

WUENIC Talking Points: Gambia



Revision Year: 2025

Contents

Overview	2
DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children	3
DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children	4
MCV: Canary in the coal mine	5
HPV	6
Regional Comparison	7
Additional Vaccines	8
Appendix	9

Gambia in the 'Africa' region



Overview

- None of the 15 childhood vaccines tracked for the Gambia achieved coverage of 90% or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 82% in 2024 to 84% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 80% in 2024 to 82% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 83% in 2024 to 78% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in the Gambia (13,000) was approximately 232% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (4,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

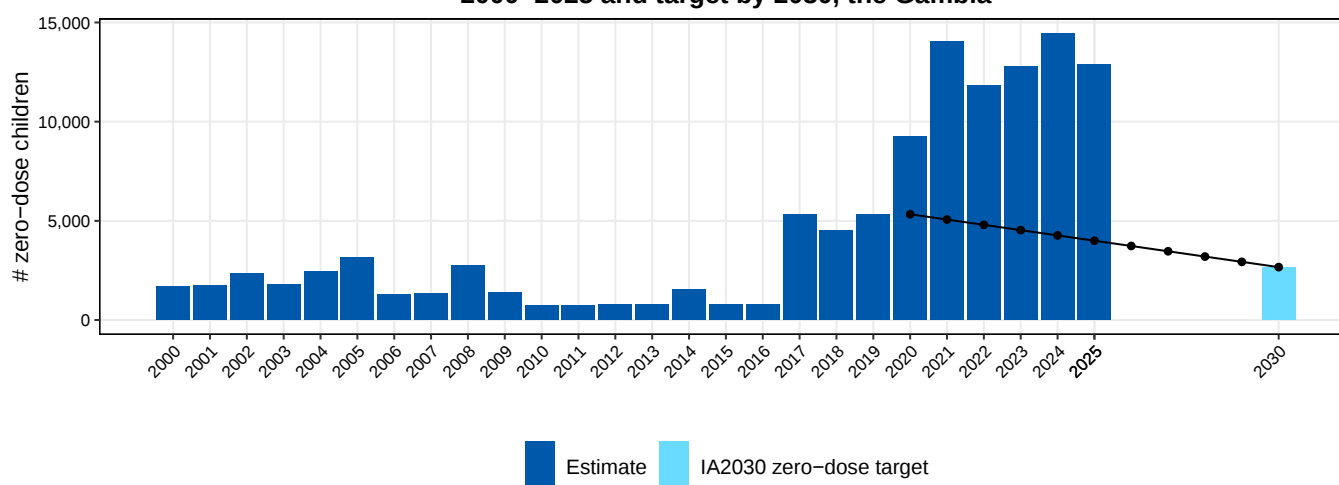
Vaccine coverage (%), Gambia, 2000–2025

	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	
BCG	99	99	99	99	99	99	97	97	95	94	92	90	98	98	96	98	98	94	94	88	85	81	83	76	79	82	
HepBB																						25	26	41	37	50	
DTP1	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	
DTP3	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	
Hib3	90	87	89	91	93	95	95	94	97	99	97	96	98	97	96	97	95	92	93	88	85	82	79	84	80	82	
HepB3	91	91	92	94	95	95	95	97	98	97	97	96	98	97	96	97	95	92	93	88	85	82	79	84	80	82	
PCVC											99	95	98	96	96	97	95	90	93	87	83	78	75	80	80	82	
RotaC													7	92	97	95	93	93	90	85	79	82	83	80	83		
IPV1																71	95	20	61	88	88	82	78	84	80	83	
IPVC																							17	69	80	80	75
MCV1	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	
RCV1																		90	91	85	82	79	74	80	83	78	
MCV2													56	53	73	77	79	68	71	61	61	61	52	73	83	78	
YFV	85	84	85	84	84	91	89	88	95	96	92	91	95	97	96	97	84	90	91	87	83	78	73	78	84	78	
MengA																					35	54	73	66	86	91	82
HPVc																							24		24	15	33



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

Estimated number of zero-dose children, 2000–2025 and target by 2030, the Gambia

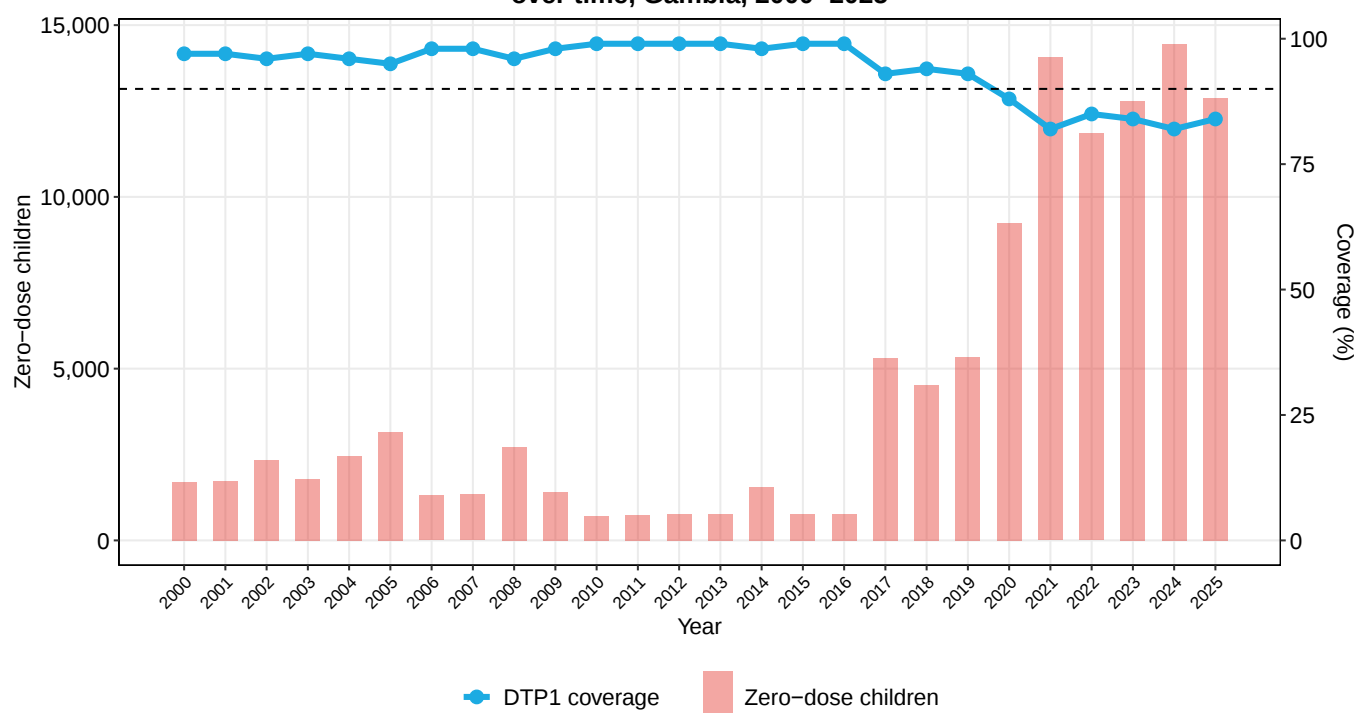


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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

- Coverage of DTP1 stood at 84% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (93%) and higher than in 2024 (82%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 232 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 13,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 5,000 in 2019 but fewer than the 14,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in the Gambia (84%) was higher than the West and Central Africa regional average of 81% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 2%, 3 percentage points lower than in 2019 (5%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

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

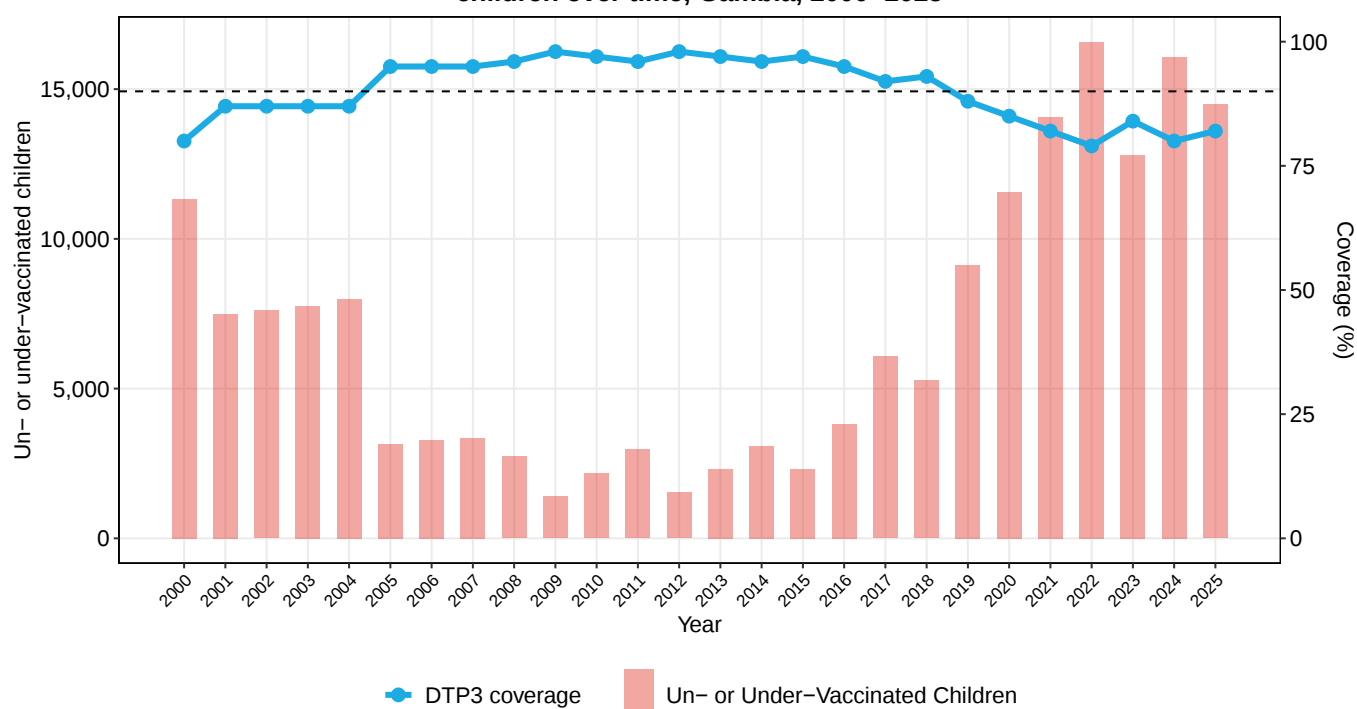


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) and higher than in 2024 (80%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 67,000 in 2019 to 66,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 14,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in the Gambia.
- In 2025, 2% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 2% dropout rate was 3 percentage points lower than in 2019 (5%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (2%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in the Gambia (82%) was higher than the West and Central Africa regional average of 71% in 2025.

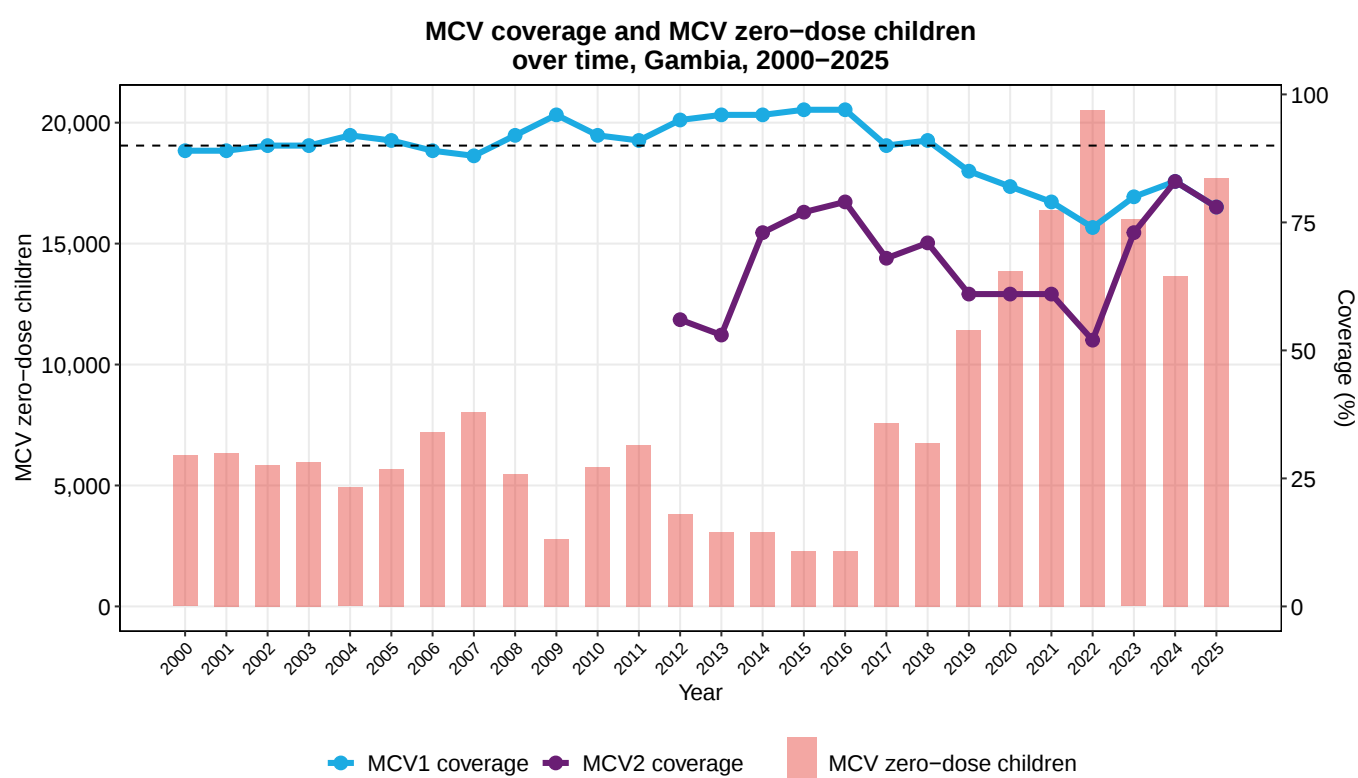
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Gambia, 2000–2025



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

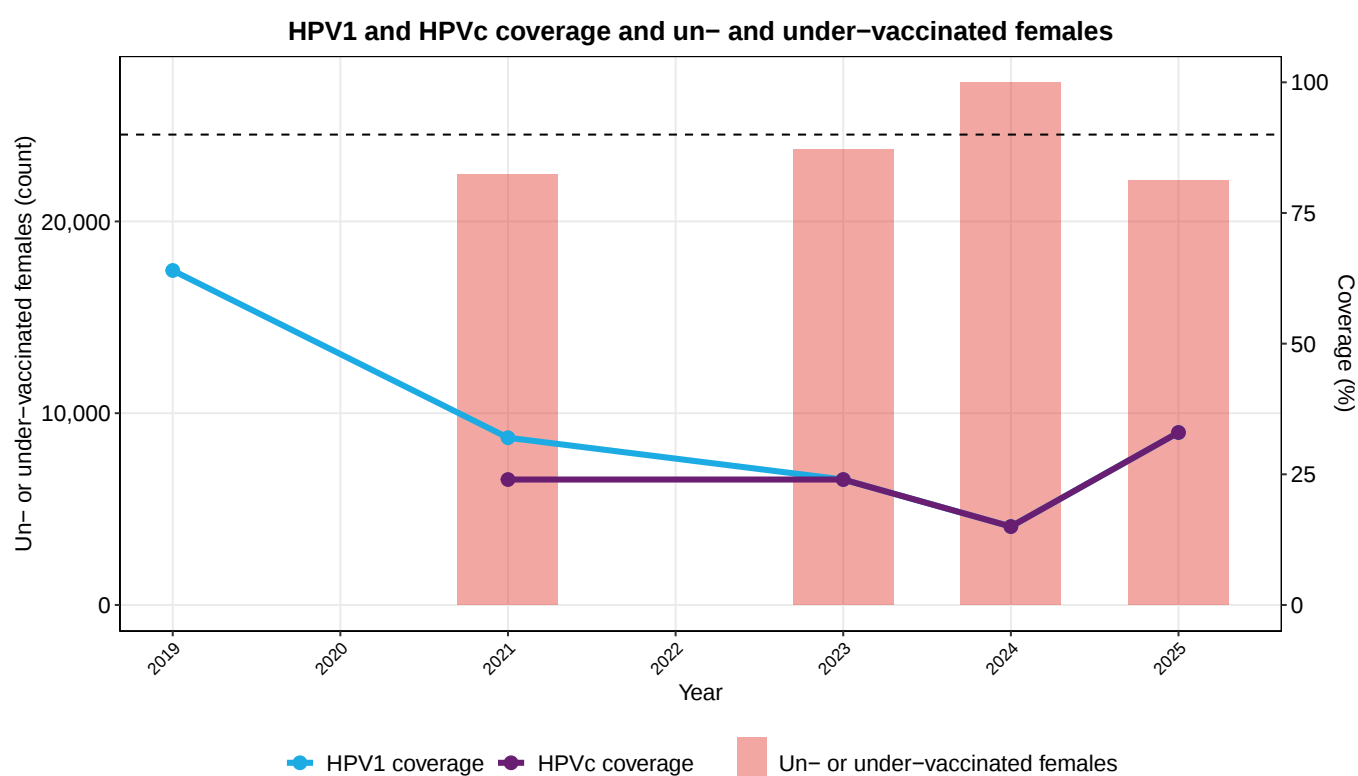
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 78% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (85%) and lower than in 2024 (83%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) increased from 61% in 2019 to 78% in 2025. This leaves 18,000 children without any protection against measles and another <500 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 7% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 7% dropout rate was 2 percentage points lower than in 2019 (9%) but 8 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (-1%).
- The Gambia has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in the Gambia (78%) was higher than the West and Central Africa regional average of 64% in 2025.



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

HPV

- Programme coverage of HPV1 among females increased from 15% to 33% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also increased from 15% to 33%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%, though it is trending upward.
- In 2025, approximately 22,000 females in the Gambia did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among West and Central Africa region peers, the Gambia ranked 14 out of 15 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



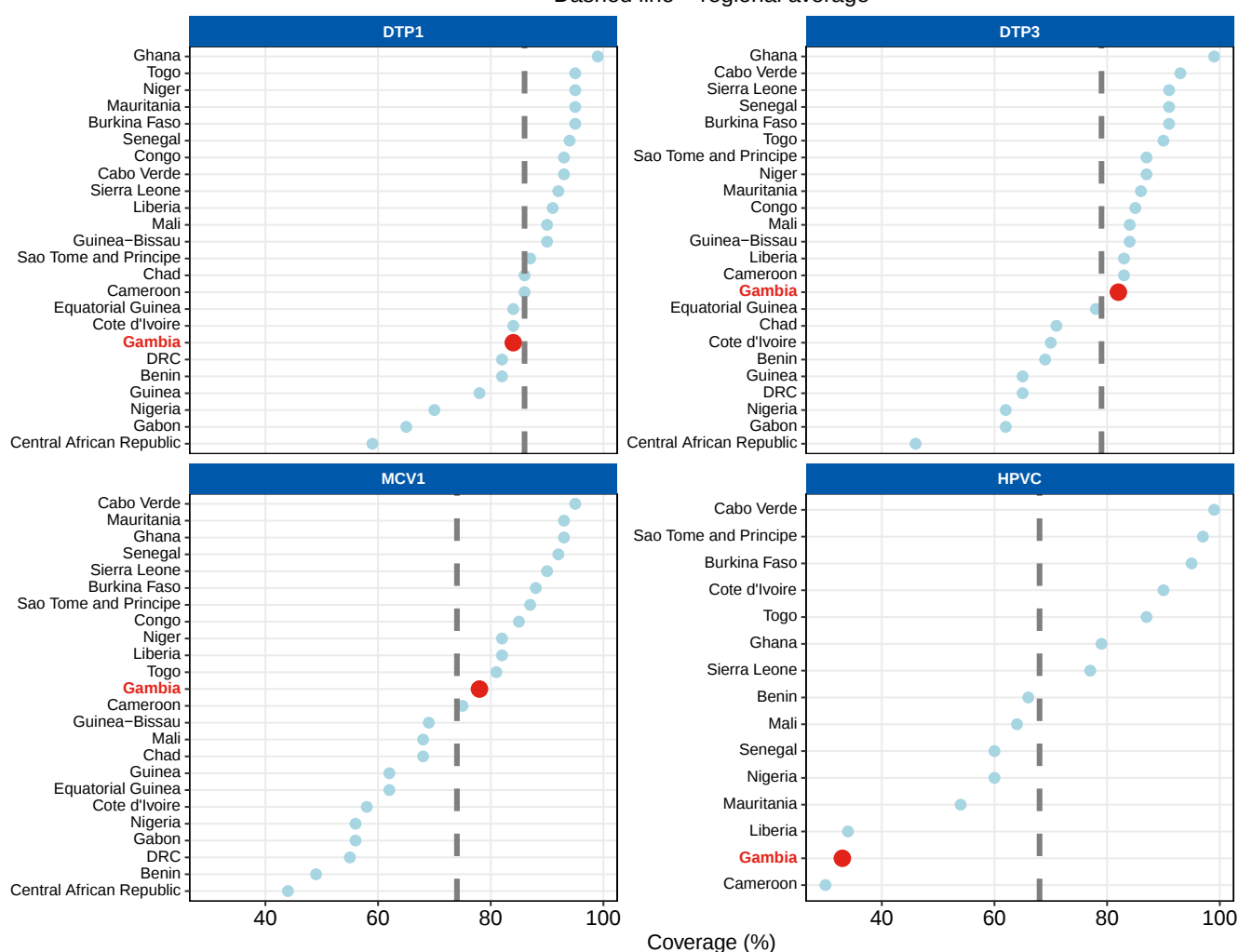
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how the Gambia compares to other countries in the West and Central Africa region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1, and HPVc coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: Gambia vs. WCAR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



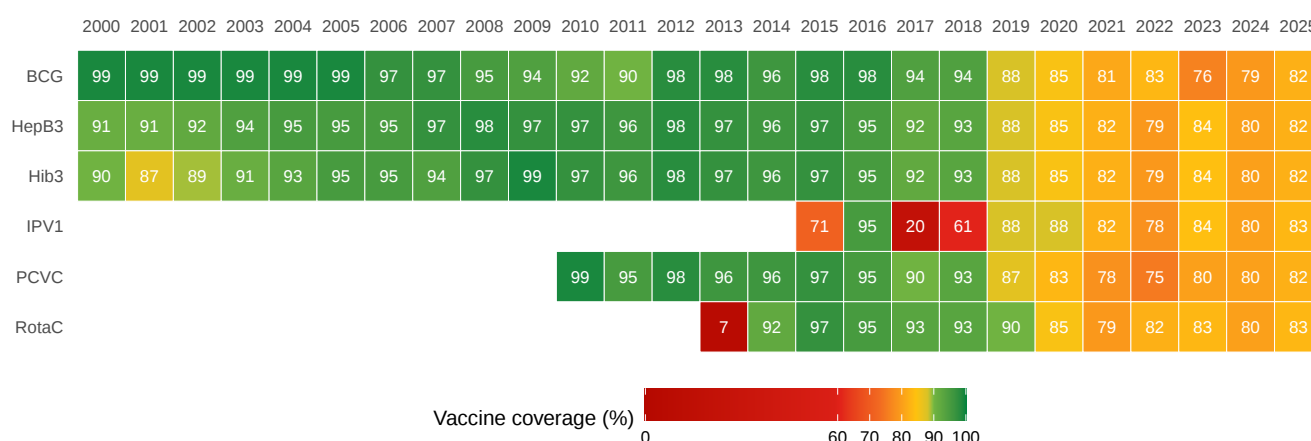
● Gambia ● Peers

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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (79%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (80%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (80%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 83% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (80%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 82% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (87%) but higher than in 2024 (80%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 83% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (90%) but higher than in 2024 (80%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Gambia, 2000–2025



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

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/>