79	79	70	81	95	97	99	97	94	94	96	97	96	96	94	94	96	97	96	93	89	91	93	92	96	94
Cabo Verde	94	94	95	95	96	97	98	99	99	99	99	99	98	93	99	97	96	97	99	96	93	93	93	93	93	93
Sierra Leone	64	58	89	90	82	80	79	77	84	94	95	97	98	98	88	95	97	98	97	95	93	94	92	92	92	92
Liberia	80	76	73	69	65	75	75	80	85	90	80	86	91	91	74	77	83	89	91	86	82	81	93	91	91	91
Guinea-Bissau	73	75	77	79	81	83	86	89	91	94	93	92	94	93	92	91	90	91	95	91	94	91	93	95	89	90
Mali	61	78	87	91	94	96	91	89	85	82	81	80	75	69	73	78	82	82	82	82	75	81	84	85	91	90
Cote d'Ivoire	85	81	76	71	73	83	95	93	89	95	87	74	93	83	92	96	98	93	96	94	87	85	83	82	81	84
Gambia	97	97	96	97	96	95	98	98	96	98	99	99	99	99	98	99	99	93	94	93	88	82	85	84	82	84
Benin	89	88	87	86	85	84	89	94	91	89	87	85	89	86	86	82	84	83	82	81	80	80	79	79	81	82
Western Africa	58	58	59	61	62	65	66	69	74	81	74	70	69	67	67	68	75	77	79	80	78	72	76	80	81	80
Guinea	61	64	68	71	75	75	76	64	76	86	76	70	64	58	64	62	64	65	67	68	70	71	73	77	77	78
Nigeria	44	43	43	45	46	48	49	52	63	73	60	56	51	49	48	49	62	65	69	72	70	57	63	71	71	70



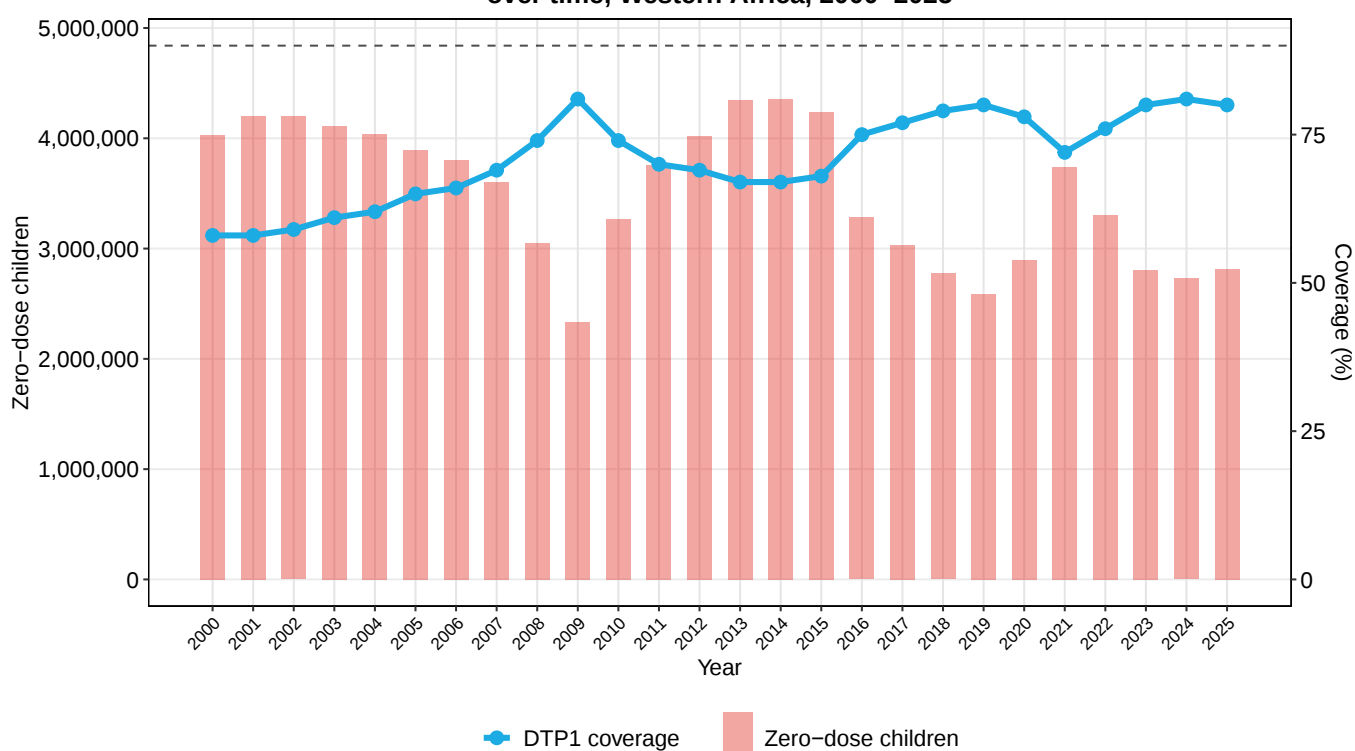
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP1 coverage in 2025.

DTP1 coverage (%), by country, Western 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, Western 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 5.2% from 9.8 million in 2019 to 10.3 million in 2025. Due to population growth of approximately 7% between 2019 and 2025, DTP3 coverage in 2025 (73%) was lower than in 2019 (74%).
- DTP3 coverage in 2025 was 73%, lower than in 2019 (74%) and the same as in 2024.
- In 2025, 9% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3, which was 1 percentage point higher than in 2019 (8%); medium dropout rates imply moderate ability to provide a complete series of vaccines early in life.
- In 2025, DTP3 coverage ranged from 62% in Nigeria to 99% in Ghana.
- In 2025, Nigeria had DTP3 coverage of 62% and the highest absolute number of un- and undervaccinated children in the region (2.8 million), followed by Cote d'Ivoire with 70% coverage and 293,000 un- and undervaccinated children.

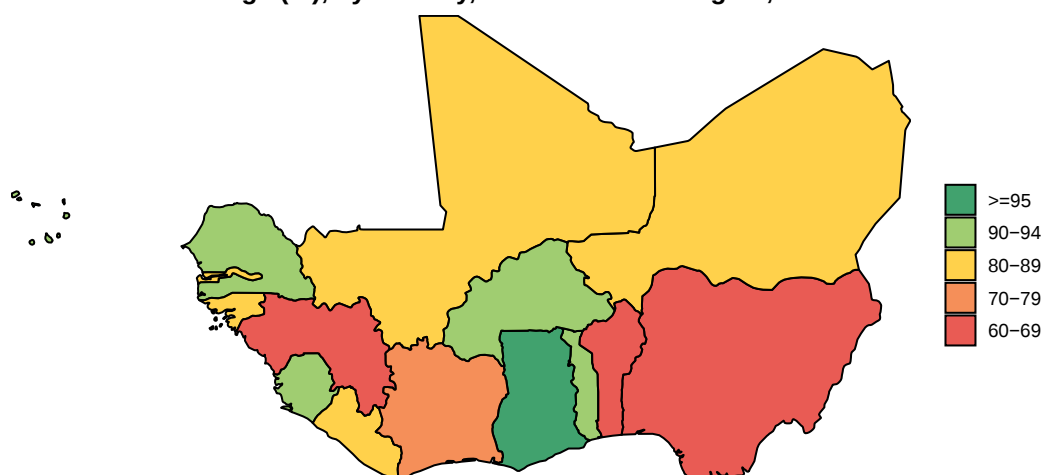
**DTP3 coverage (%), by country,
Western Africa Region, 2000–2025**

	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
Ghana	88	79	78	80	80	84	84	94	93	94	94	91	92	90	98	89	93	99	97	97	94	98	99	95	95	99
Cabo Verde	90	90	91	92	93	95	96	98	99	99	99	90	94	93	95	93	96	96	98	96	93	93	93	93	93	93
Burkina Faso	45	62	69	79	79	82	86	89	93	92	91	91	90	88	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91
Senegal	52	52	60	73	87	84	89	94	88	86	89	92	91	92	89	89	93	93	92	91	83	85	93	92	91	91
Sierra Leone	44	38	53	73	65	65	64	64	77	84	86	89	91	92	83	86	84	90	93	95	91	92	91	91	91	91
Togo	64	50	59	72	71	82	84	82	81	78	83	85	84	84	84	82	82	84	84	88	87	90	90	90	90	90
Niger	34	36	39	41	43	45	52	58	67	71	70	75	73	75	82	84	80	85	79	81	81	82	84	85	86	87
Guinea-Bissau	49	53	57	60	64	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	87	87	86	86	85	79	85	84	82	78	88	91	85	84
Mali	43	49	61	63	69	77	78	74	74	73	73	66	65	64	66	70	76	77	76	76	70	75	76	76	83	84
Liberia	48	44	39	35	31	60	60	65	75	81	70	77	80	80	63	65	73	80	81	71	66	67	79	83	83	83
Gambia	80	87	87	87	87	95	95	95	96	98	97	96	98	97	96	97	95	92	93	88	85	82	79	84	80	82
Western Africa	42	42	42	46	49	53	56	59	65	71	67	62	60	60	60	60	67	69	71	74	70	65	68	72	73	73
Cote d'Ivoire	65	66	65	62	68	77	77	76	74	81	78	61	82	75	73	79	87	83	84	79	73	71	69	72	68	70
Benin	78	76	75	73	72	70	74	82	75	79	76	75	80	77	74	74	78	76	74	72	70	70	69	69	69	69
Guinea	46	50	53	57	60	59	57	63	60	57	64	63	57	50	44	48	47	49	51	53	54	56	58	60	63	65
Nigeria	29	27	25	29	33	36	40	42	53	63	56	49	42	43	43	42	53	55	61	66	62	50	55	63	63	62



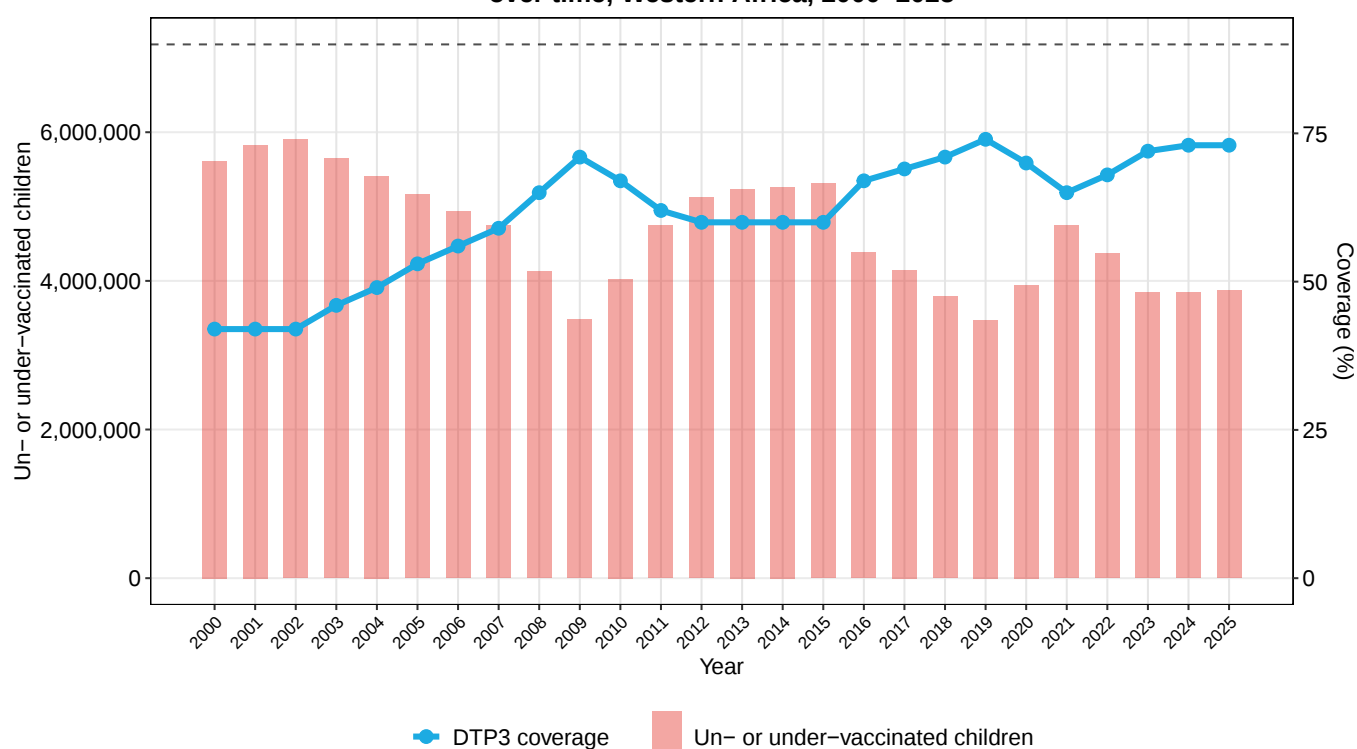
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP3 coverage in 2025.

DTP3 coverage (%), by country, Western 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.

DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Western 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 66%, the same as in 2019 and 2024.
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) in 2025 was 49%, higher than in both 2019 (23%) and 2024 (47%). This still leaves 4.8 million children without any protection and another 2 million with only partial protection against the measles virus.
- In 2025, 18% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 18% dropout rate was 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (16%) and higher than the 2024 dropout rate (17%).
- High DTP-MCV dropout rates imply poor retention in immunization programmes.
- 5 countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, and Nigeria) had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- In 2025, Nigeria had the highest number of children who did not receive the measles vaccine (3.2 million), representing approximately 66% of all children unprotected against measles in Western Africa (4.8 million).

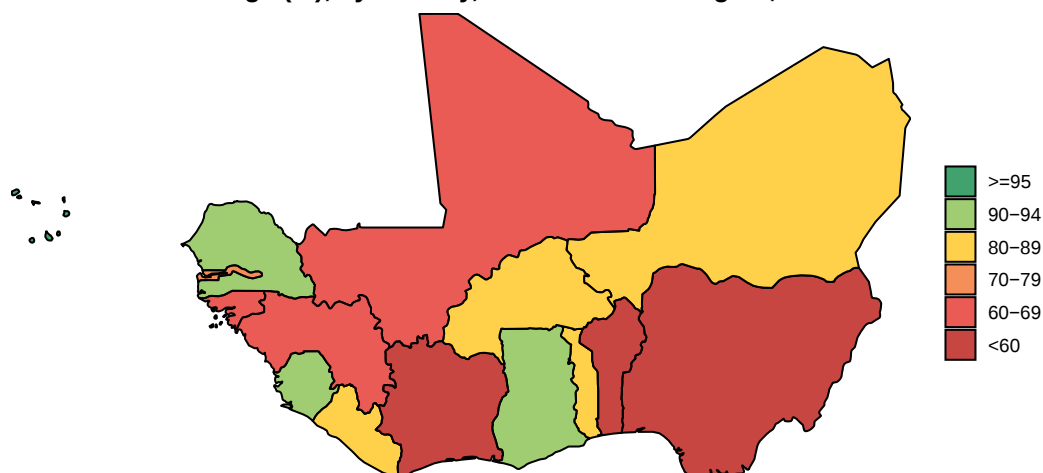
MCV1 coverage (%), by country,
Western Africa Region, 2000–2025

	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
Cabo Verde	86	88	89	90	91	93	94	96	97	97	97	96	91	91	93	92	93	96	99	98	95	95	95	95	95	95
Ghana	90	78	78	80	83	83	85	95	86	93	93	91	89	89	92	89	89	95	92	92	88	94	95	88	95	93
Senegal	48	48	54	60	57	74	80	84	77	79	81	84	83	84	80	80	93	90	86	86	82	88	87	87	87	92
Sierra Leone	37	50	62	73	76	71	65	60	73	80	82	84	86	85	80	78	85	80	87	93	87	87	90	90	90	90
Burkina Faso	48	63	64	76	78	84	88	94	94	94	92	89	87	82	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Liberia	63	58	52	47	41	62	63	71	76	83	65	71	80	74	58	64	70	75	74	68	61	58	79	82	82	82
Niger	37	39	41	43	45	47	53	60	66	69	67	69	75	80	80	85	76	82	77	79	79	80	65	80	81	82
Togo	58	40	48	68	70	70	78	71	63	66	68	72	72	72	77	75	73	79	75	81	76	80	82	79	81	81
Gambia	89	89	90	90	92	91	89	88	92	96	92	91	95	96	96	97	97	90	91	85	82	79	74	80	83	78
Guinea-Bissau	71	72	73	74	75	76	74	73	71	69	76	83	81	81	81	80	80	66	81	83	78	70	84	83	76	69
Mali	49	54	56	57	63	73	68	66	71	73	78	72	67	62	61	65	70	70	70	71	62	71	69	68	72	68
Western Africa	45	45	44	48	51	55	57	56	62	70	65	61	59	58	58	58	62	65	66	67	66	61	62	64	67	66
Guinea	42	44	46	48	50	51	51	57	55	53	58	62	58	54	50	47	48	48	49	50	50	51	51	52	60	62
Cote d'Ivoire	68	71	71	70	78	84	73	67	63	67	64	49	74	70	59	67	73	70	73	72	63	62	56	63	65	58
Nigeria	33	32	30	34	37	41	44	41	53	64	56	49	42	43	44	42	48	54	56	58	60	48	51	54	57	56
Benin	70	68	66	65	63	61	66	70	66	71	68	70	74	68	65	67	68	65	61	58	54	53	52	52	51	49



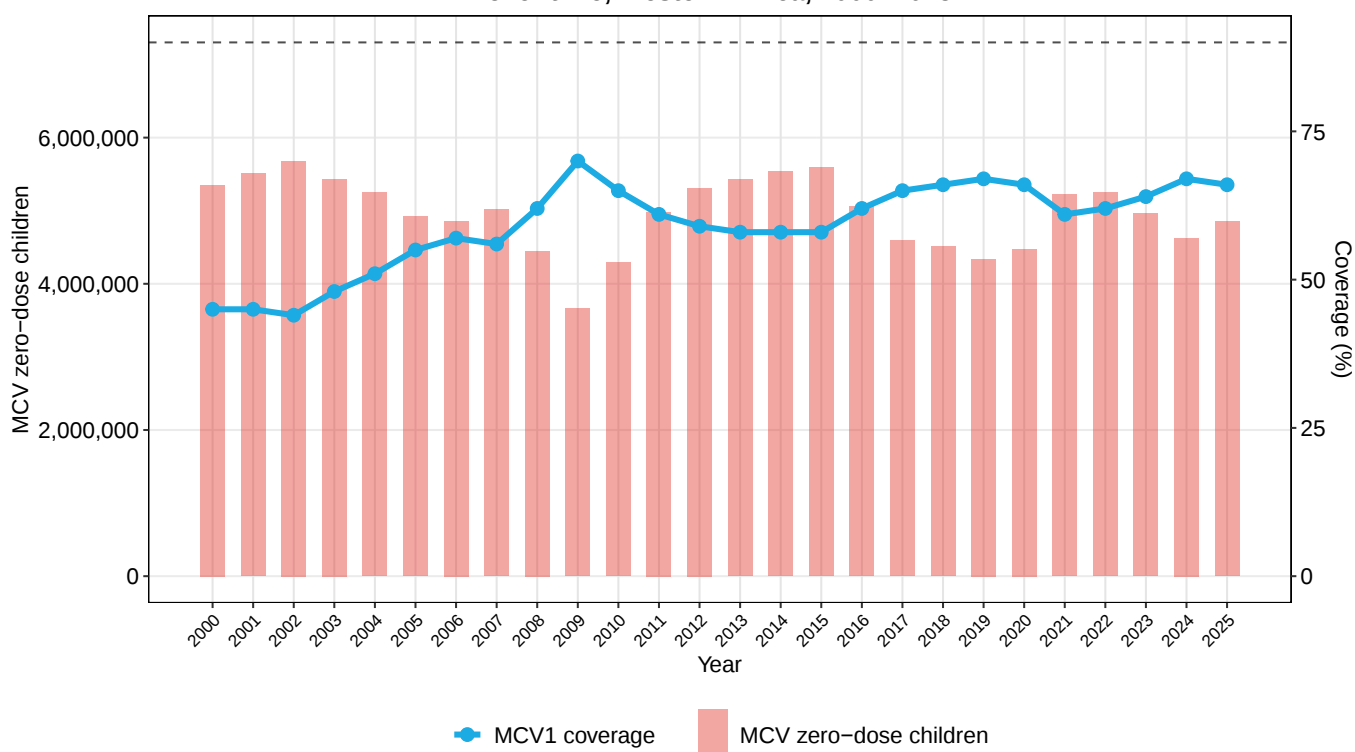
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending MCV1 coverage in 2025.

MCV1 coverage (%), by country, Western 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, Western Africa, 2000-2025

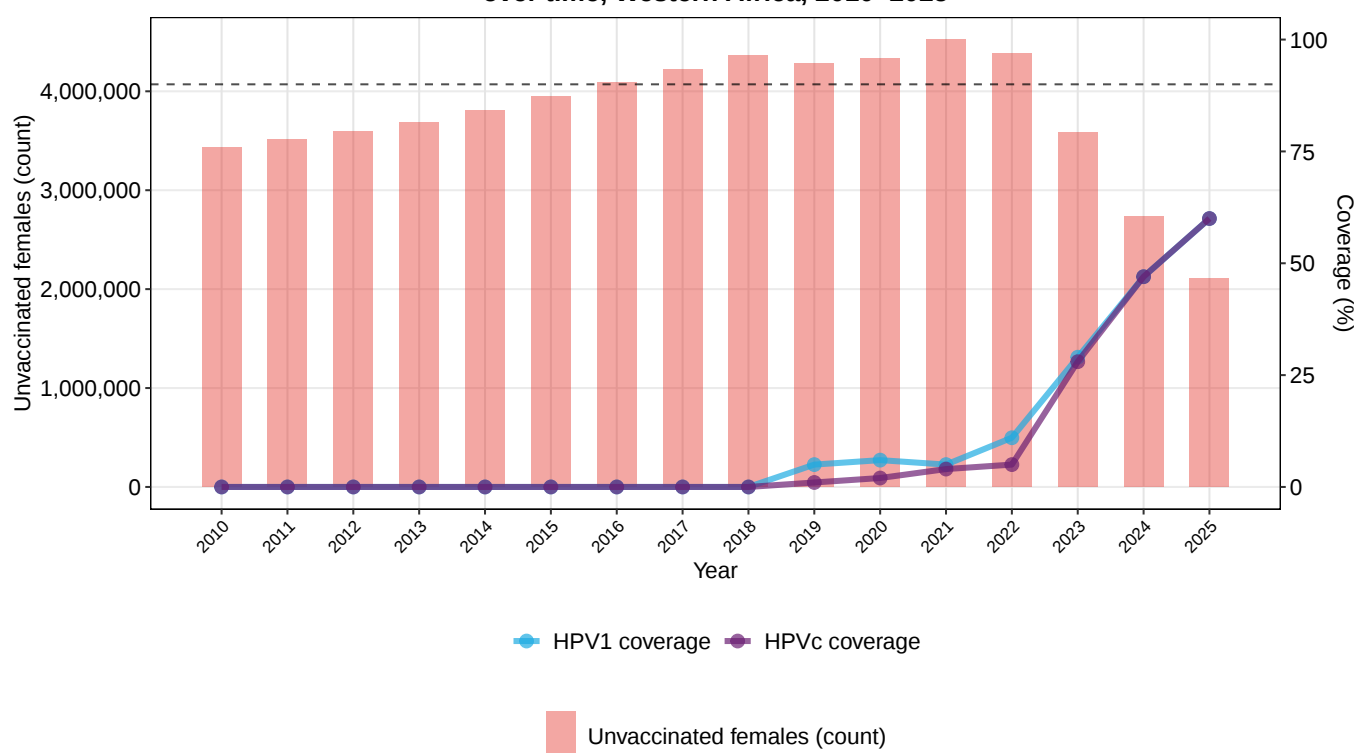


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

HPV

- Programme coverage of the first dose of HPV vaccine (HPV1) among girls stood at 60% in 2025, which was higher than the coverage of 47% in 2024.
- Coverage of the last dose (HPVc) stood at 60% in 2025, which was higher than the coverage of 47% in 2024.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%, though it is trending upward.
- In 2025, there were 2.1 million girls who did not receive any HPV vaccination.
- In Western Africa, 12 out of 15 countries (80%) had introduced HPV vaccination by 2025.
 - WUENIC HPV coverage estimates are available for all 12 of these countries in 2025.
- The 3 countries that had not introduced HPV vaccination are Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Niger.

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



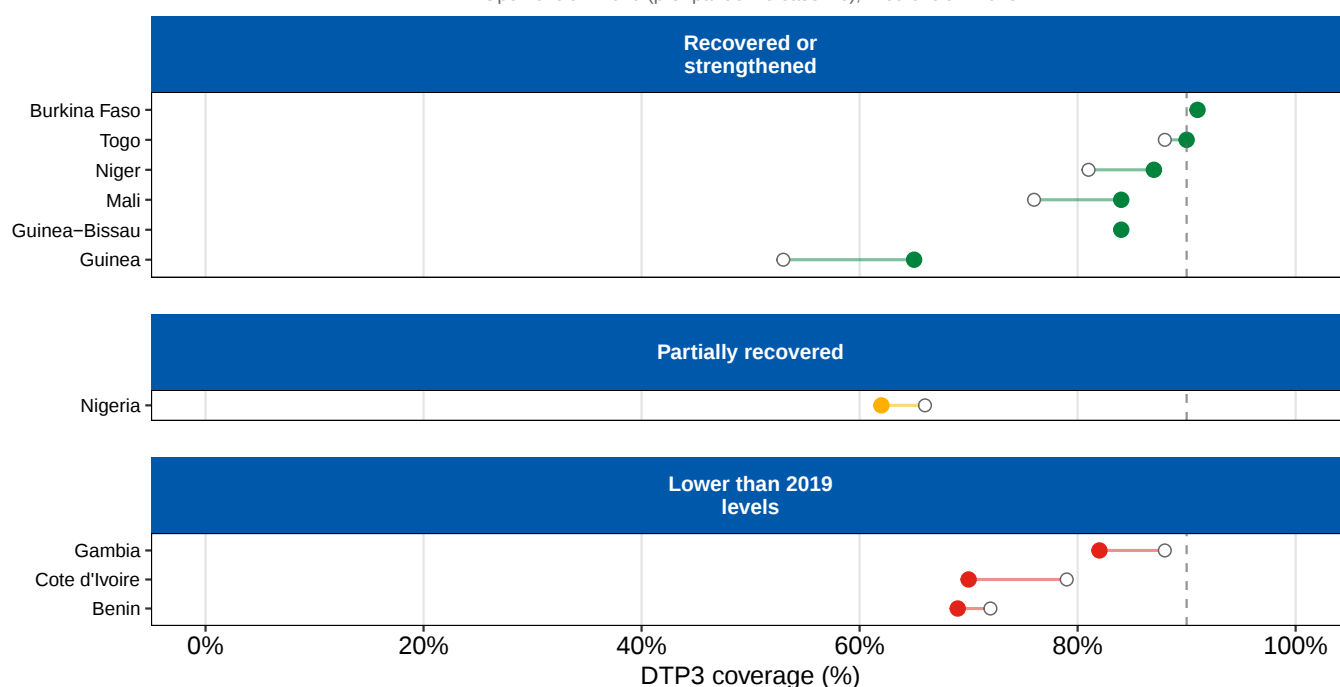
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Priority countries supported to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic

- Of the 35 countries that were globally supported for the Big Catch-up, 10 are in Western Africa.
 - Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, and Togo fully recovered to or exceeded their 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - Nigeria is on the path to recovery to 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 3 countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Gambia) have not yet recovered, with stagnation or decline from 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 3 countries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Niger) did not experience a decline in DTP3 levels compared to 2019.

DTP3 coverage recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, Western 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 Western 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/>