

WUENIC Talking Points: AFRO-East and South Region

Revision Year: 2025

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Countries in AFRO–East and South Region



- The AFRO-East and South region includes the following 20 countries: BOTSWANA, COMOROS, ERITREA, ESWATINI, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MAURITIUS, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, RWANDA, SEYCHELLES, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZAMBIA, and ZIMBABWE.

Overview

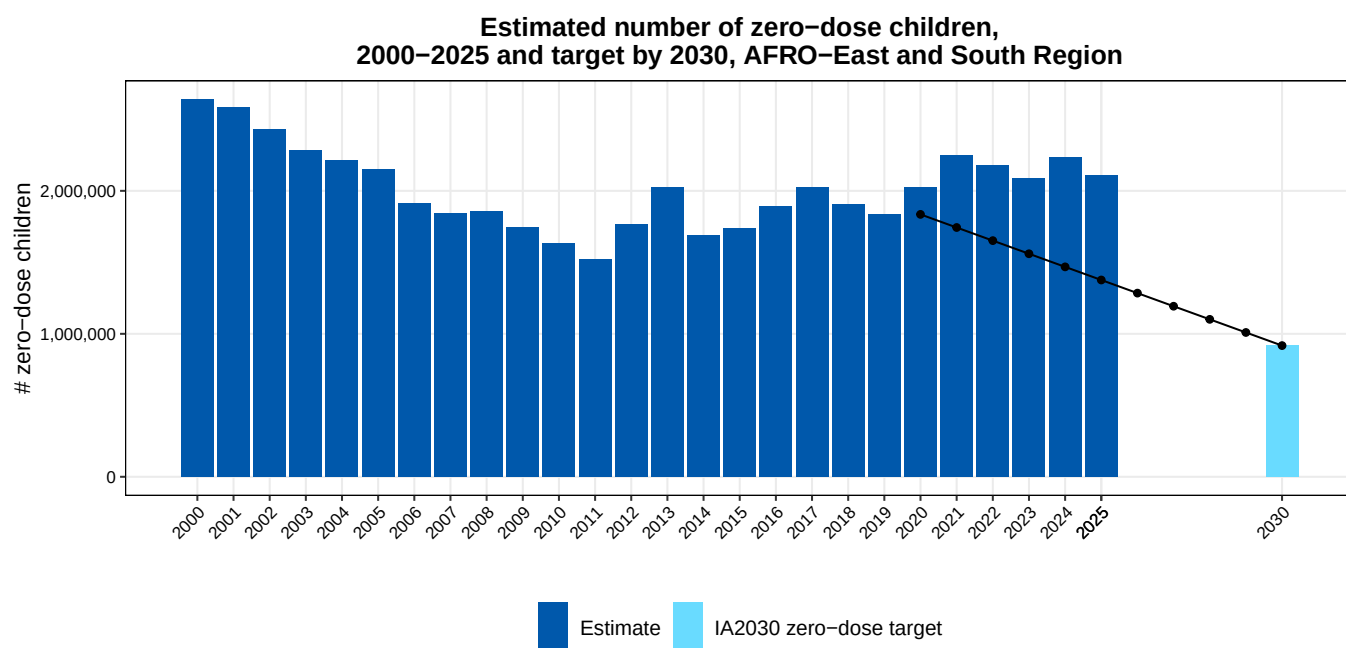
- While noting variations across countries and vaccines, none of the 15 childhood vaccines achieved an average coverage of 90% or higher within the AFRO-East and South region in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 86% in 2024 to 87% in 2025, and coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 81% in 2024 to 82% in 2025. Coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) was the same in 2025 as it was in 2024 (78%).
- A total of 13 out of 20 countries reached target coverage (90%) for all 15 antigens, representing 65% of the region.
- There were 7 countries that did not meet the target coverage across all antigens: COMOROS, ETHIOPIA, LESOTHO, MADAGASCAR, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, and TANZANIA.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (2.1 million) was approximately 53% 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 AFRO-East and South region (1.4 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), AFRO-East and South 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
BCG	78	79	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	89	87	85	86	84	86	84	83	85	84	82	85	85	84	85
HepBB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
DTP1	76	76	78	80	81	82	84	85	85	86	87	89	87	85	88	87	86	86	87	88	86	85	86	87	86	87
DTP3	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	73	75	77	78	80	79	78	81	80	81	80	82	83	82	79	79	81	81	82
Hib3	7	6	24	25	31	33	34	47	55	75	78	78	77	76	79	80	81	80	82	83	82	79	79	81	81	82
HepB3	10	12	48	50	54	58	60	72	74	76	78	78	77	76	79	80	81	80	82	83	82	79	79	81	81	82
PCVC									0	1	8	20	30	55	71	72	76	78	81	81	79	78	78	79	80	80
RotaC							0	0	0	2	5	6	9	25	51	61	66	67	73	78	78	76	66	72	76	75
IPV1																10	29	45	62	80	81	79	80	81	81	82
IPVC																						8	15	24	38	62
MCV1	60	62	63	65	66	67	70	72	74	77	78	79	80	78	79	78	77	77	79	80	79	76	77	78	78	78
RCV1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	16	18	36	43	43	51	49	49	50	50	54
MCV2	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	5	6	7	6	6	5	5	11	21	32	36	37	51	51	52	62	61	65	68
YFV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	10	15	16
MengA																	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
HPVc											0	1	1	1	8	8	11	13	16	21	26	31	30	50	63	69



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



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 7.3% from 12.9 million in 2019 to 13.8 million in 2025.
- DTP1 coverage in 2025 was 87%, lower than in 2019 (88%) but higher than in 2024 (86%).
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children (2.1 million) was approximately 53% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the Immunization Agenda 2030 target in AFRO-East and South region (1.4 million), based on a linear trajectory of decline.
- In 2025, ETHIOPIA and SOUTH AFRICA represented approximately 31% and 18% of all zero-dose children in AFRO-East and South (n = 2.1 million), respectively. ETHIOPIA had the highest number of zero-dose children at 650,000, and SOUTH AFRICA had the second highest at 380,000.
- In 2025, the lowest DTP1 coverage was observed in SOUTH AFRICA at 67%, followed by MADAGASCAR at 74%.
- There were 11 (55%) out of 20 countries in the region that achieved DTP1 coverage of 90% or higher in 2025.

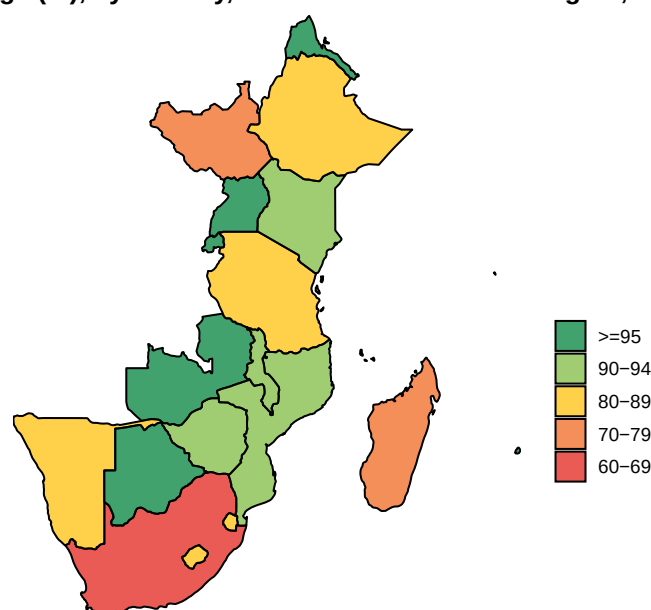
DTP1 coverage (%), by country, AFRO-East and South Region, 2000–2025

	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
SEYCHELLES	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	99	99	99	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	99
BOTSWANA	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	98
ERITREA	88	91	94	97	99	99	98	98	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	98	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	98
RWANDA	93	77	95	97	94	95	99	99	97	98	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	99	94	94	98	94	99	98
UGANDA	80	82	84	86	88	90	85	93	87	96	87	91	92	92	93	97	99	99	97	96	94	97	94	95	97	98
MAURITIUS	88	92	96	99	98	99	99	97	99	99	99	99	99	99	97	98	97	96	98	97	96	95	96	97	97	97
ZAMBIA	94	94	94	93	93	92	92	93	95	96	92	87	86	86	96	97	96	95	94	94	88	94	98	94	94	96
MALAWI	98	99	94	99	99	99	99	96	97	97	97	98	99	96	97	93	89	93	96	97	95	95	89	95	94	94
ZIMBABWE	84	83	81	79	77	80	83	86	89	87	95	99	99	98	98	94	94	94	94	94	93	93	93	93	93	93
KENYA	83	84	90	89	87	85	90	89	90	92	93	98	98	95	97	96	89	82	93	96	97	99	99	97	93	91
MOZAMBIQUE	84	86	88	89	88	87	86	85	87	89	91	91	91	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	83	76	81	90	90	90
LESOTHO	87	83	89	95	95	95	96	96	96	96	97	97	98	98	94	89	92	93	93	92	93	95	94	90	86	88
AFRO-East & South	76	76	78	80	81	82	84	85	85	86	87	89	87	85	88	87	86	86	87	88	86	85	86	87	86	87
TANZANIA	92	95	95	99	99	95	94	89	88	90	98	96	99	99	99	97	95	93	91	95	95	90	91	87	87	87
NAMIBIA	90	88	86	87	88	93	91	88	88	87	87	88	89	94	92	98	90	94	94	92	93	94	90	88	79	86
ESWATINI	94	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	96	95	95	98	97	99	99	96	96	96	96	96	87	86	99	89	91	84
ETHIOPIA	47	50	52	55	58	61	64	67	71	74	77	80	74	67	73	74	75	76	76	75	75	74	76	79	79	84
COMOROS	85	85	96	82	85	77	78	79	85	89	81	92	91	85	83	81	83	84	80	81	78	80	85	80	80	80
SOUTH SUDAN												79	76	67	62	55	51	59	67	68	71	73	76	76	76	76
MADAGASCAR	74	75	76	79	82	88	93	92	84	80	78	80	79	76	77	71	74	71	77	77	77	64	66	74	70	74
SOUTH AFRICA	85	82	80	77	80	83	94	95	93	81	80	80	72	81	88	91	88	85	84	87	88	91	87	81	76	67



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

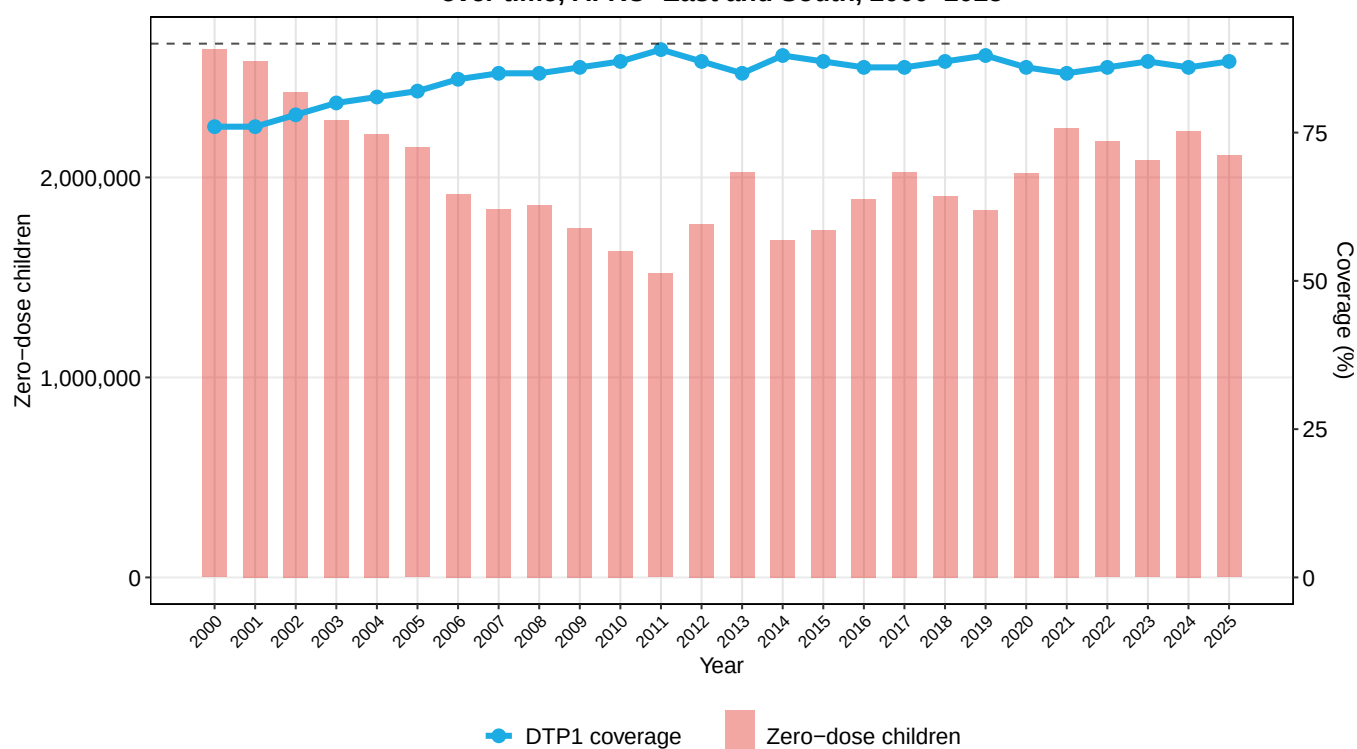
DTP1 coverage (%), by country, AFRO-East and South Region, 2025



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, AFRO-East and South, 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 6.6% from 12.3 million in 2019 to 13.1 million in 2025. Due to population growth of approximately 8% between 2019 and 2025, DTP3 coverage in 2025 (82%) was lower than in 2019 (83%).
- DTP3 coverage in 2025 was 82%, lower than in 2019 (83%) but higher than in 2024 (81%).
- In 2025, 5% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3, which was the same as in 2019 (5%); medium dropout rates imply moderate ability to provide a complete series of vaccines early in life.
- In 2025, DTP3 coverage ranged from 64% in MADAGASCAR to 98% in SEYCHELLES.
- In 2025, ETHIOPIA had DTP3 coverage of 81% and the highest absolute number of un- and undervaccinated children in the region (772,000), followed by SOUTH AFRICA with 65% coverage and 403,000 un- and undervaccinated children.

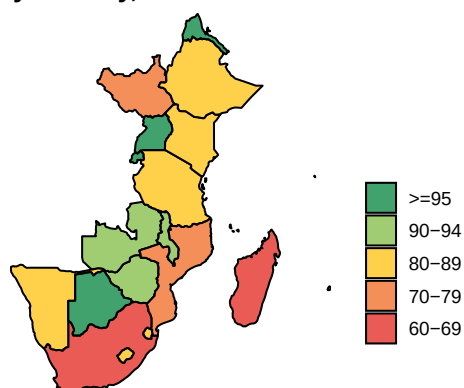
**DTP3 coverage (%), by country,
AFRO-East and South Region, 2000–2025**

	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
SEYCHELLES	98	96	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98	98	99	97	96	97	99	99	97	94	97	97	93	98
UGANDA	52	55	57	59	62	64	64	73	71	79	80	82	83	84	85	89	93	94	93	93	89	91	89	91	94	97
ERITREA	81	86	90	93	98	96	94	95	95	95	95	94	94	94	94	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	96
MAURITIUS	88	92	88	99	98	97	97	97	99	99	99	98	98	98	97	97	96	94	97	96	95	95	95	96	93	96
BOTSWANA	97	97	97	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95	86	95	95	95
RWANDA	90	77	88	96	89	95	99	97	97	97	97	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	97	98	91	88	98	94	98	95
ZAMBIA	85	85	84	83	83	82	81	80	87	94	83	81	78	79	86	90	95	94	90	88	84	91	88	86	87	91
ZIMBABWE	78	75	71	68	65	68	70	73	75	73	89	93	95	95	91	87	90	89	89	90	86	88	90	90	91	91
MALAWI	75	90	64	84	89	93	99	87	91	93	93	97	96	89	91	88	84	88	92	95	94	93	86	91	91	90
KENYA	82	80	84	73	73	76	80	81	88	88	90	96	94	87	92	89	88	81	91	93	93	95	94	93	91	88
LESOTHO	84	79	85	90	90	89	89	88	88	91	93	96	95	93	88	83	87	89	90	92	93	95	92	90	86	88
ESWATINI	84	84	85	85	86	86	87	87	88	88	89	91	95	98	98	90	90	90	90	90	83	77	97	85	84	84
TANZANIA	79	87	89	95	95	90	90	83	86	85	91	90	92	91	97	96	92	90	89	91	91	86	87	83	83	83
AFRO-East & South	61	63	65	67	69	71	73	73	75	77	78	80	79	78	81	80	81	80	82	83	82	79	79	81	81	82
NAMIBIA	79	78	77	79	81	86	86	86	83	83	83	82	84	89	88	92	85	88	89	87	93	94	84	83	74	82
ETHIOPIA	30	32	35	37	39	43	46	50	54	58	61	65	61	59	61	62	64	65	68	70	71	69	71	75	75	81
COMOROS	70	70	89	80	76	68	69	75	81	83	74	83	86	83	80	80	75	79	77	78	74	72	78	75	75	75
SOUTH SUDAN																										
MOZAMBIQUE	70	73	76	85	83	80	78	75	75	74	74	77	80	82	85	85	85	85	85	85	71	56	55	70	70	70
SOUTH AFRICA	73	71	70	69	74	81	84	85	82	81	77	75	71	81	85	85	85	84	82	85	84	86	85	79	74	65
MADAGASCAR	57	60	62	66	78	85	85	84	77	77	70	73	68	70	68	62	68	65	74	69	67	55	57	65	60	64



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

DTP3 coverage (%), by country, AFRO–East and South Region, 2025

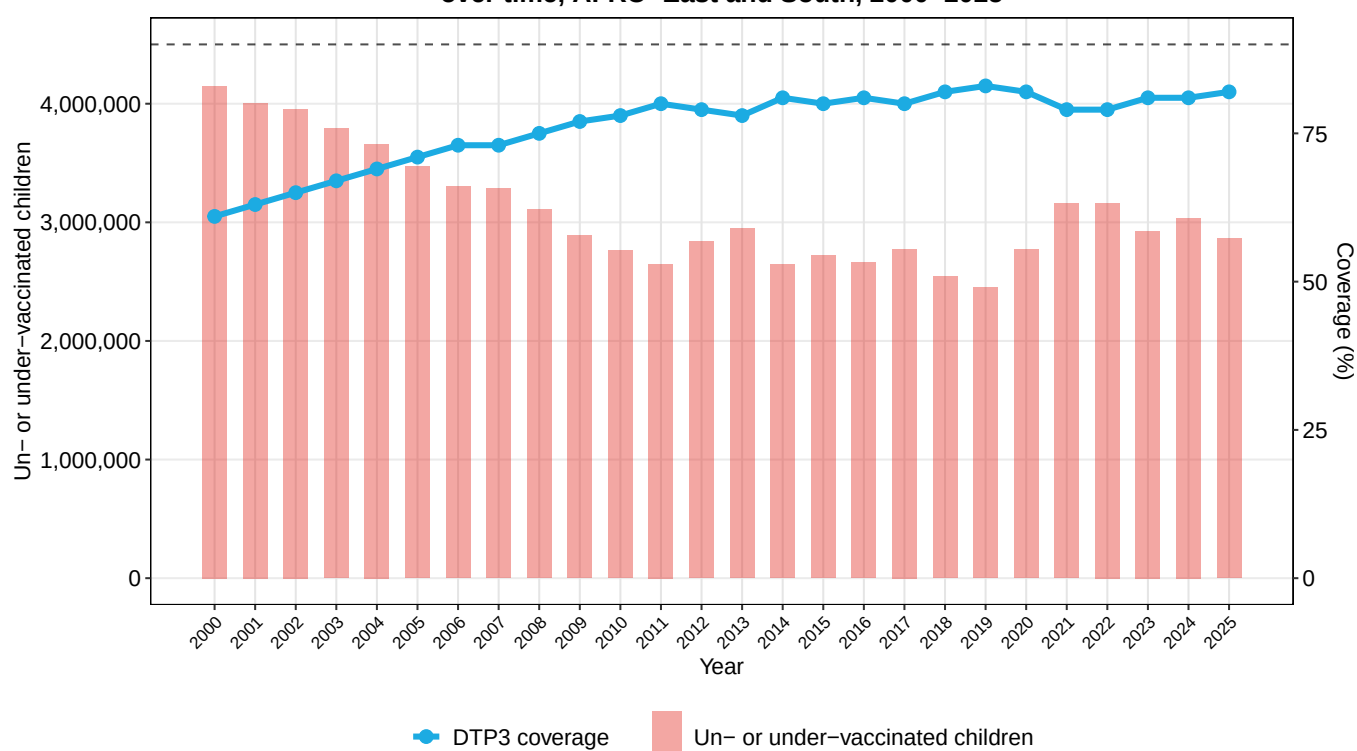


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

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DTP3 coverage and un– or under–vaccinated children over time, AFRO–East and South, 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 78%, lower than in 2019 (80%) and the same as in 2024.
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) in 2025 was 68%, higher than in both 2019 (51%) and 2024 (65%). This still leaves 3.4 million children without any protection and another 1.5 million with only partial protection against the measles virus.
- In 2025, 10% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 10% dropout rate was 1 percentage point higher than in 2019 (9%) and higher than the 2024 dropout rate (9%).
- Medium DTP-MCV dropout rates imply moderate retention in immunization programmes.
- 5 countries (COMOROS, ETHIOPIA, MADAGASCAR, MOZAMBIQUE, and SOUTH SUDAN) had MCV1 coverage below 80% for all of the last 3 years.
- In 2025, ETHIOPIA had the highest number of children who did not receive the measles vaccine (935,000), representing approximately 27% of all children unprotected against measles in AFRO-East and South (3.4 million).

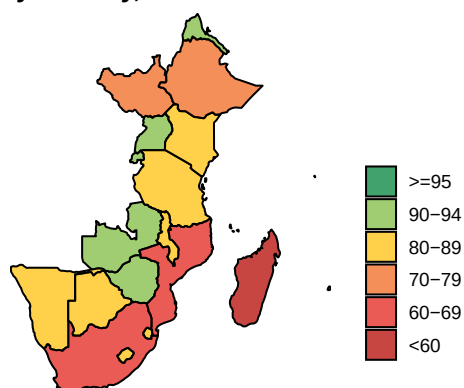
MCV1 coverage (%), by country,
AFRO-East and South Region, 2000–2025

	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
SEYCHELLES	97	95	98	99	99	99	99	99	99	97	99	99	98	97	99	98	97	99	96	99	97	94	98	93	97	98
MAURITIUS	84	90	84	91	98	98	99	98	98	99	99	99	99	99	98	99	92	89	99	99	98	97	98	96	98	97
ERITREA	76	84	83	92	96	95	94	92	91	93	95	96	98	94	90	97	95	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
RWANDA	74	69	69	90	84	89	95	94	92	95	95	95	97	95	97	96	95	97	99	96	94	87	99	96	97	93
UGANDA	57	59	62	64	66	68	75	75	70	77	73	75	80	83	85	79	79	83	86	87	89	90	91	91	92	92
ZAMBIA	85	84	84	84	85	85	85	93	87	90	96	83	82	80	85	90	97	96	94	93	96	90	88	86	91	92
ZIMBABWE	75	73	70	68	66	67	68	69	70	76	90	92	97	93	92	86	95	90	88	85	85	88	90	90	90	90
ESWATINI	92	93	93	93	93	93	93	94	94	94	94	87	88	97	97	89	89	89	85	81	76	80	83	85	85	88
MALAWI	73	81	69	77	80	82	85	83	88	92	93	96	90	88	85	87	81	83	87	92	90	90	82	87	89	88
NAMIBIA	69	58	68	70	70	73	63	69	73	76	75	74	76	82	83	85	75	80	82	80	90	91	89	86	79	84
TANZANIA	78	86	89	97	94	91	93	90	88	91	92	93	97	99	97	95	83	90	88	89	87	80	84	84	84	84
BOTSWANA	91	91	92	92	93	93	94	95	95	96	96	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	87	97	90	97	97	83
KENYA	78	77	78	72	73	69	77	80	90	88	86	87	93	94	95	96	93	84	92	92	89	88	85	85	82	80
LESOTHO	74	70	78	85	84	83	82	81	80	84	88	92	91	90	92	93	90	89	89	90	90	90	84	76	90	80
AFRO-East & South	60	62	63	65	66	67	70	72	74	77	78	79	80	78	79	78	77	77	79	80	79	76	77	78	78	78
ETHIOPIA	28	29	32	33	35	40	44	49	54	59	64	68	62	55	54	56	57	59	62	65	67	65	67	71	72	77
SOUTH SUDAN												62	59	57	54	52	51	56	61	65	69	74	72	72	72	72
COMOROS	70	70	71	67	76	67	66	65	76	79	72	79	85	82	80	81	77	75	74	76	75	68	71	70	70	70
SOUTH AFRICA	72	69	65	62	63	64	69	68	73	77	72	77	79	78	84	86	84	81	81	83	84	87	86	80	76	66
MOZAMBIQUE	71	74	77	80	79	78	76	75	77	80	82	82	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	83	73	62	63	65	65	65
MADAGASCAR	57	59	61	65	79	74	71	81	70	63	66	62	63	64	66	60	62	55	68	60	55	43	44	51	46	49



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

MCV1 coverage (%), by country, AFRO-East and South Region, 2025

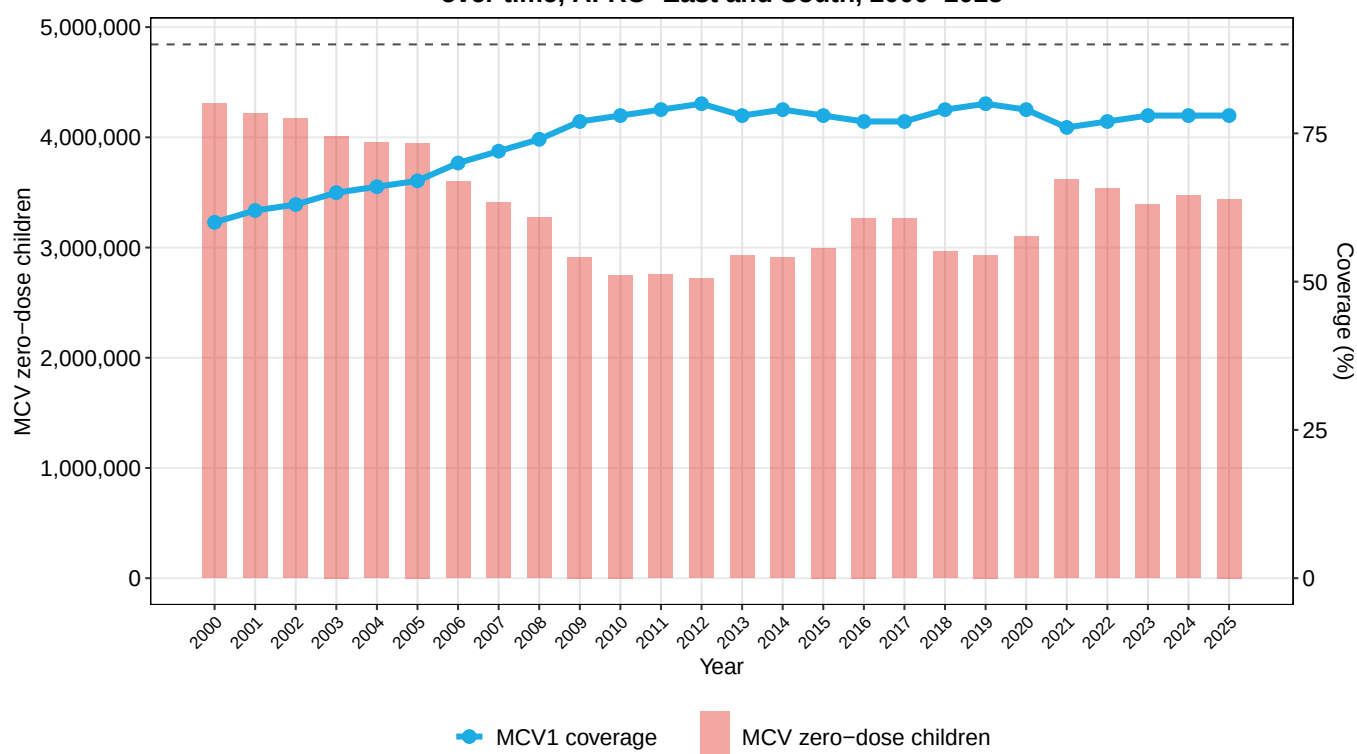


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

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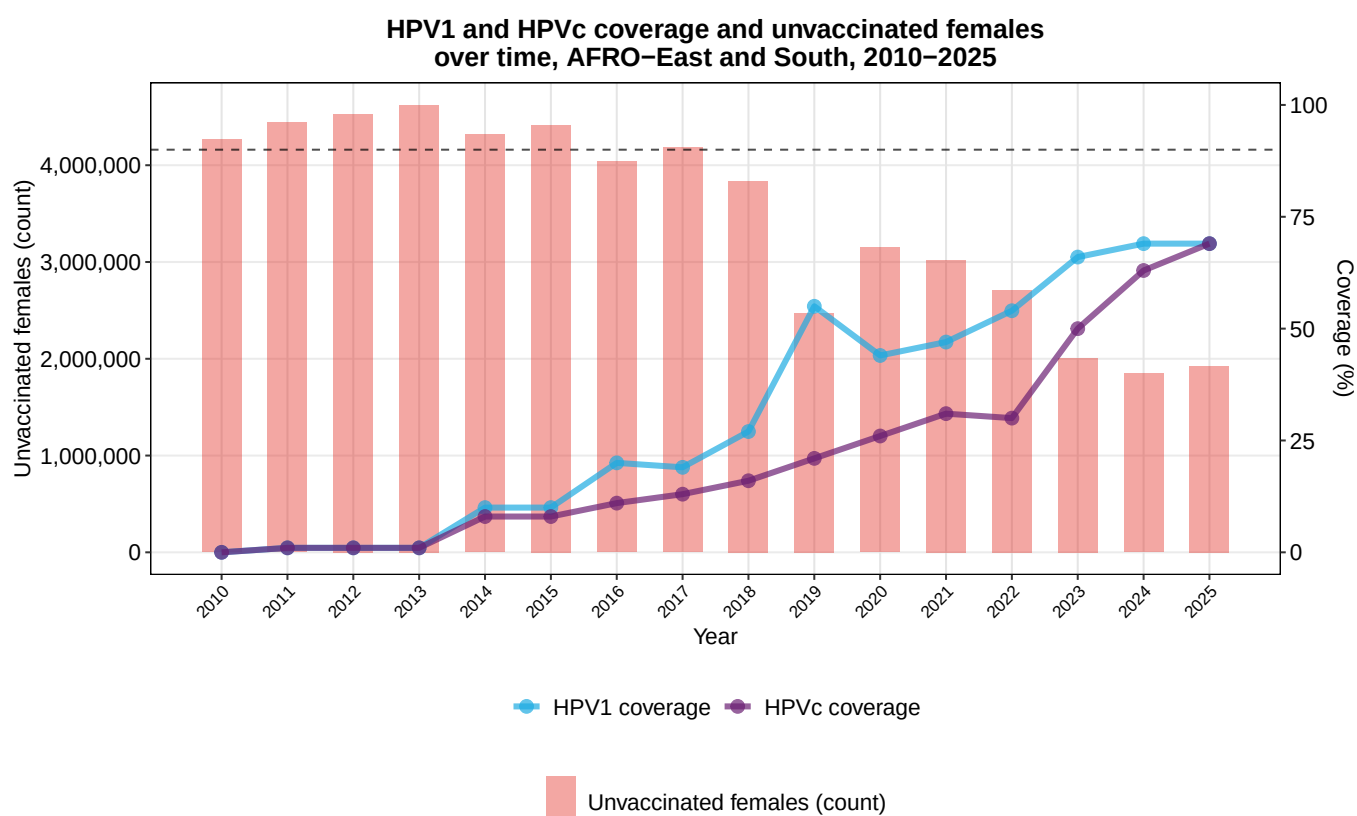
MCV coverage and MCV zero-dose children over time, AFRO-East and South, 2000-2025



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 69% in 2025, which was the same as the coverage in 2024.
- Coverage of the last dose (HPVc) stood at 69% in 2025, which was higher than the coverage of 63% in 2024.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%, though it is trending upward.
- In 2025, there were 1.9 million girls who did not receive any HPV vaccination.
- In AFRO-East and South, 19 out of 20 countries (95%) had introduced HPV vaccination by 2025.
 - WUENIC HPV coverage estimates are available for 18 of these countries in 2025.
 - The country that has introduced HPV vaccination but does not yet have WUENIC coverage data available for 2025 is BOTSWANA.
- The country that had not introduced HPV vaccination is SOUTH SUDAN.



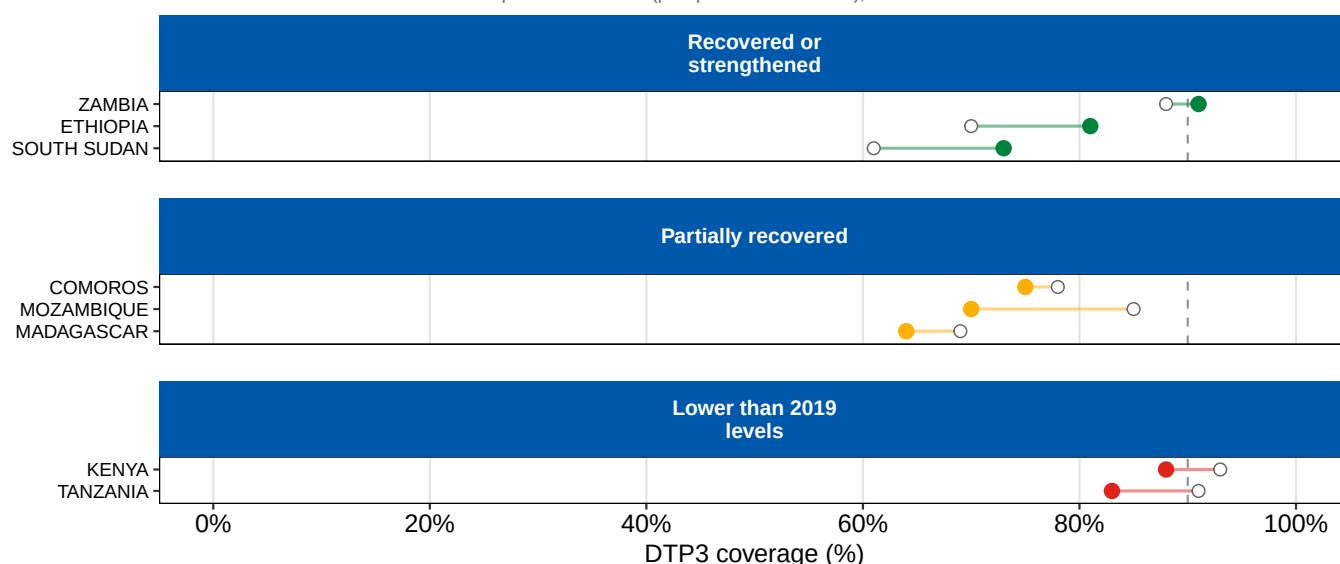
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Priority countries supported to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic

- Of the 35 countries that were globally supported for the Big Catch-up, 8 are in AFRO-East and South.
 - ETHIOPIA, SOUTH SUDAN, and ZAMBIA fully recovered to or exceeded their 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 3 countries (COMOROS, MADAGASCAR, and MOZAMBIQUE) are on the path to recovery to 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - 2 countries (KENYA and TANZANIA) have not yet recovered, with stagnation or decline from 2019 DTP3 levels.
 - SOUTH SUDAN did not experience any decline in DTP3 levels between 2019 and 2025.

DTP3 coverage recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, AFRO-East and South

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 AFRO-East and South.
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/>