

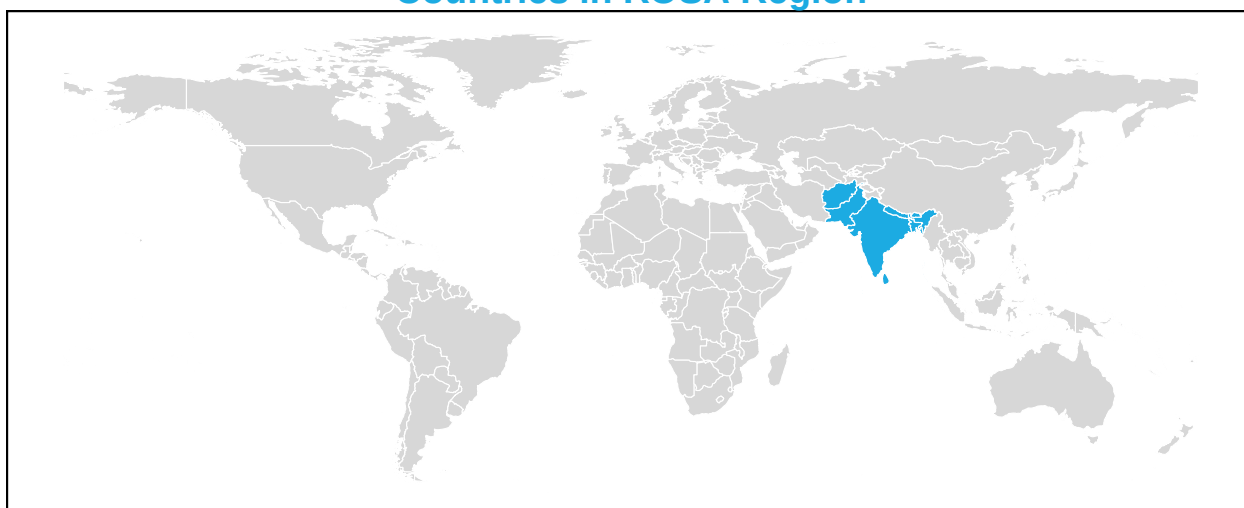
WUENIC Talking Points: South Asia Region (ROSA)

Revision Year: 2025

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Countries in ROSA Region

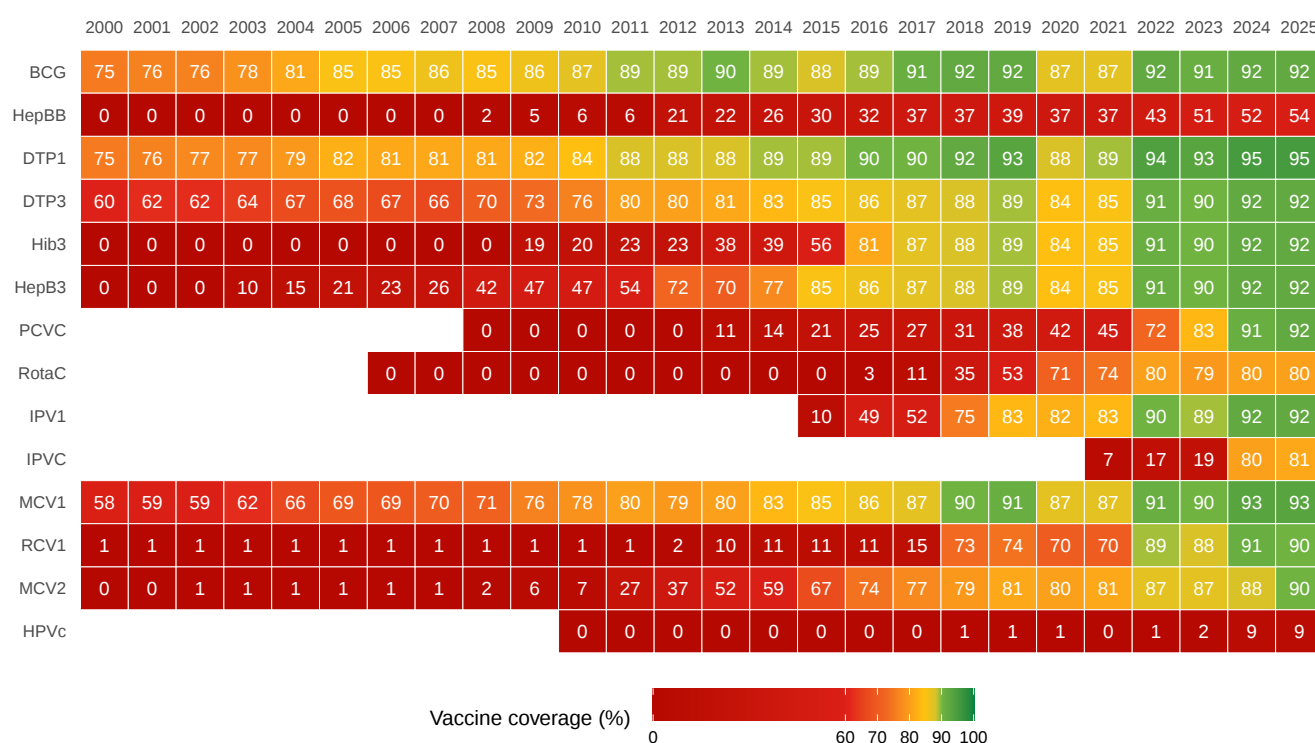


- The South Asia region includes the following 8 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Overview

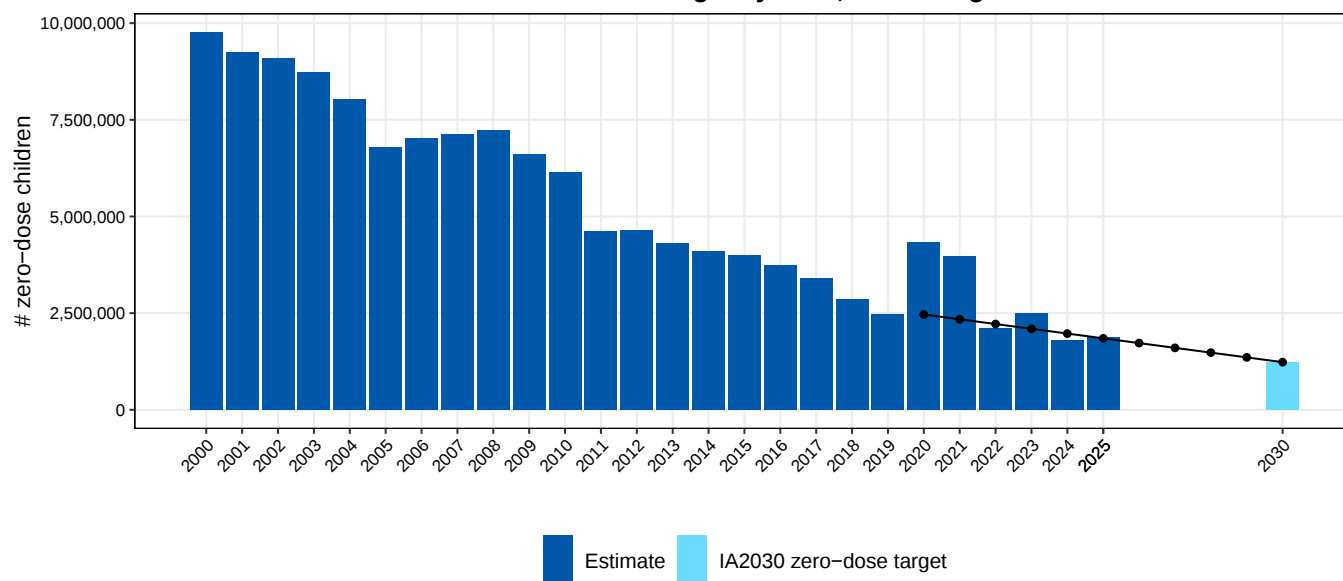
- While noting variations across countries and vaccines, 10 out of the 13 childhood vaccines achieved an average coverage of 90% or higher within the South Asia region in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (95%), and coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (92%). Coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (93%).
- A total of 7 out of 8 countries reached target coverage (90%) for all 13 antigens, representing 88% of the region.
- There was one country that did not meet the target coverage across all antigens: Afghanistan.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (1.9 million) was approximately 2% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target of reducing the number of zero-dose children by half by 2030 in South Asia region (1.8 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), ROSA Region, 2000–2025



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

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



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

- The number of children vaccinated with DTP1 increased 0.4% from 33 million in 2019 to 33.1 million in 2025.
- DTP1 coverage in 2025 was 95%, higher than in 2019 (93%) and the same as in 2024.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (1.9 million) was approximately 2% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target in ROSA region (1.8 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.
- In 2025, India and Afghanistan represented approximately 36% and 25% of all zero-dose children in ROSA (n = 1.9 million), respectively. India had the highest number of zero-dose children at 679,000, and Afghanistan had the second highest at 480,000.
- In 2025, the lowest DTP1 coverage was observed in Afghanistan at 67%, followed by Bangladesh and Pakistan at 93%.
- There were 7 (88%) out of 8 countries in the region that achieved DTP1 coverage of 90% or higher in 2025 - Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives.

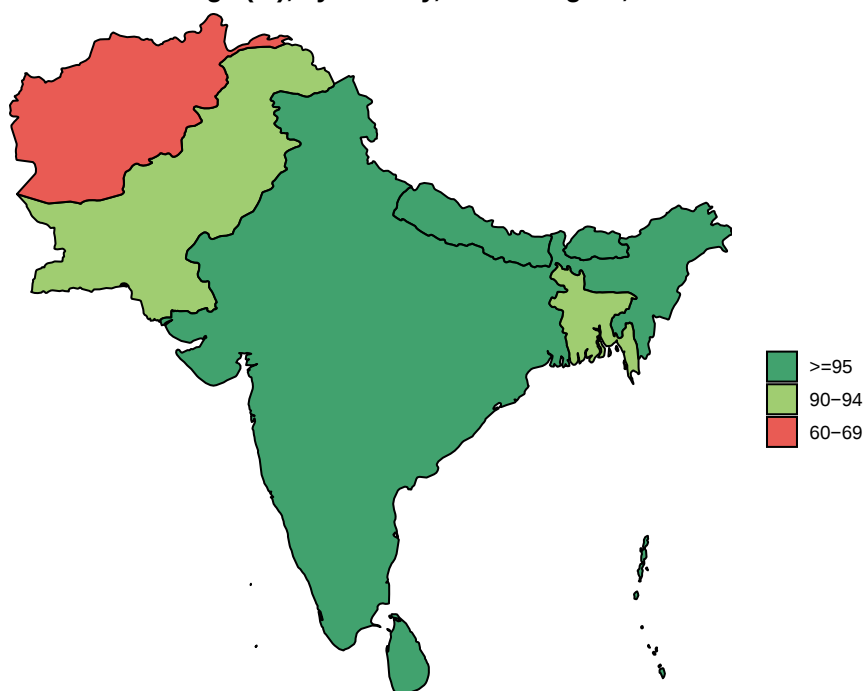
**DTP1 coverage (%), by country,
ROSA Region, 2000–2025**

	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
Bhutan	96	96	96	96	92	97	97	98	97	97	94	98	97	97	99	99	99	99	98	99	96	99	98	99	98	99
Maldives	98	99	98	98	98	99	98	99	99	99	97	97	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	97	99	99	99	99
Nepal	84	84	84	82	88	81	93	85	84	95	93	96	90	94	94	94	95	96	96	96	89	92	95	96	98	98
India	74	75	75	76	77	82	81	81	81	84	86	89	89	90	90	90	91	92	93	94	87	88	95	93	96	97
Sri Lanka	99	99	99	99	98	99	99	99	99	97	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	96	96	98	99	98	96
ROSA	75	76	77	77	79	82	81	81	81	82	84	88	88	88	89	89	90	90	92	93	88	89	94	93	95	95
Bangladesh	92	94	95	93	99	97	97	98	99	99	98	99	97	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	93
Pakistan	69	71	72	74	75	73	72	70	69	67	67	77	78	78	80	82	82	83	87	91	87	90	93	94	94	93
Afghanistan	48	59	62	66	72	76	75	76	75	72	72	78	78	76	73	73	73	73	77	69	70	64	68	69	69	67



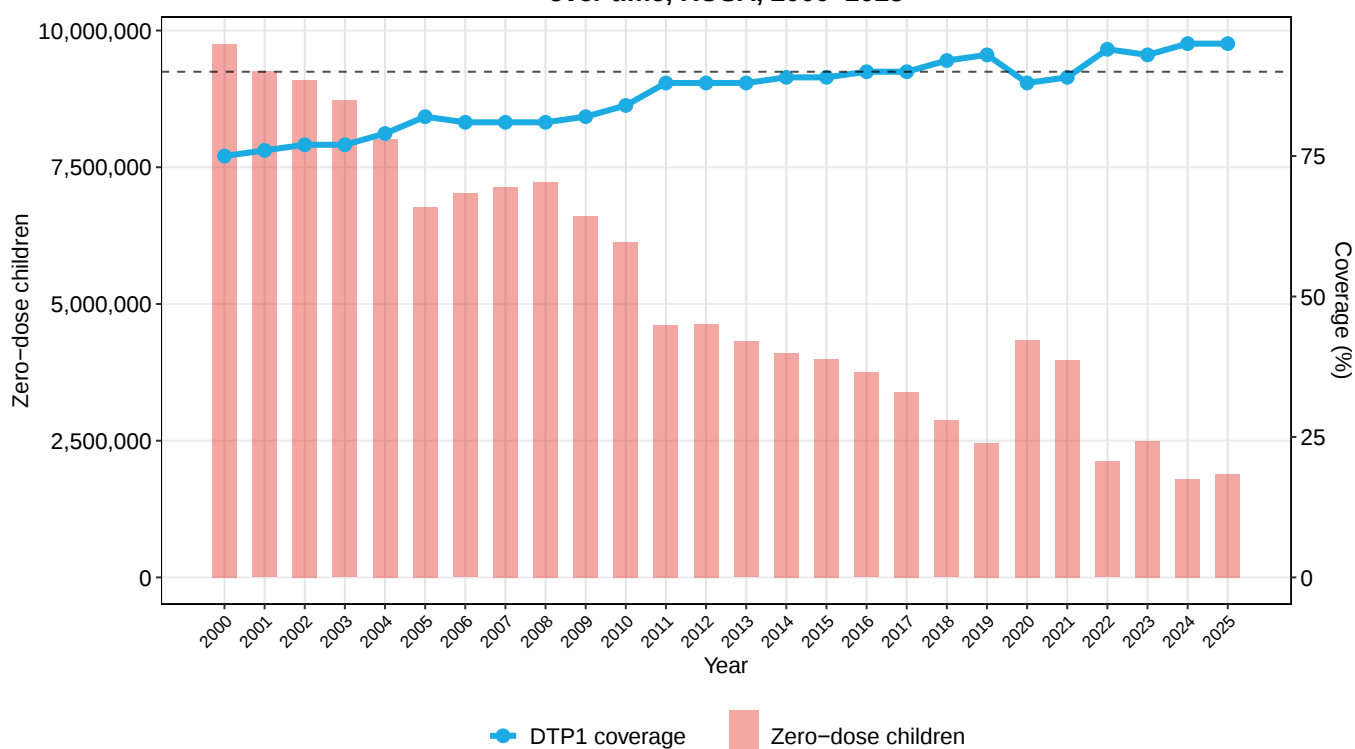
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP1 coverage in 2025.

DTP1 coverage (%), by country, ROSA Region, 2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.
 This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF or WHO on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers.

DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, ROSA, 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

- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased 1.1% from 31.7 million in 2019 to 32.1 million in 2025.
- DTP3 coverage in 2025 was 92%, higher than in 2019 (89%) and the same as in 2024.
- In 2025, 3% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3, which was 1 percentage point lower than in 2019 (4%); low dropout rates imply good ability to provide a complete series of vaccines early in life.
- In 2025, DTP3 coverage ranged from 61% in Afghanistan to 99% in Bhutan and Maldives.
- In 2025, India had DTP3 coverage of 95% and the highest absolute number of un- and undervaccinated children in the region (1.1 million), followed by Pakistan with 86% coverage and 930,000 un- and undervaccinated children.

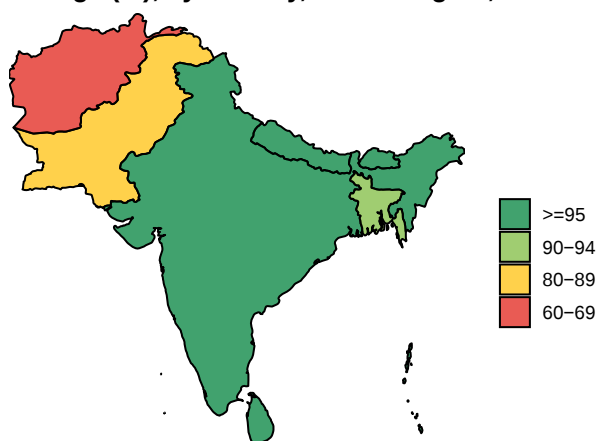
**DTP3 coverage (%), by country,
ROSA Region, 2000–2025**

	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
Bhutan	92	88	86	95	89	95	95	95	96	93	91	95	97	97	99	99	98	98	97	97	95	98	98	99	98	99
Maldives	98	98	98	98	96	98	98	98	98	98	96	96	99	99	99	99	98	98	98	98	98	95	98	98	99	99
Nepal	74	72	72	78	80	75	89	82	82	95	93	92	90	92	92	91	87	90	91	93	84	91	90	94	97	96
Sri Lanka	99	98	98	99	97	99	98	98	98	97	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	96	96	98	99	97	96
India	58	59	59	61	63	65	65	64	70	74	79	82	82	83	85	87	88	89	90	91	85	85	93	91	94	95
ROSA	60	62	62	64	67	68	67	66	70	73	76	80	80	81	83	85	86	87	88	89	84	85	91	90	92	92
Bangladesh	82	85	83	87	99	93	94	94	96	97	94	96	94	96	97	98	98	98	98	98	97	97	97	97	97	92
Pakistan	59	61	63	66	68	63	59	54	53	52	52	63	64	65	69	72	75	75	80	84	80	83	85	86	87	86
Afghanistan	24	33	36	41	50	58	58	63	64	63	66	68	67	64	62	64	66	64	68	65	61	55	60	62	63	61



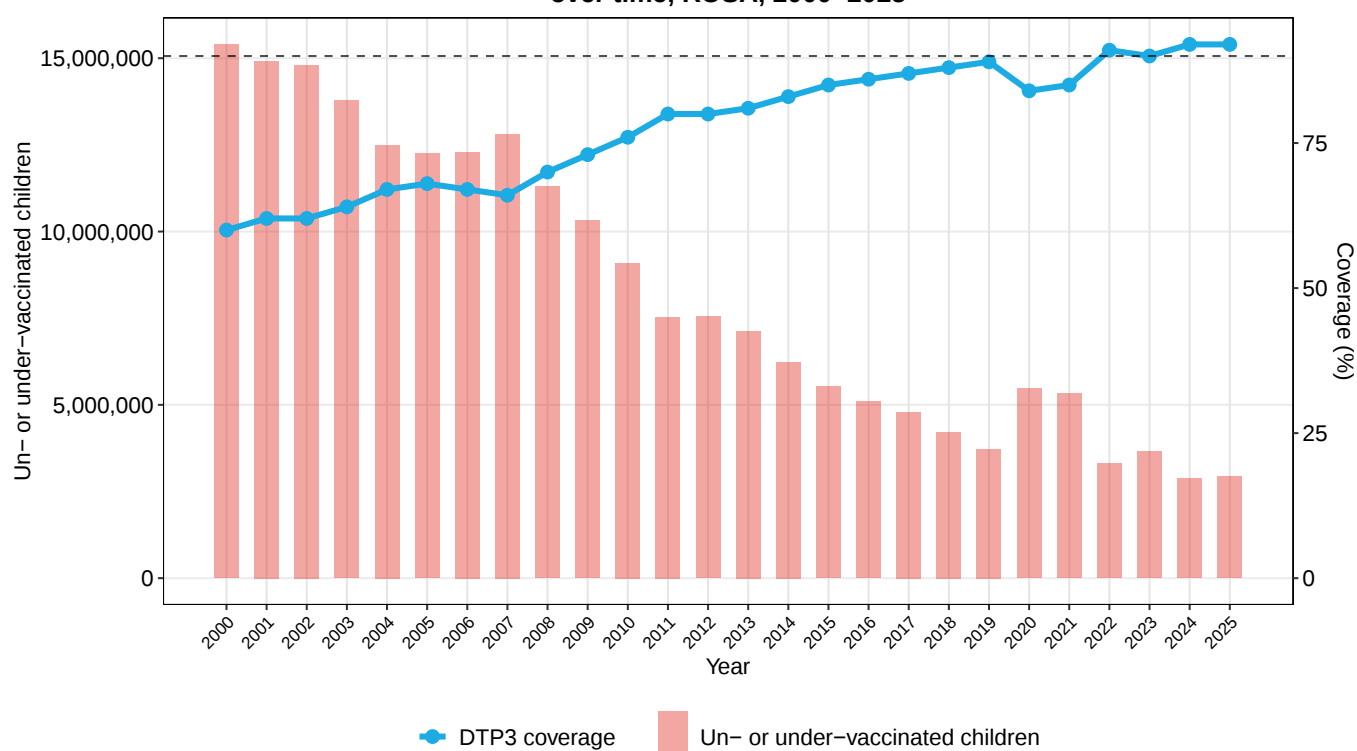
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending DTP3 coverage in 2025.

DTP3 coverage (%), by country, ROSA Region, 2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.
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DTP3 coverage and un- or under-vaccinated children over time, ROSA, 2000-2025

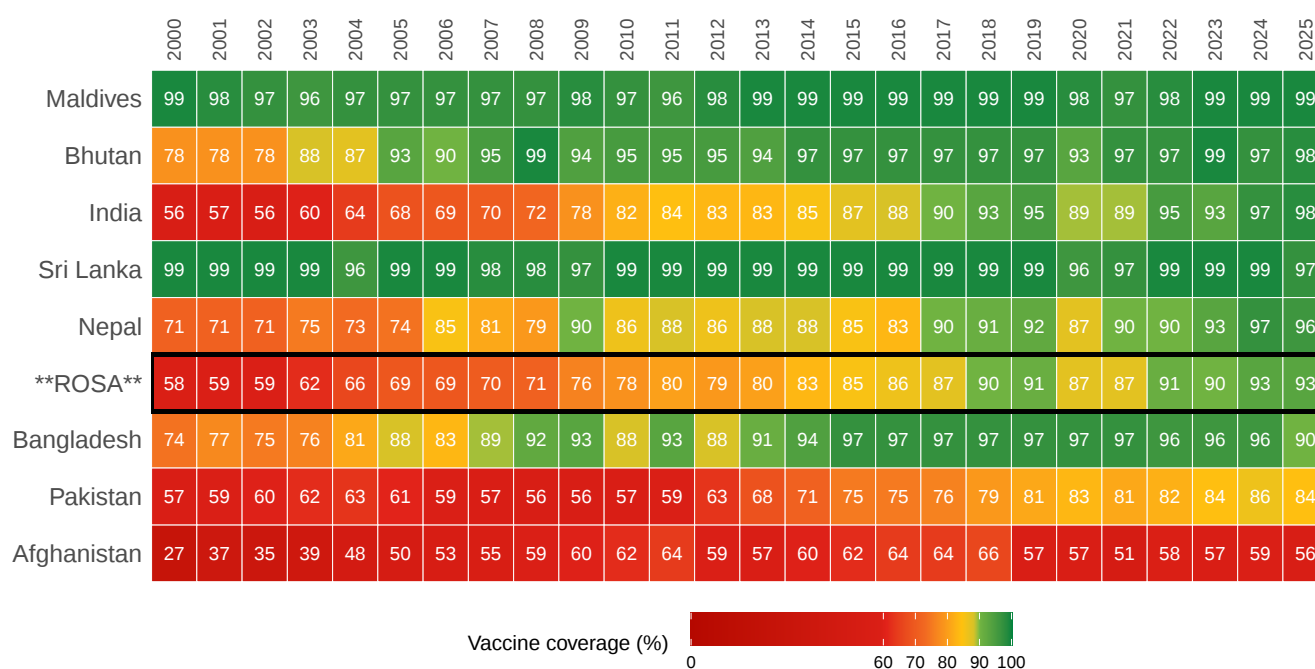


Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

MCV: Canary in the coal mine

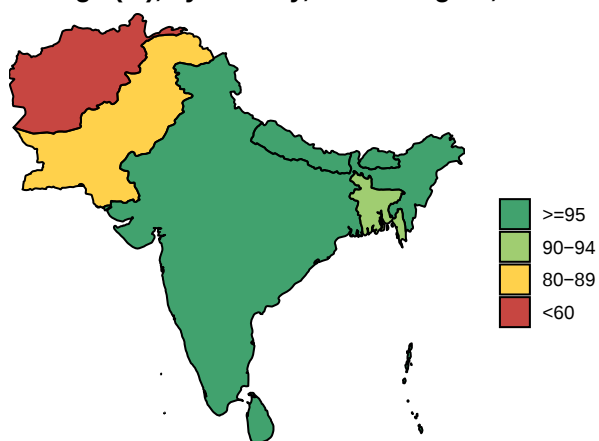
- MCV1 coverage in 2025 was 93%, higher than in 2019 (91%) and the same as in 2024.
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) in 2025 was 90%, higher than in both 2019 (81%) and 2024 (88%). This still leaves 2.5 million children without any protection and another 1 million with only partial protection against the measles virus.
- In 2025, 2% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 2% dropout rate was the same as in 2019 (2%) and the same as the 2024 dropout rate (2%).
- Low DTP-MCV dropout rates imply good retention and ability to provide a full course of vaccines in infancy.
- One country (Afghanistan) had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- In 2025, Pakistan had the highest number of children who did not receive the measles vaccine (1.1 million), representing approximately 42% of all children unprotected against measles in ROSA (2.5 million).

MCV1 coverage (%), by country,
ROSA Region, 2000–2025



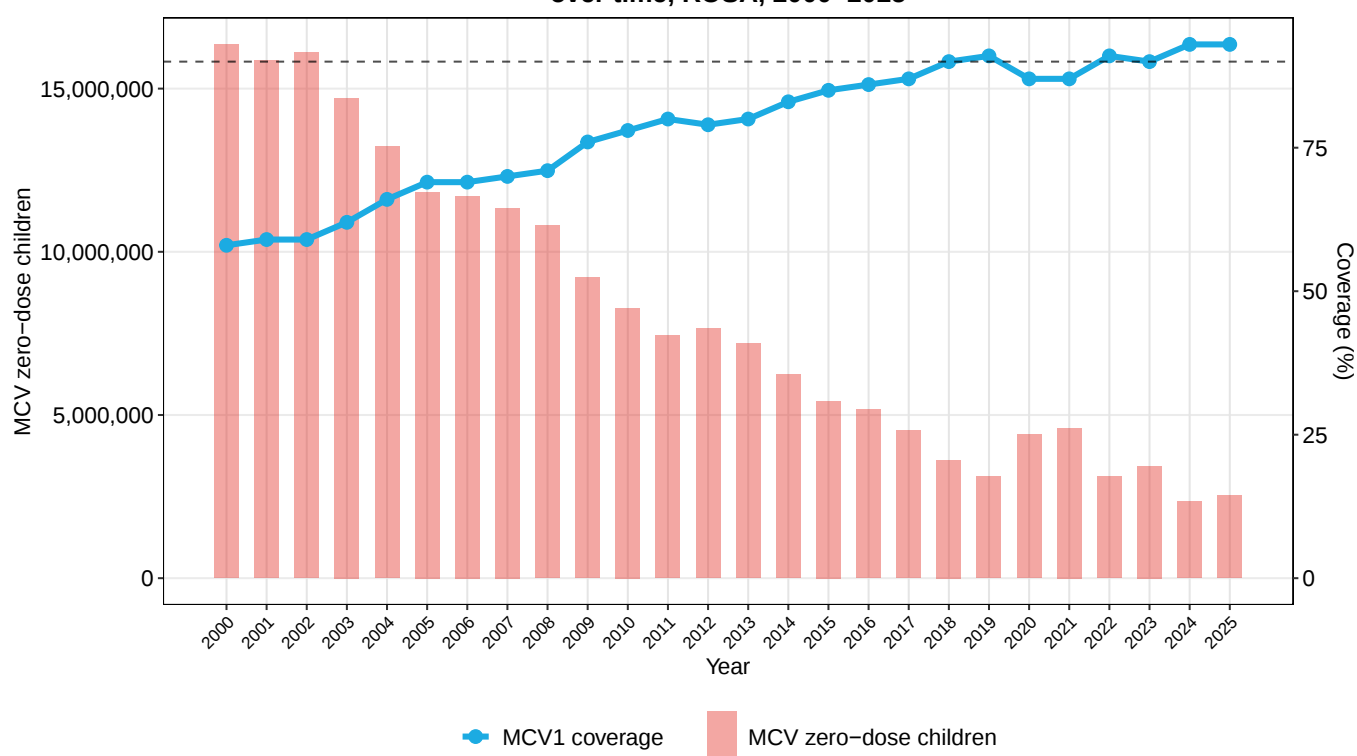
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
Note: Countries ordered based on descending MCV1 coverage in 2025.

MCV1 coverage (%), by country, ROSA Region, 2025



Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: This map is stylized and based on an approximate scale.
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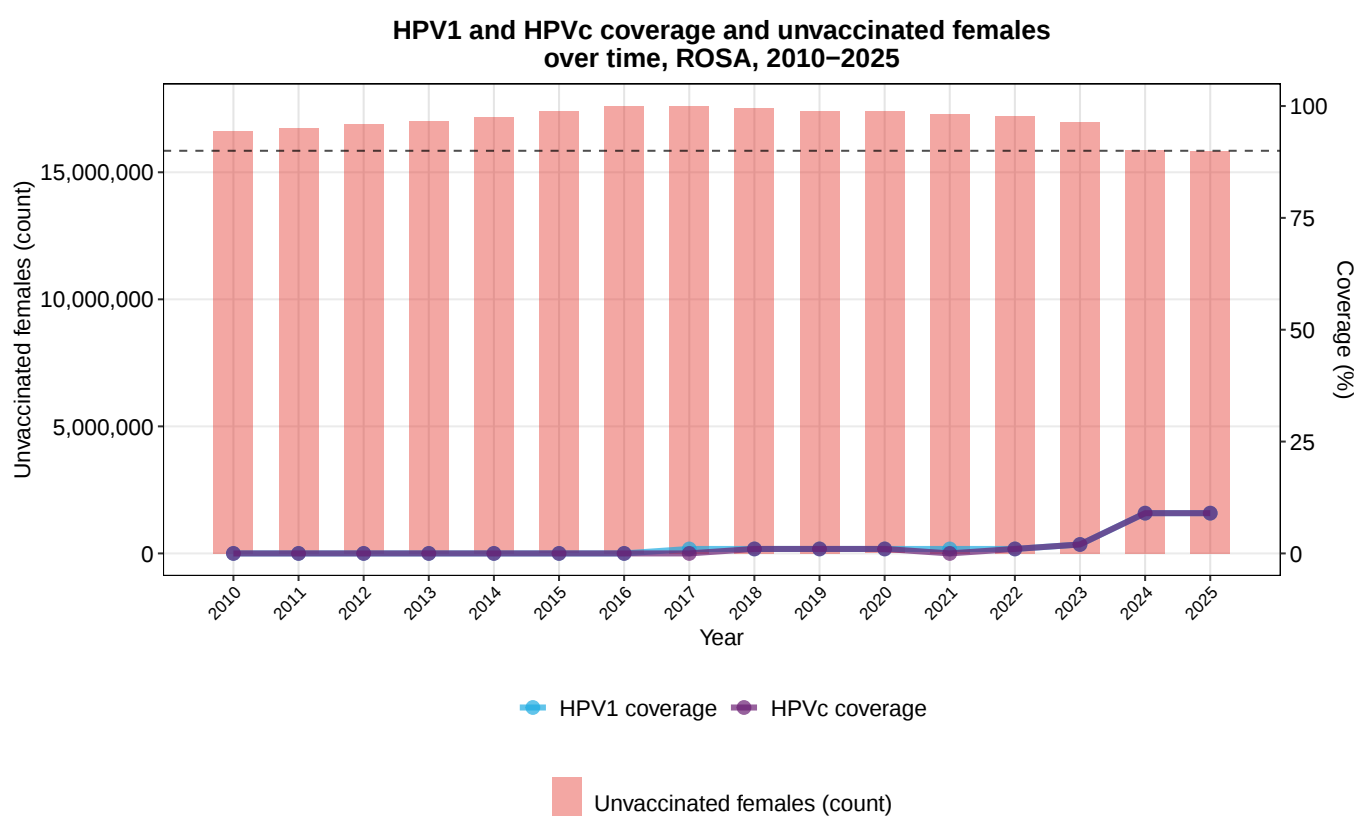
MCV coverage and MCV zero-dose children over time, ROSA, 2000-2025



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

HPV

- Programme coverage of the first dose of HPV vaccine (HPV1) among girls stood at 9% in 2025, which was the same as the coverage in 2024.
- Coverage of the last dose (HPVc) stood at 9% in 2025, which was the same as the coverage in 2024.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, there were 15.8 million girls who did not receive any HPV vaccination.
- In ROSA, 6 out of 8 countries (75%) had introduced HPV vaccination by 2025.
 - WUENIC HPV coverage estimates are available for all 6 of these countries in 2025.
- The 2 countries that had not introduced HPV vaccination are Afghanistan and India.



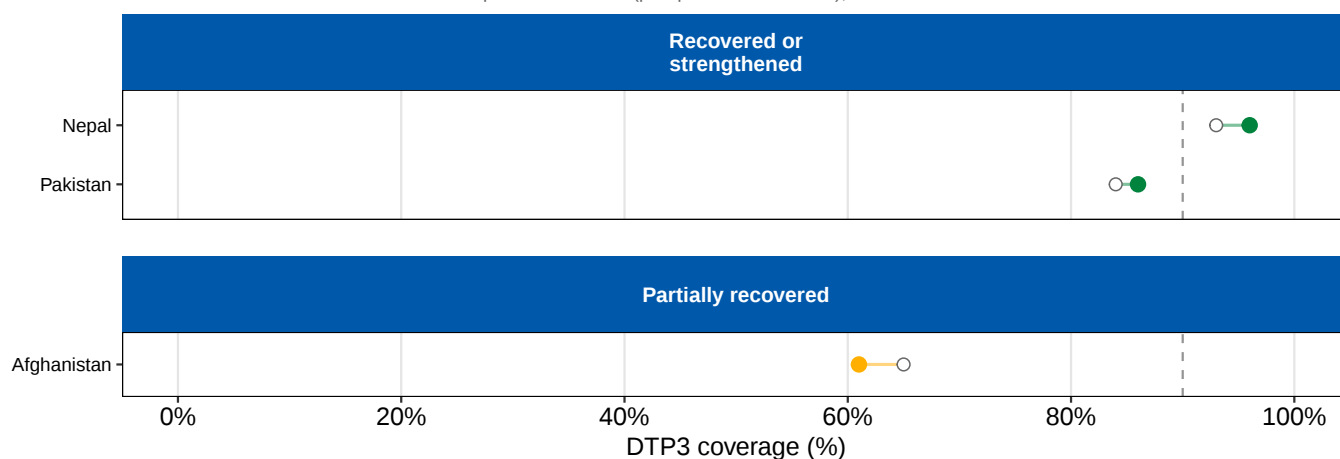
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
 Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Priority countries supported to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic

- Of the 35 countries that were globally supported for the Big Catch-up, 3 are in ROSA.
 - Nepal and Pakistan fully recovered to or exceeded their 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - Afghanistan is on the path to recovery to 2019 DTP3 levels.

DTP3 coverage recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, ROSA

Open circle = 2019 (pre-pandemic baseline); filled circle = 2025



Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage.
Countries shown are Big Catch-Up priority countries in ROSA.
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Recovery Methodology

This analysis tracks DTP3 coverage trends from 2019 to 2025 to assess post-pandemic recovery. Countries are categorized based on their progress toward 2019 baseline levels:

- **Recovered or strengthened:** 2025 coverage is equal to or higher than 2019 levels.
- **Partially recovered:** Coverage in 2025 is still below 2019 levels but has improved by at least 3 percentage points from its lowest point in 2020 or 2021.
- **Lower than 2019 levels:** Coverage in 2025 remains below 2019 levels and has shown less than 3 percentage points of improvement from its lowest point in 2020 or 2021.

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/>