

WUENIC Talking Points: Malawi

Revision Year: 2025

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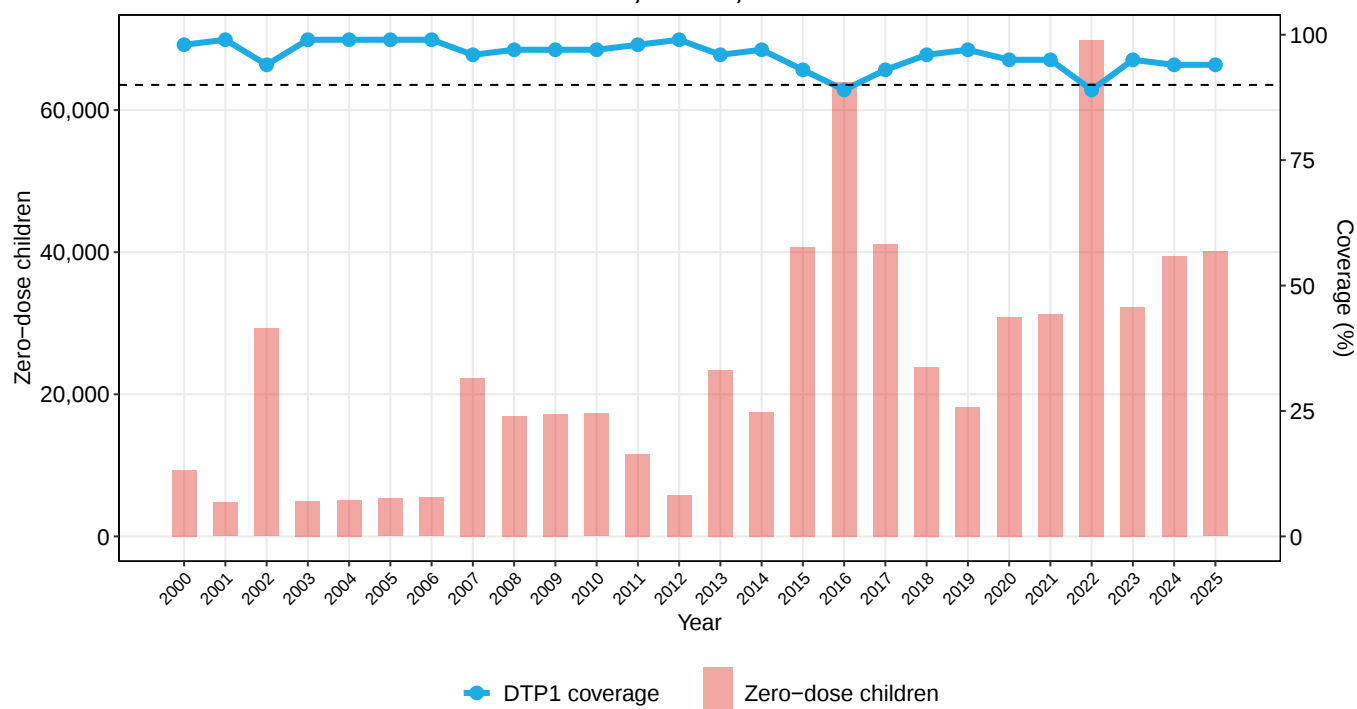
Malawi in the 'Africa' region



DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children

- Coverage of DTP1 stood at 94% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (97%) and the same as in 2024 (94%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 203 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 40,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 18,000 in 2019 and more than the 39,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Malawi (94%) was higher than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 85% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 4%, 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (2%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

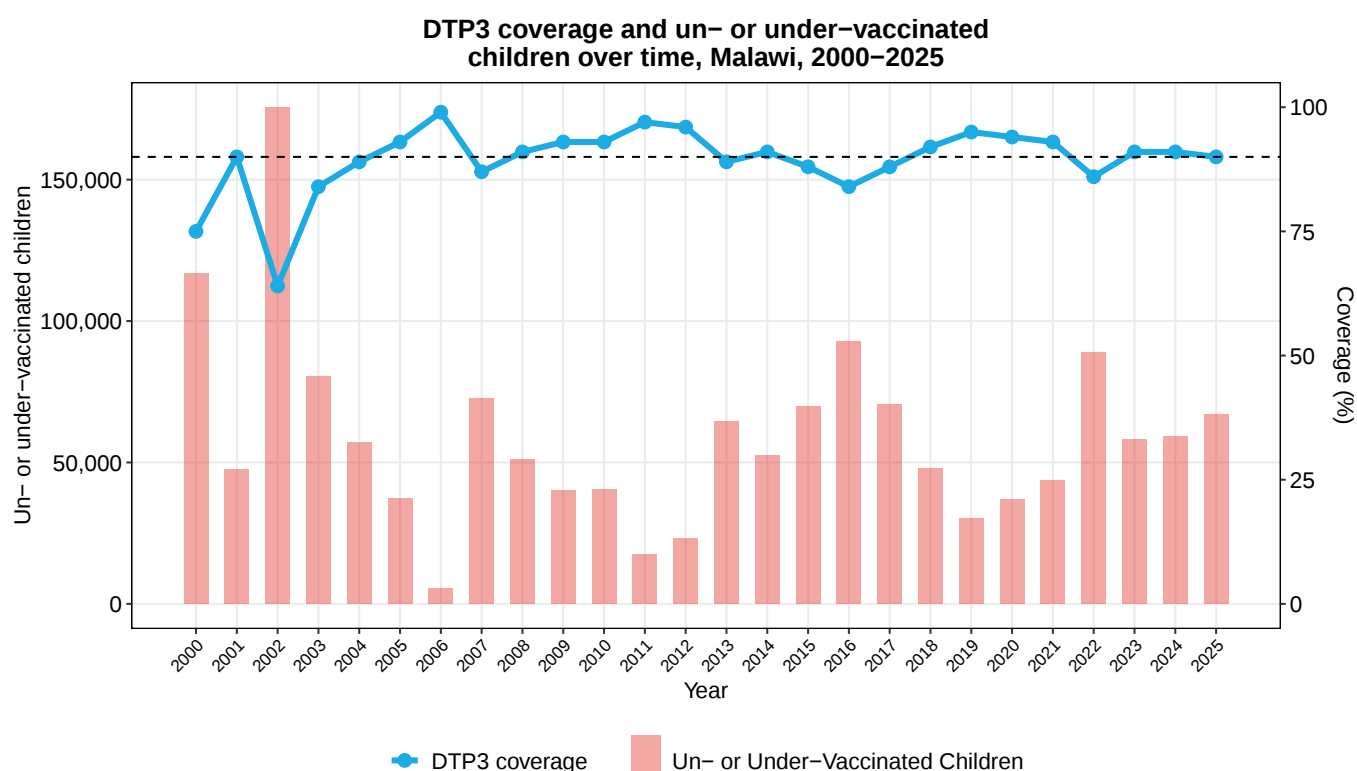
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Malawi, 2000–2025



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

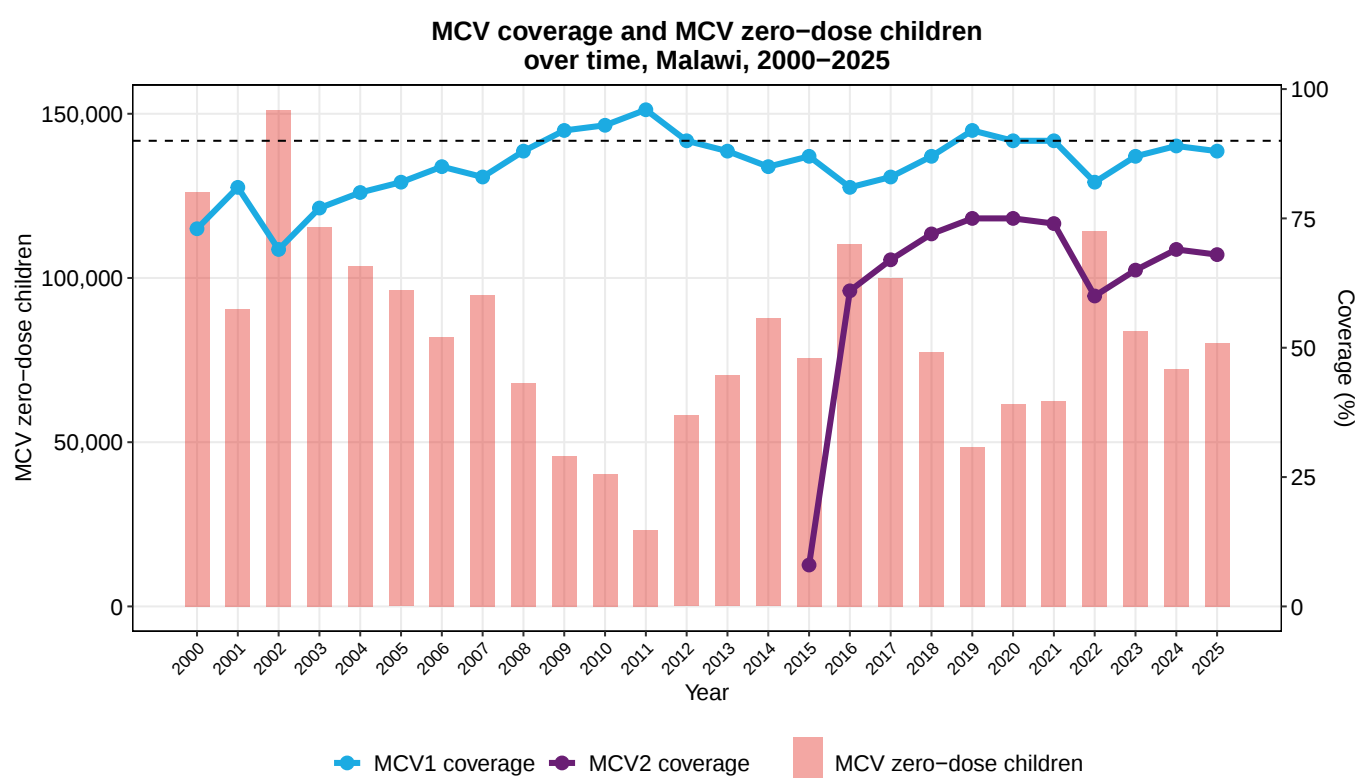
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 577,000 in 2019 to 602,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 67,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Malawi.
- In 2025, 4% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 4% dropout rate was 2 percentage points higher than in 2019 (2%) and 1 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (3%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Malawi (90%) was higher than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 80% 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

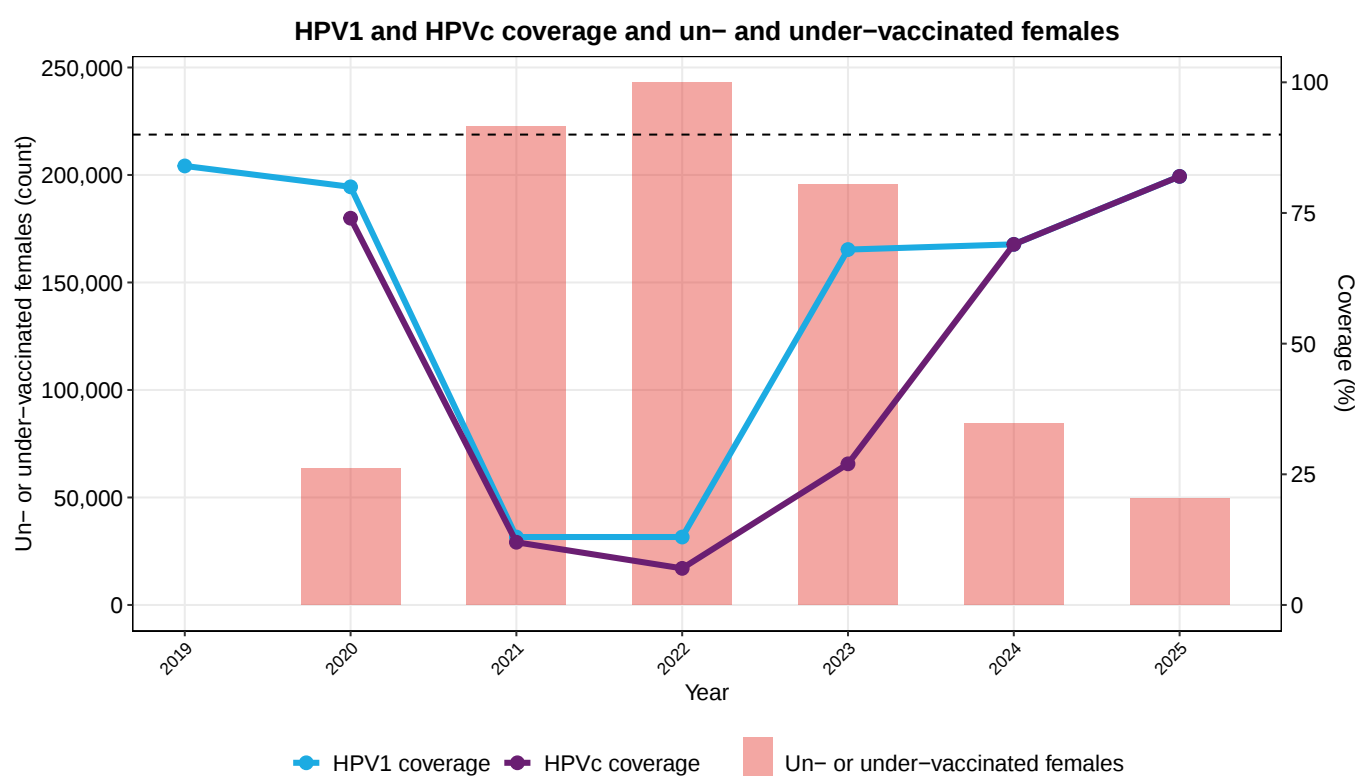
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 88% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (92%) and lower than in 2024 (89%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) decreased from 75% in 2019 to 68% in 2025. This leaves 80,000 children without any protection against measles and another 123,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 6% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 6% dropout rate was 1 percentage points higher than in 2019 (5%) and 1 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (5%).
- Malawi has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Malawi (88%) was higher than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 77% 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 69% to 82% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also increased from 69% to 82%.
- HPVc coverage is approaching the IA2030 target of 90% and is trending upward.
- In 2025, approximately 50,000 females in Malawi did not receive any HPV vaccination (un-vaccinated).
- Among Eastern and Southern Africa region peers, Malawi ranked 4 out of 17 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



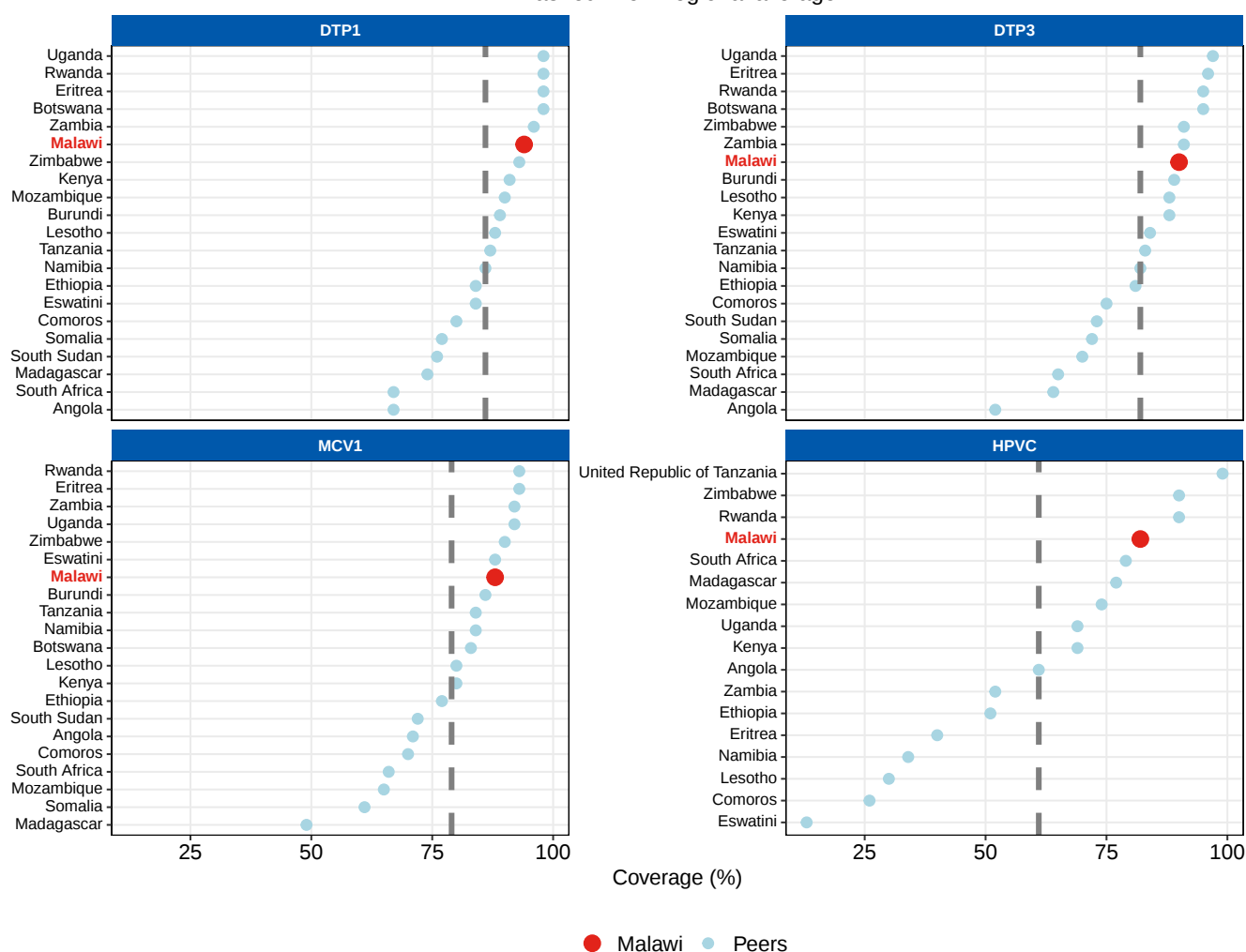
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

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

Coverage comparison: Malawi vs. ESAR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 98% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (94%) but lower than in 2024 (99%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 90% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 87% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (88%) and lower than in 2024 (90%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 91% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) and lower than in 2024 (92%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 89% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (92%) and the same as in 2024 (89%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Malawi, 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	83	93	78	91	97	99	99	95	97	95	97	99	99	96	97	90	86	89	92	94	95	97	97	99	99	98
HepB3			64	84	89	93	99	87	91	93	93	97	96	89	91	88	84	88	92	95	94	93	86	91	91	90
Hib3			64	84	89	93	99	87	91	93	93	97	96	89	91	88	84	88	92	95	94	93	86	91	91	90
IPV1																				88	91	92	84	91	90	87
PCVC													99	89	87	88	83	88	92	95	93	93	87	91	92	91
RotaC													18	92	94	91	85	85	90	92	91	92	85	91	89	89



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/>