

WUENIC Talking Points: Iraq

Revision Year: 2025

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Iraq in the 'Asia' region



Overview

- A total of 13 childhood vaccines are tracked for Iraq; of these, 5 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 97% in 2024 to 96% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) declined from 90% in 2024 to 84% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) declined from 96% in 2024 to 95% in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Iraq (47,000) was approximately 17% lower than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (56,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

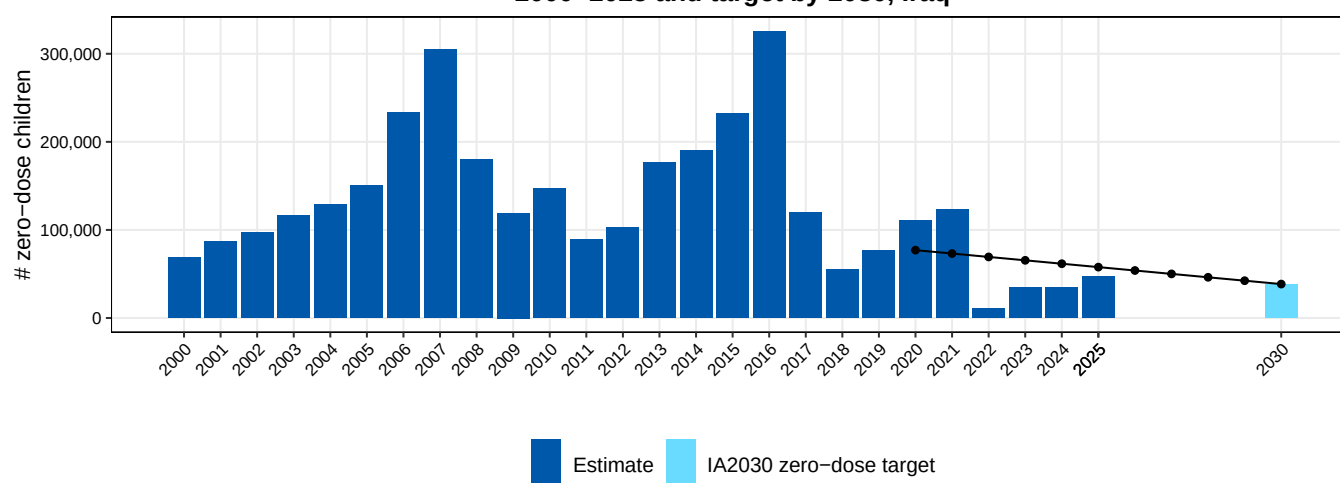
Vaccine coverage (%), Iraq, 2000–2025

	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	93	93	94	94	94	92	89	92	87	92	90	94	99	99	99	94	87	92	95	98	99	94	96	93	95	99
HepBB					92	93	88	90	92	60	27	32	37	43	44	43	45	44	42	51	47	48	50	51	48	52
DTP1	92	90	89	87	86	84	76	68	81	88	86	92	91	85	84	80	71	89	95	93	90	89	99	97	97	96
DTP3	80	78	77	75	74	65	59	57	69	78	74	81	72	73	73	68	71	81	86	84	74	78	93	91	90	84
Hib3													36	68	70	68	71	81	86	84	74	78	93	91	90	84
HepB3	67	66	65	63	62	65	59	56	66	75	72	78	65	68	69	68	71	81	86	84	74	78	93	91	90	84
PCVC																		33	33	37	0	0	0	14	65	82
RotaC													31	52	30	43	52	63	60	5	42	41	38	46	64	70
IPV1																		89	94	93	77	81	96	94	95	90
IPVC																						77	92	91	91	85
MCV1	86	82	77	73	69	69	62	64	75	81	75	80	74	73	70	71	79	82	88	86	93	84	97	96	96	95
RCV1		52	48	45	41	58	52	64	76	87	77	77	68	57	67	76	75	84	83	86	93	84	97	96	96	95
MCV2		52	48	45	41	58	52	64	76	87	77	77	68	57	67	76	75	84	83	86	93	84	97	83	82	79



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

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

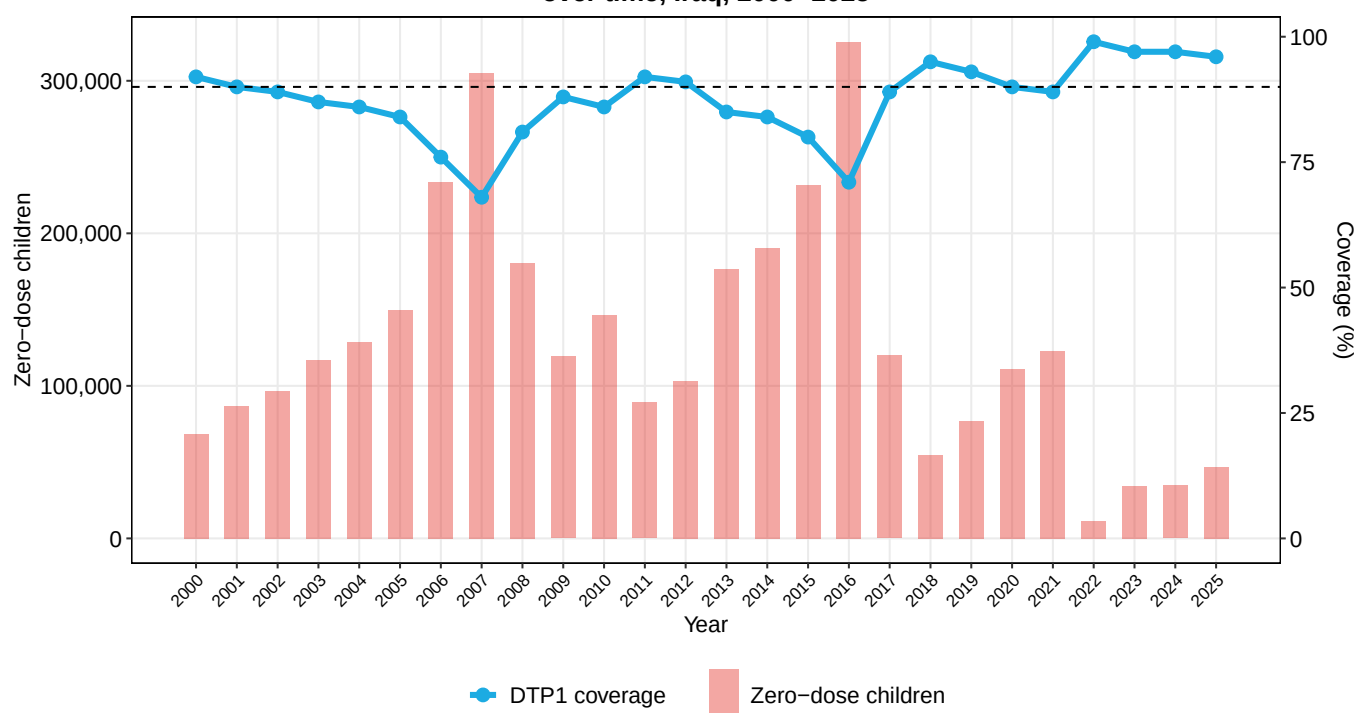


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 96% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (93%) and lower than in 2024 (97%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 17 percentage points lower than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 47,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 77,000 in 2019 but more than the 35,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Iraq (96%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 89% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 12%, 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (10%). High DTP dropout rates imply poor ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

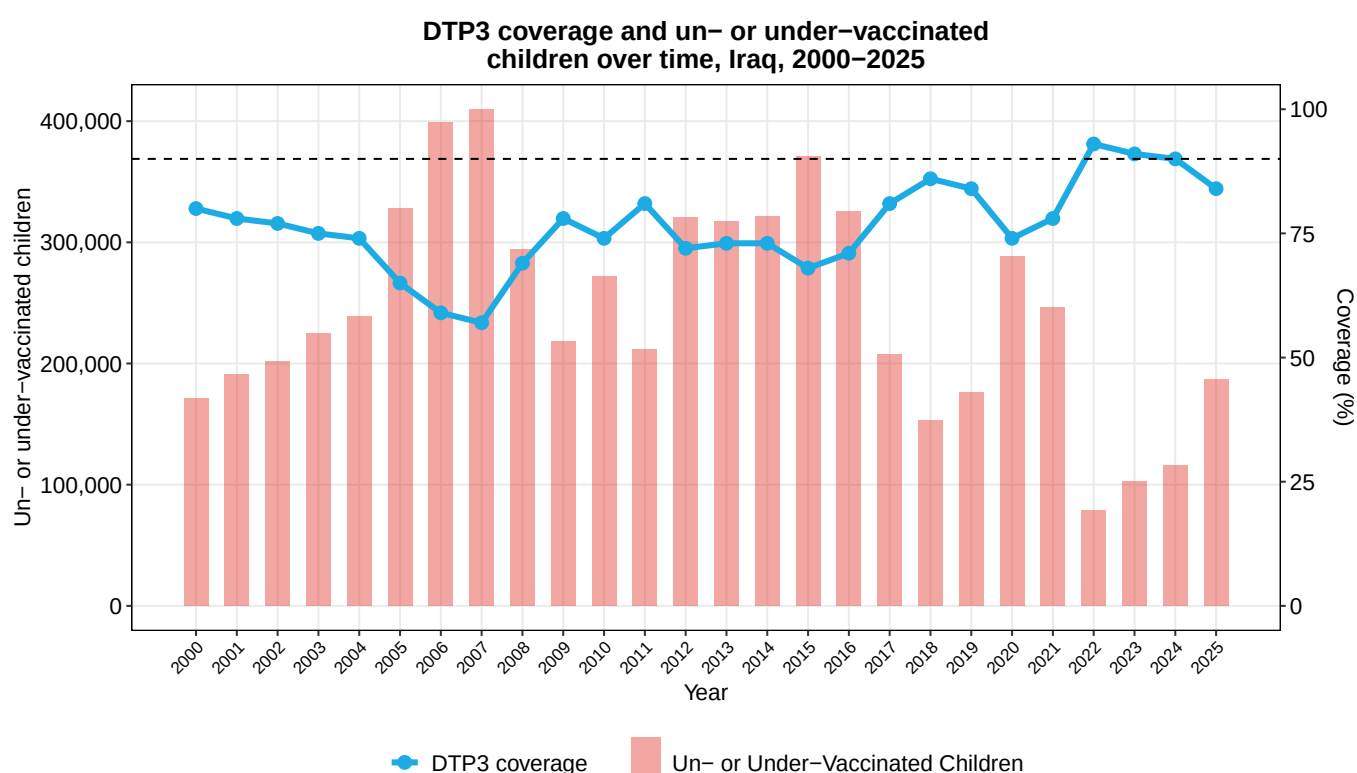
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Iraq, 2000–2025



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

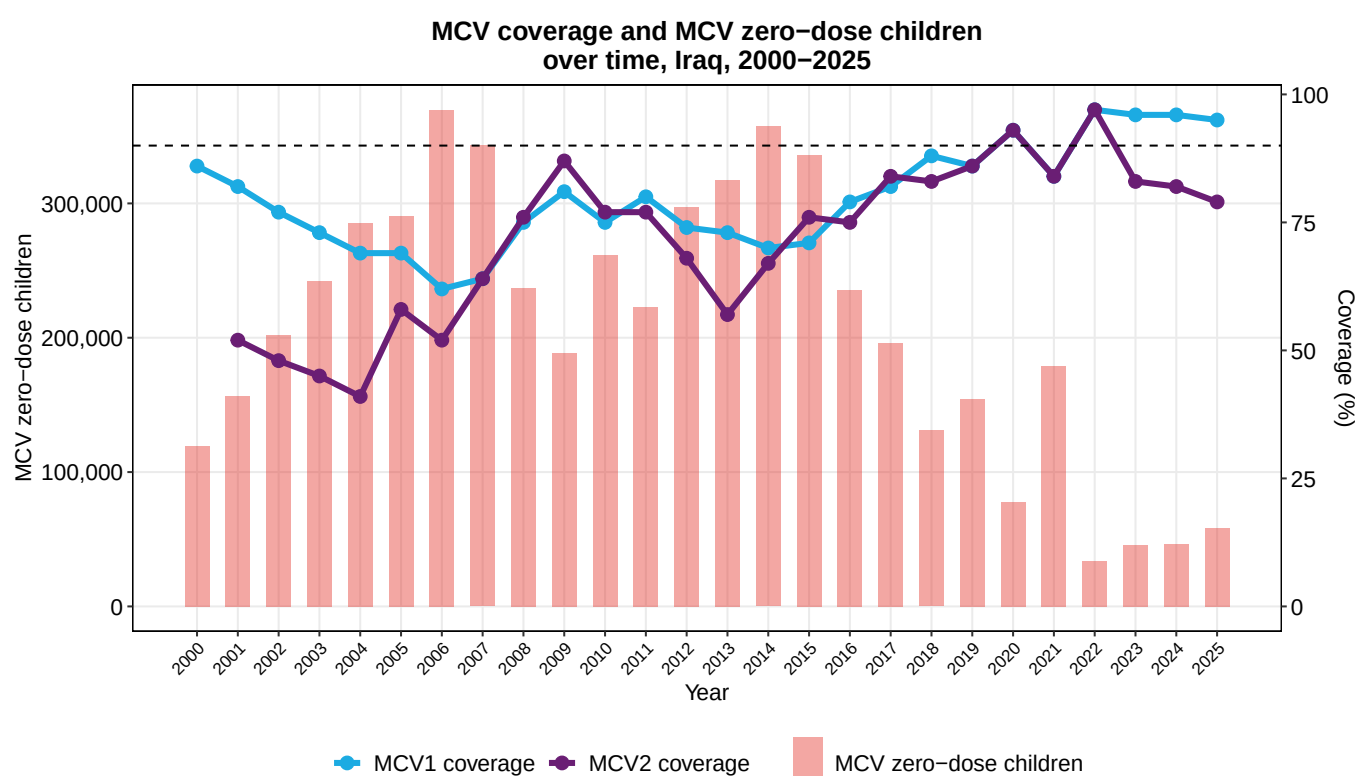
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (84%) and lower than in 2024 (90%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 925,000 in 2019 to 981,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 187,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Iraq.
- In 2025, 12% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 12% dropout rate was 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (10%) and 5 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (7%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Iraq (84%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 83% in 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 95% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (86%) and lower than in 2024 (96%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 86% in 2019 to 79% in 2025. This still leaves 58,000 children without any protection against measles and another 179,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 1% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 1% dropout rate was 7 percentage points lower than in 2019 (8%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (1%).
- Iraq has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Iraq (95%) was higher than the Middle East and North Africa regional average of 84% in 2025.



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

HPV

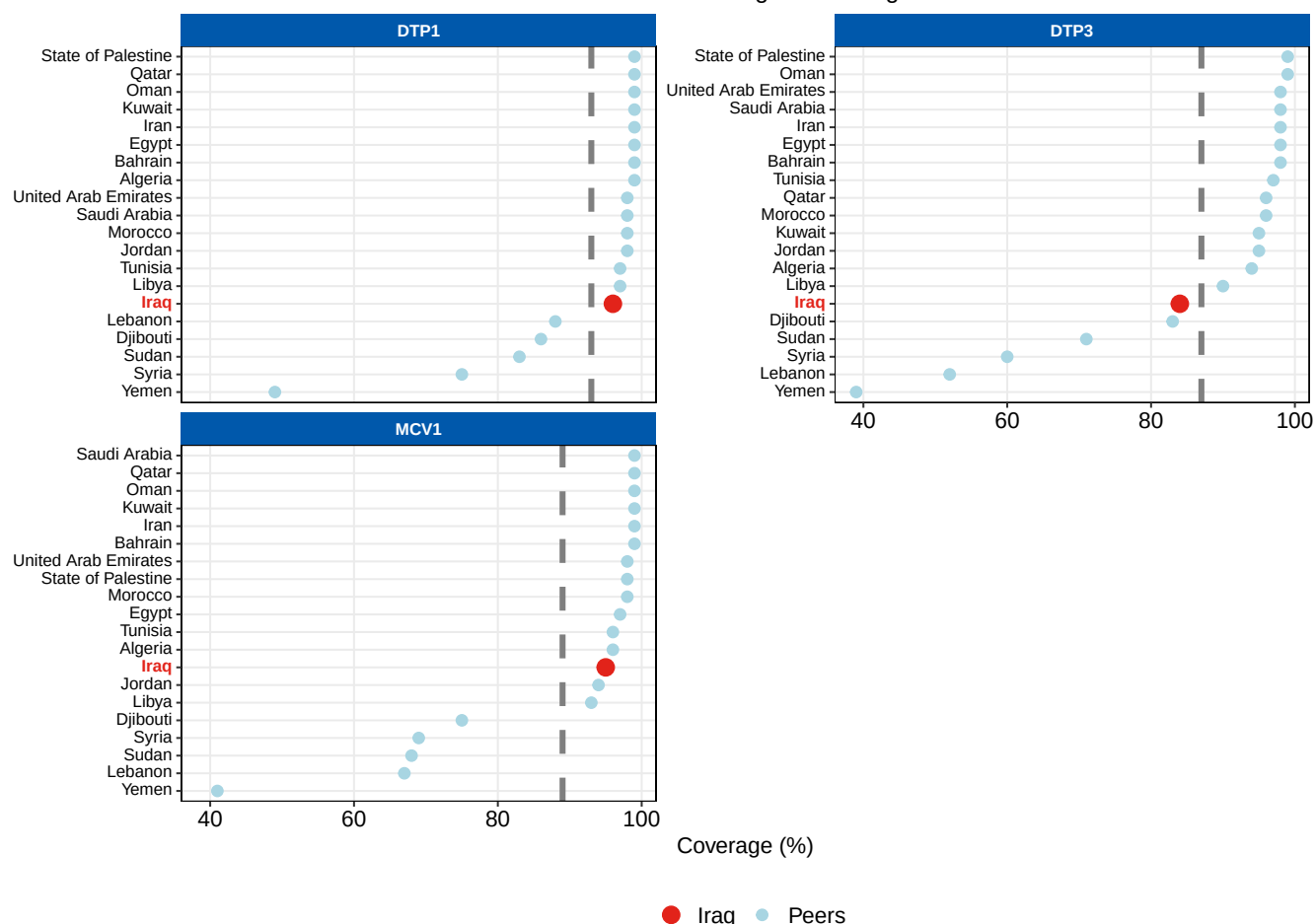
- Iraq had not introduced human papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) as of 2025.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Iraq compares to other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region on DTP1, DTP3, MCV1 coverage in 2025. The dashed line represents the regional average for each vaccine.

Coverage comparison: Iraq vs. MENA peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 99% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (98%) and higher than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (84%) but lower than in 2024 (90%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is the same as in 2019 (84%) but lower than in 2024 (90%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (93%) and lower than in 2024 (95%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 82% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (37%) and higher than in 2024 (65%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 70% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (5%) and higher than in 2024 (64%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Iraq, 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	93	93	94	94	94	92	89	92	87	92	90	94	99	99	99	94	87	92	95	98	99	94	96	93	95	99
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Hib3													36	68	70	68	71	81	86	84	74	78	93	91	90	84
IPV1																		89	94	93	77	81	96	94	95	90
PCVC																		33	33	37	0	0	0	14	65	82
RotaC													31	52	30	43	52	63	60	5	42	41	38	46	64	70



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/>