

WUENIC Talking Points: Eswatini

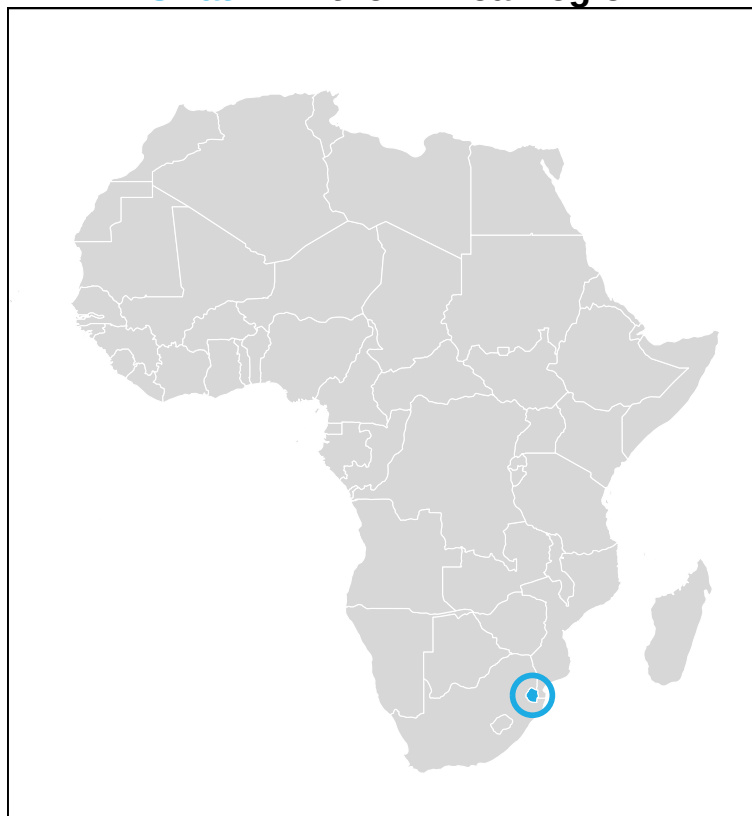


Revision Year: 2025

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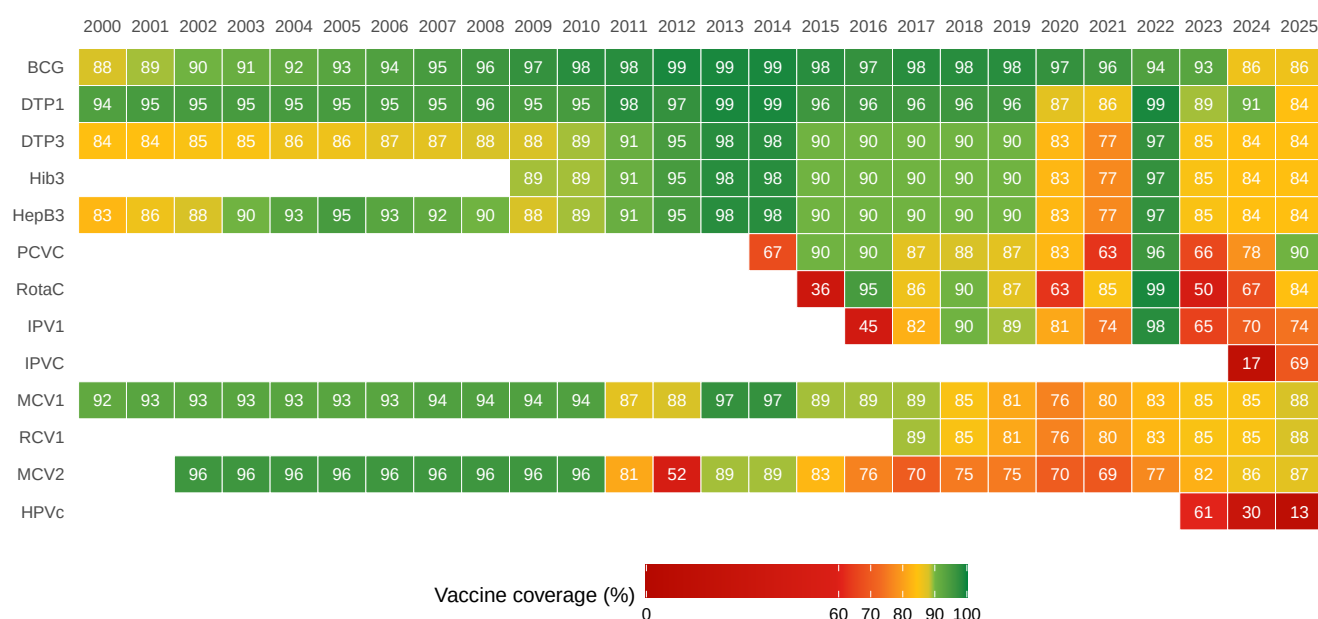
Eswatini in the 'Africa' region



Overview

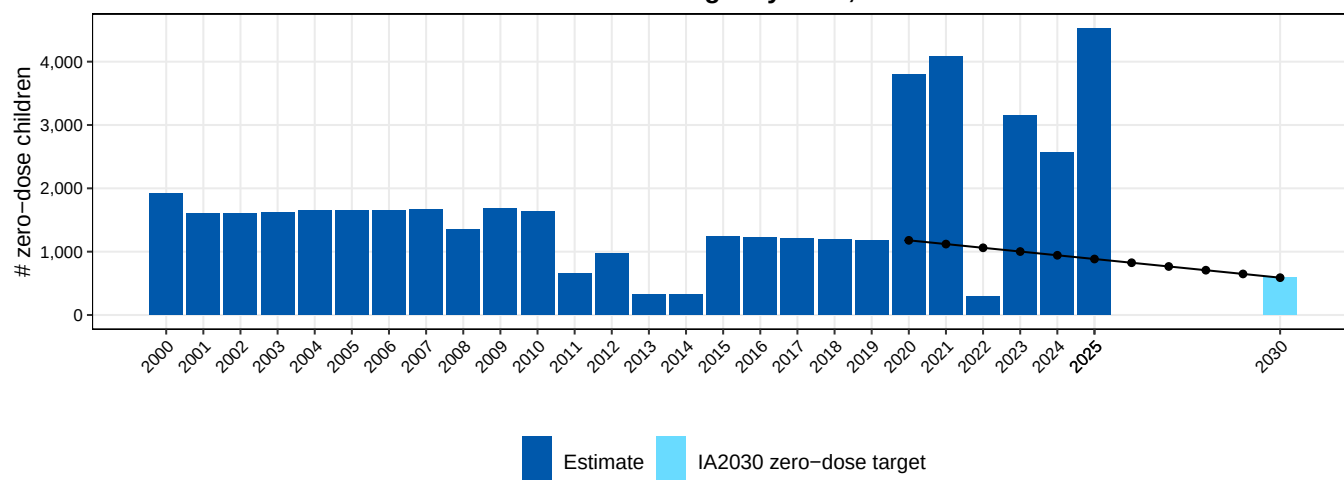
- A total of 12 childhood vaccines are tracked for Eswatini; of these, 1 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) declined from 91% in 2024 to 84% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (84%), and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 85% in 2024 to 88% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Eswatini (5,000) was approximately 428% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (<1,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), Eswatini, 2000–2025



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

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

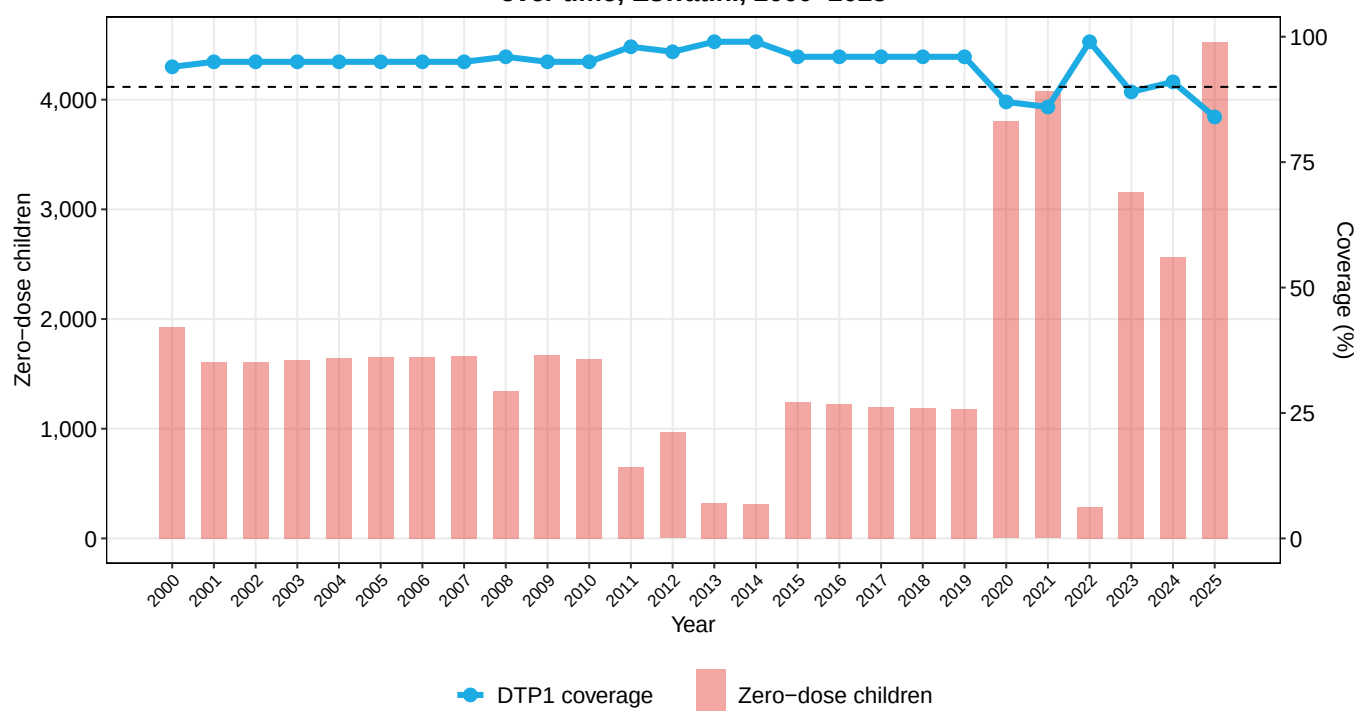


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 (96%) and lower than in 2024 (91%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 428 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 5,000 zero-dose children in 2025, more than the 1,000 in 2019 and more than the 3,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Eswatini (84%) was lower than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 85% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 0%, 6 percentage points lower than in 2019 (6%). Low DTP dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

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

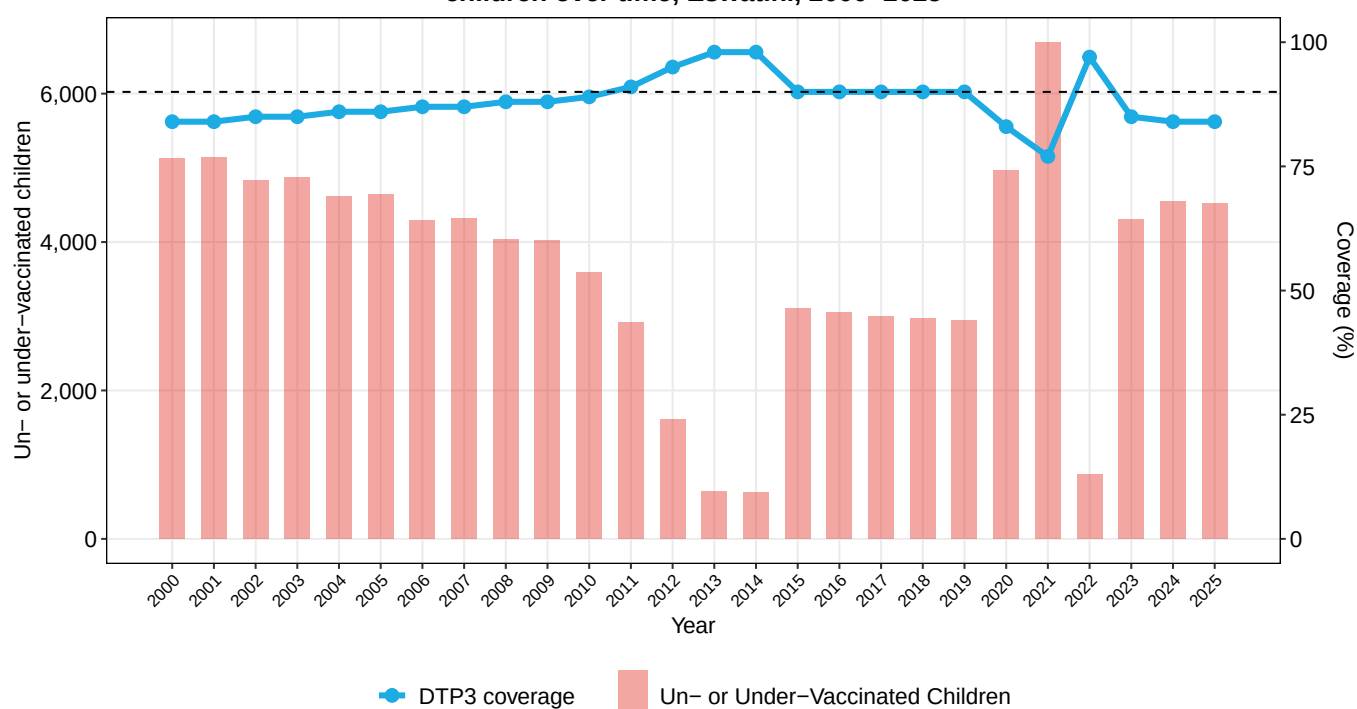


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children

- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (90%) and the same as in 2024 (84%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 decreased from 27,000 in 2019 to 24,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 5,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Eswatini.
- In 2025, 0% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 0% dropout rate was 6 percentage points lower than in 2019 (6%) and 8 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (8%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Eswatini (84%) was higher than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 80% in 2025.

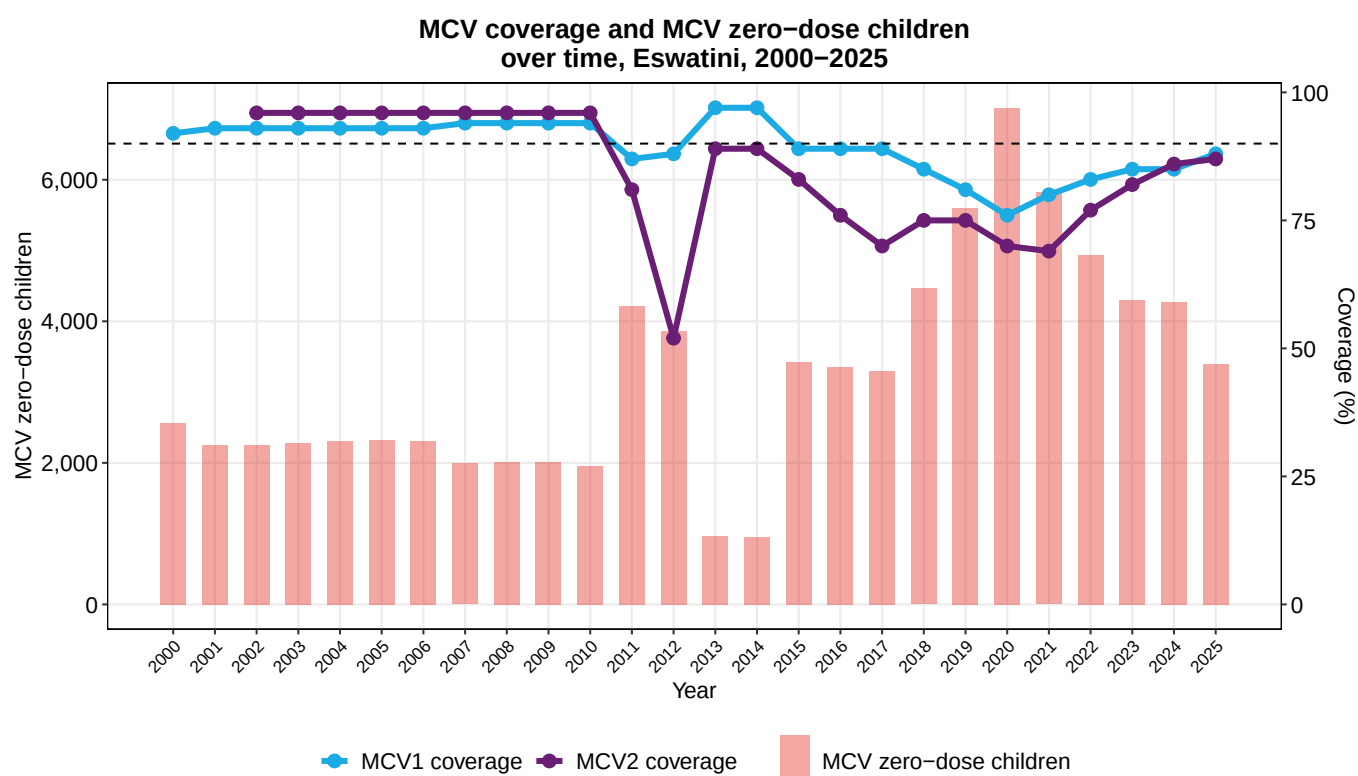
DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, Eswatini, 2000–2025



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

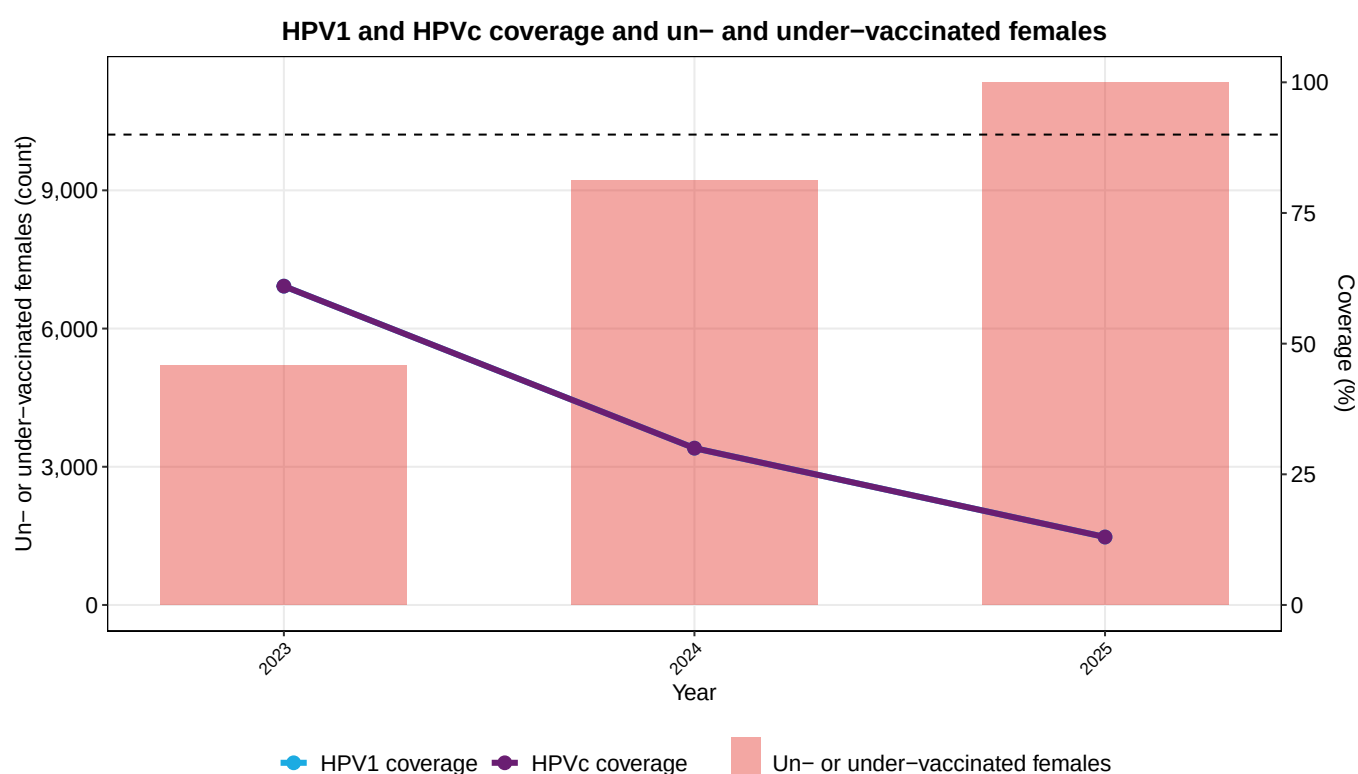
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 88% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (81%) and higher than in 2024 (85%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) increased from 75% in 2019 to 87% in 2025. This still leaves 3,000 children without any protection against measles and another <500 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, -5% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This -5% dropout rate was 21 percentage points lower than in 2019 (16%) and 12 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (7%).
- Eswatini has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Eswatini (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 decreased from 30% to 13% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also decreased from 30% to 13%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 11,000 females in Eswatini did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Eastern and Southern Africa region peers, Eswatini ranked 17 out of 17 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



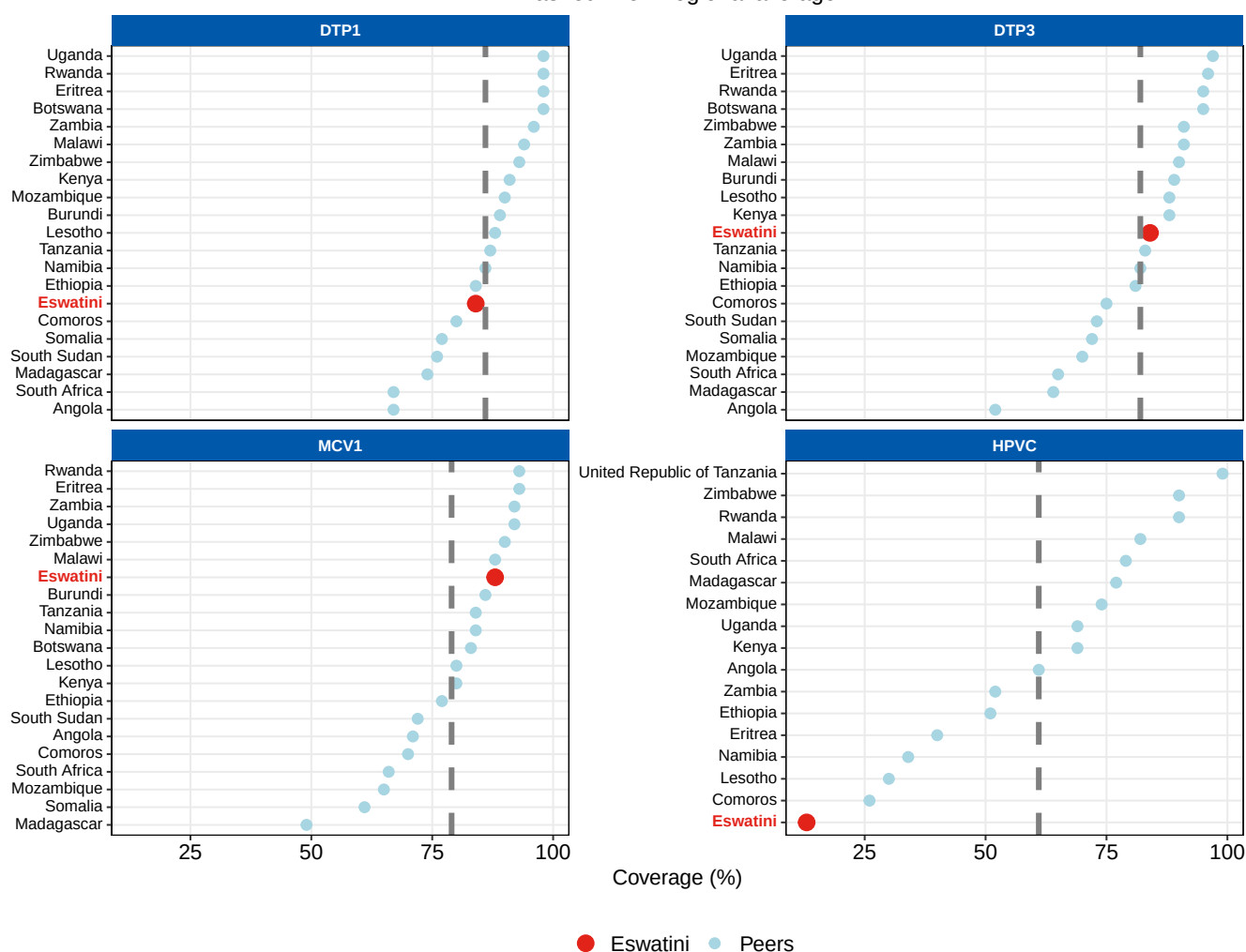
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Eswatini 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: Eswatini 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 86% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (98%) and the same as in 2024 (86%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (90%) and the same as in 2024 (84%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 84% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (90%) and the same as in 2024 (84%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 74% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (89%) but higher than in 2024 (70%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 90% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (87%) and higher than in 2024 (78%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 84% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (87%) but higher than in 2024 (67%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Eswatini, 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	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	98	99	99	99	98	97	98	98	98	97	96	94	93	86	86
HepB3	83	86	88	90	93	95	93	92	90	88	89	91	95	98	98	90	90	90	90	90	83	77	97	85	84	84
Hib3										89	89	91	95	98	98	90	90	90	90	90	83	77	97	85	84	84
IPV1																45	82	90	89	81	74	98	65	70	74	
PCVC															67	90	90	87	88	87	83	63	96	66	78	90
RotaC																36	95	86	90	87	63	85	99	50	67	84



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/>