

WUENIC Talking Points: South Sudan

Revision Year: 2025

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South Sudan in the 'Africa' region



Overview

- None of the 11 childhood vaccines tracked for South Sudan achieved coverage of 90% or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (76%), coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (73%), and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (72%) in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in South Sudan (82,000) was approximately 20% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (68,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

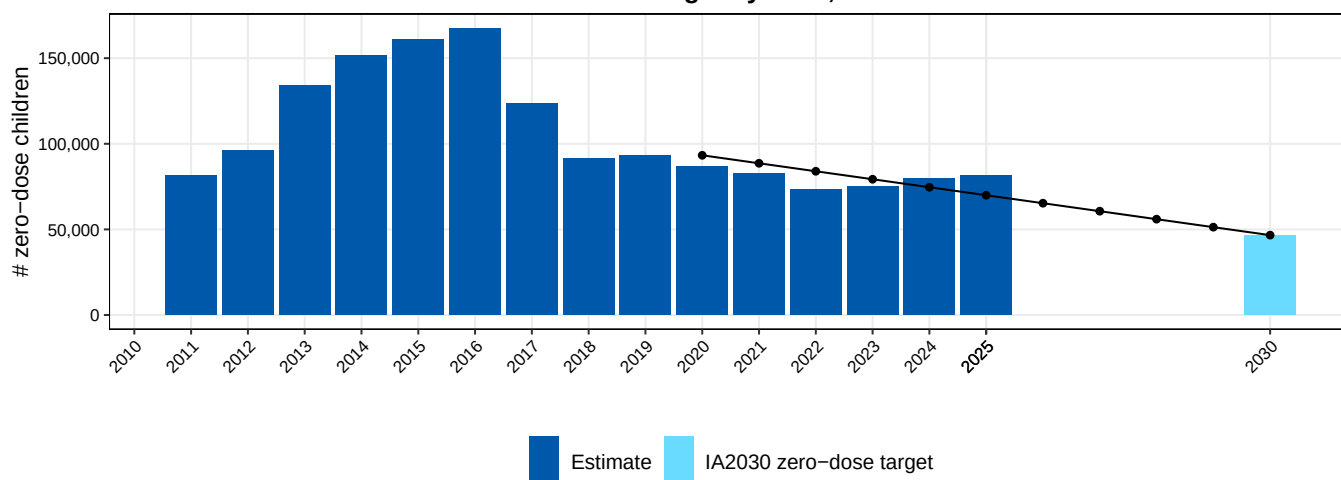
Vaccine coverage (%), South Sudan, 2000–2025

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BCG	75	65	58	55	55	52	65	66	66	69	71	72	72	72	72
DTP1	79	76	67	62	55	51	59	67	68	71	73	76	76	76	76
DTP3	61	63	53	50	46	45	52	59	61	67	69	73	73	73	73
Hib3					46	45	52	59	61	67	69	73	73	73	73
HepB3					46	45	52	59	61	67	69	73	73	73	73
PCVC															27
RotaC															22
IPV1					3	34	56	56	56	60	64	67	67	67	67
IPVC											8	34	34	34	34
MCV1	62	59	57	54	52	51	56	61	65	69	74	72	72	72	72
MCV2															7



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

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

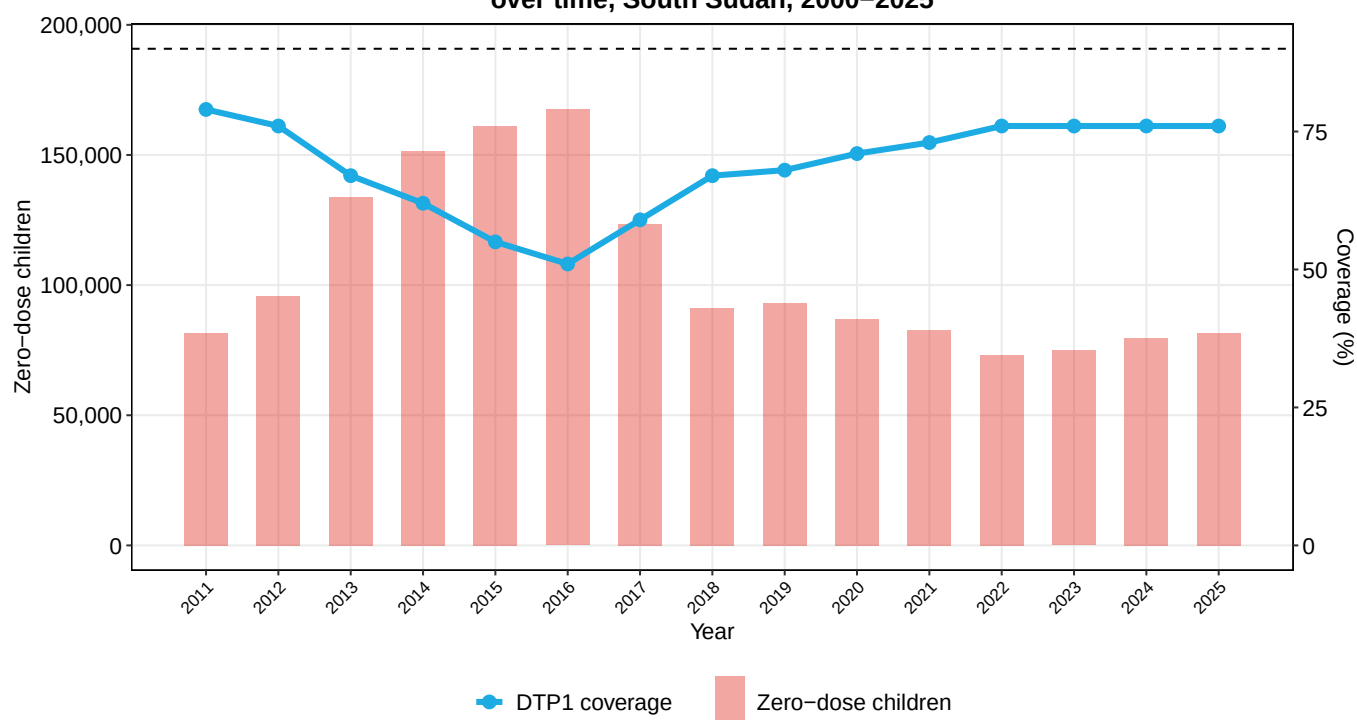


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 76% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (68%) and the same as in 2024 (76%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 20 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 82,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 93,000 in 2019 but more than the 80,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in South Sudan (76%) was lower than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 85% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 4%, 6 percentage points lower than in 2019 (10%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

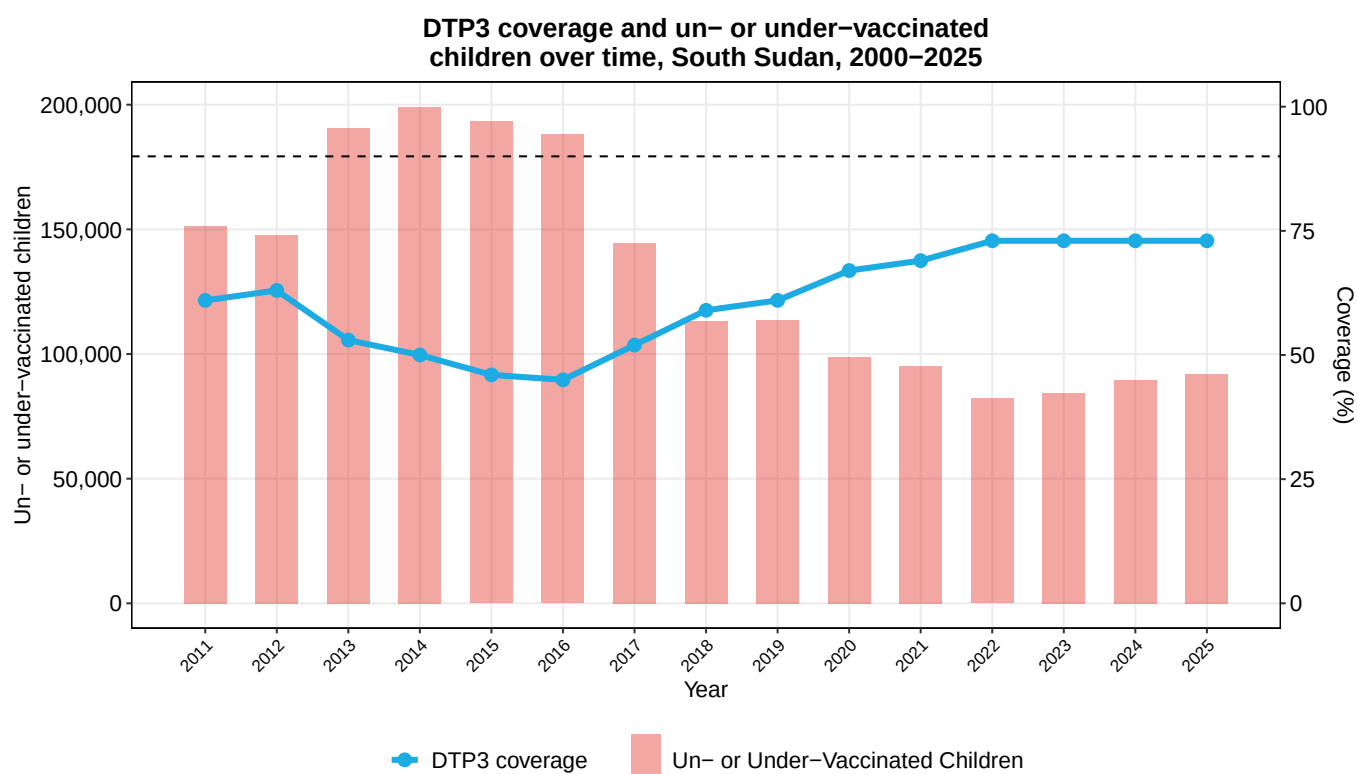
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, South Sudan, 2000–2025



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 73% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (61%) and the same as in 2024 (73%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 178,000 in 2019 to 248,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 92,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in South Sudan.
- In 2025, 4% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 4% dropout rate was 6 percentage points lower than in 2019 (10%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (4%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in South Sudan (73%) was lower than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 80% in 2025.

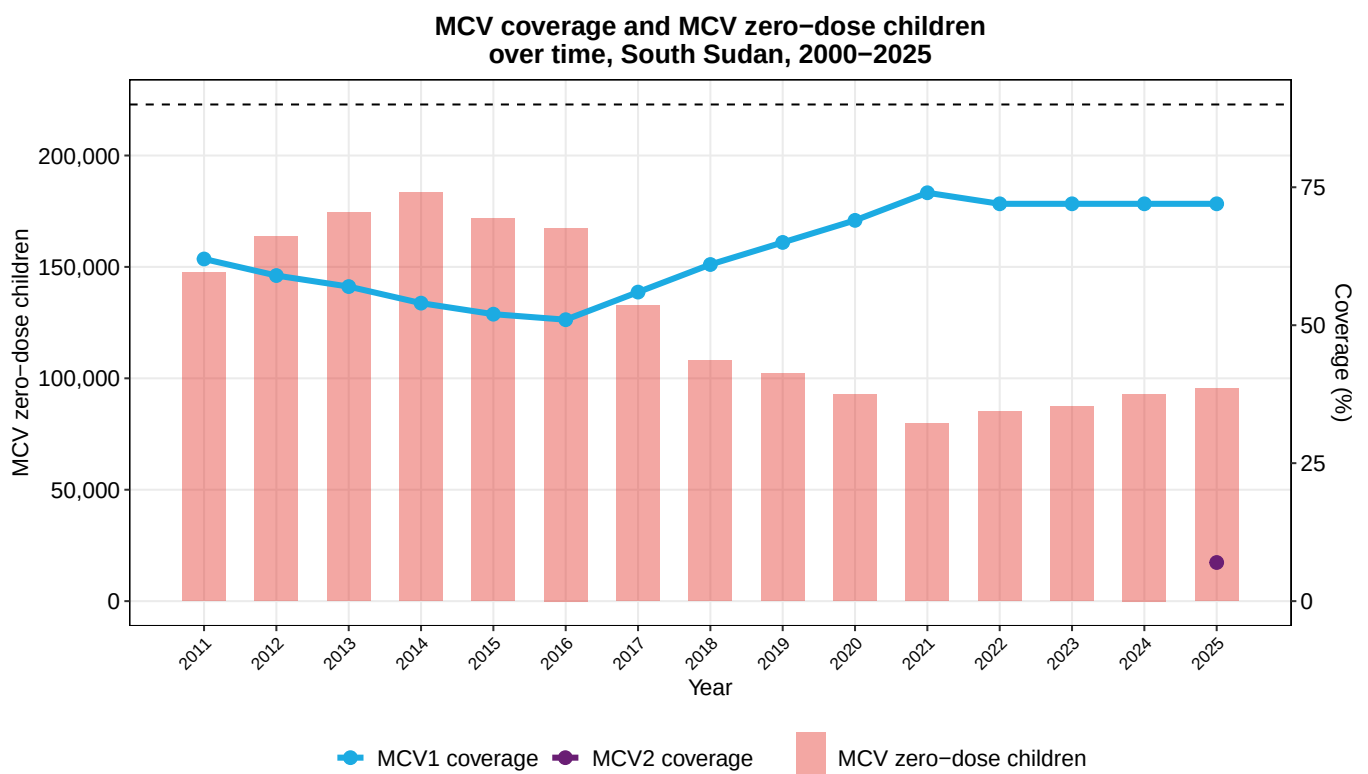


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

MCV: Canary in the coal mine

- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 72% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (65%) and the same as in 2024 (72%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) NA. This still leaves 95,000 children without any protection against measles and another 194,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 5% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 5% dropout rate was 1 percentage points higher than in 2019 (4%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (5%).
- South Sudan has had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in South Sudan (72%) was lower than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 77% in 2025.

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## `geom_line()`: Each group consists of only one observation.
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Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

HPV

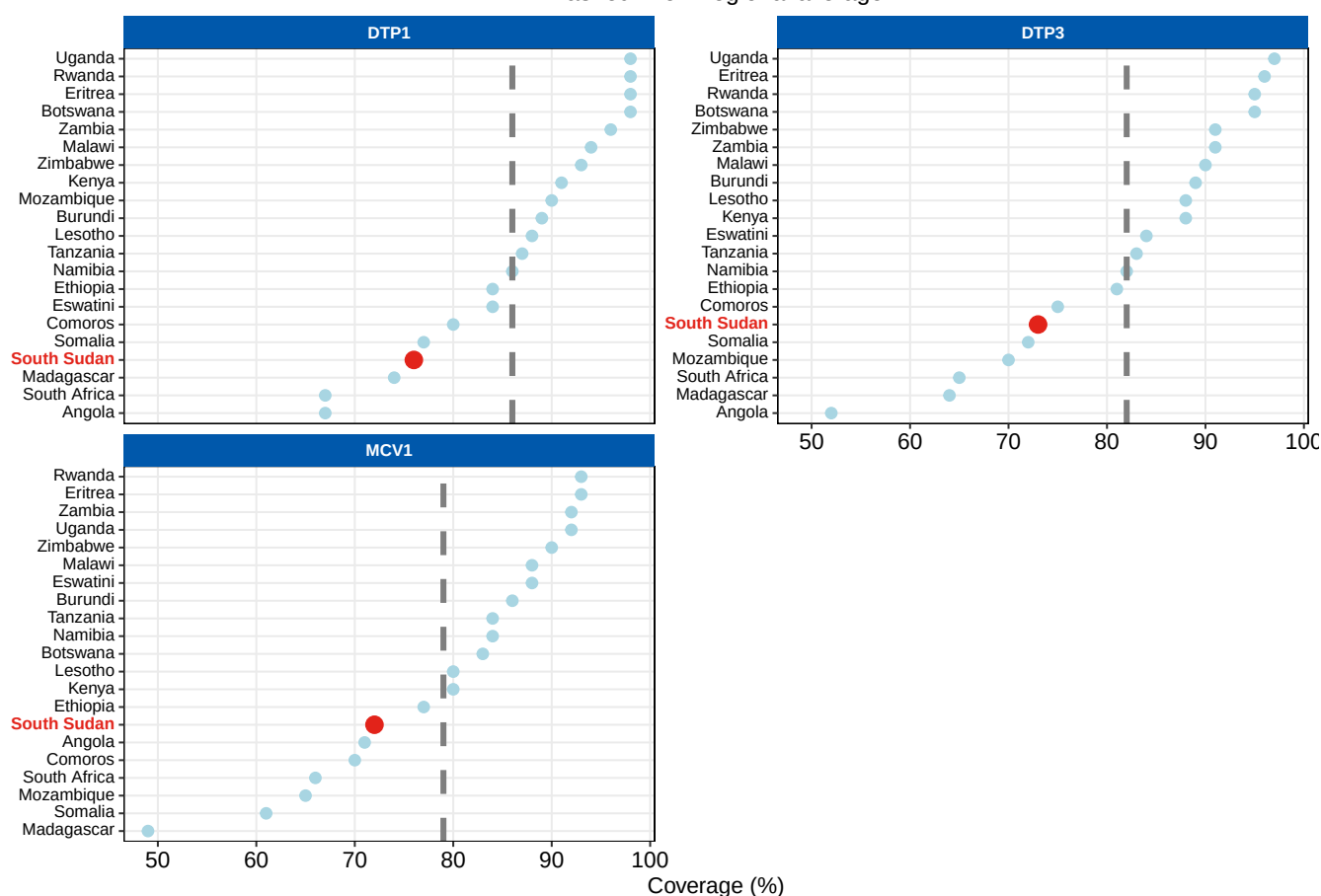
- South Sudan had not introduced human papillomavirus vaccination (HPV) as of 2025.

Regional Comparison

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

Coverage comparison: South Sudan vs. ESAR peers, 2025

Dashed line = regional average



● South Sudan ● Peers

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

Additional Vaccines

- Coverage of BCG stood at 72% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (66%) and the same as in 2024 (72%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 73% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (61%) and the same as in 2024 (73%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 73% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (61%) and the same as in 2024 (73%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 67% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (56%) and the same as in 2024 (67%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 27% in 2025.
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 22% in 2025.

Additional vaccine coverage (%), South Sudan, 2000–2025

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BCG	75	65	58	55	55	52	65	66	66	69	71	72	72	72	72
HepB3					46	45	52	59	61	67	69	73	73	73	73
Hib3					46	45	52	59	61	67	69	73	73	73	73
IPV1					3	34	56	56	56	60	64	67	67	67	67
PCVC															27
RotaC															22



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/>