

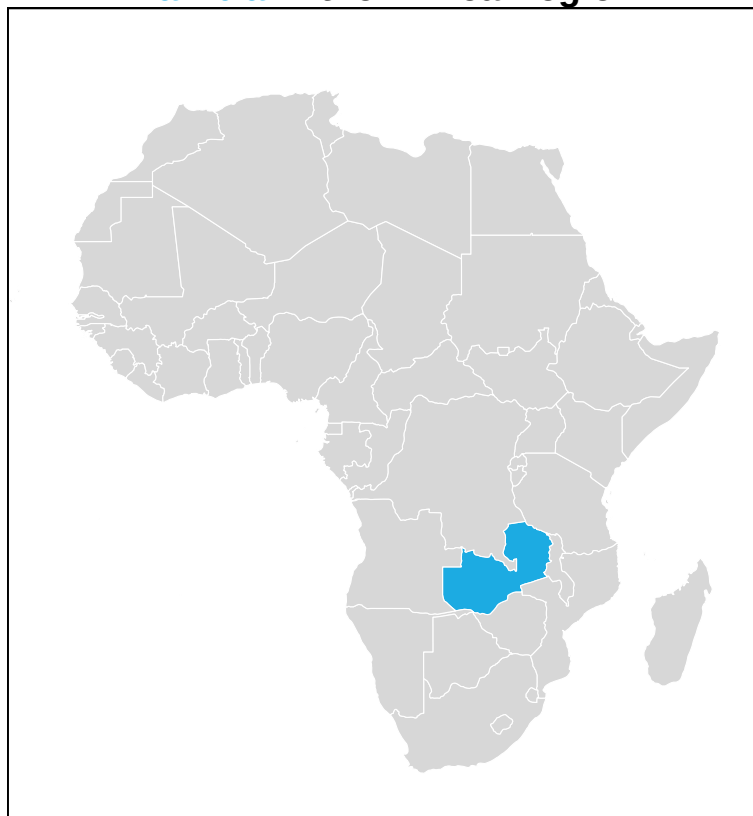
WUENIC Talking Points: Zambia

Revision Year: 2025

Contents

Overview	2
DTP1: Reaching zero-dose children	3
DTP3: A marker of routine immunization service delivery to children	4
MCV: Canary in the coal mine	5
HPV	6
Regional Comparison	7
Additional Vaccines	8
Appendix	9

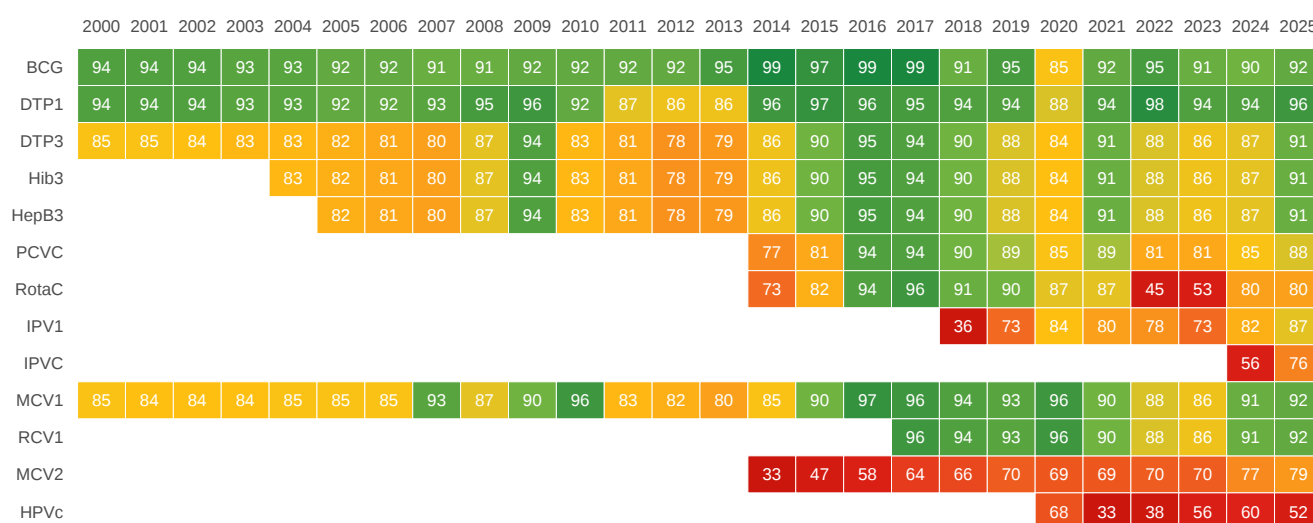
Zambia in the 'Africa' region



Overview

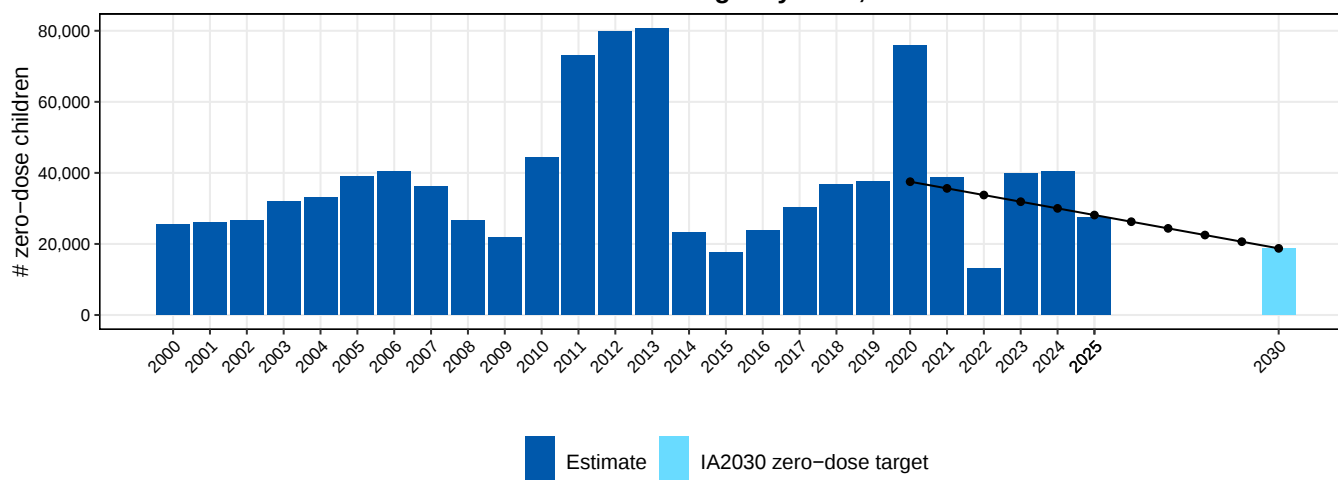
- A total of 12 childhood vaccines are tracked for Zambia; of these, 7 reached the 90% coverage target or higher in 2025.
- Coverage of the first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1) increased from 94% in 2024 to 96% in 2025, coverage of the third dose of DTP-containing vaccine (DTP3) increased from 87% in 2024 to 91% in 2025, and coverage of the first dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) increased from 91% in 2024 to 92% in 2025 in 2025.
- In 2025, the number of zero-dose children for DTP in Zambia (27,000) was approximately 1% higher than the annual number proposed to achieve the IA2030 target of halving zero-dose children for DTP by 2030 (27,000), based on a linear trajectory of decline.

Vaccine coverage (%), Zambia, 2000–2025



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

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

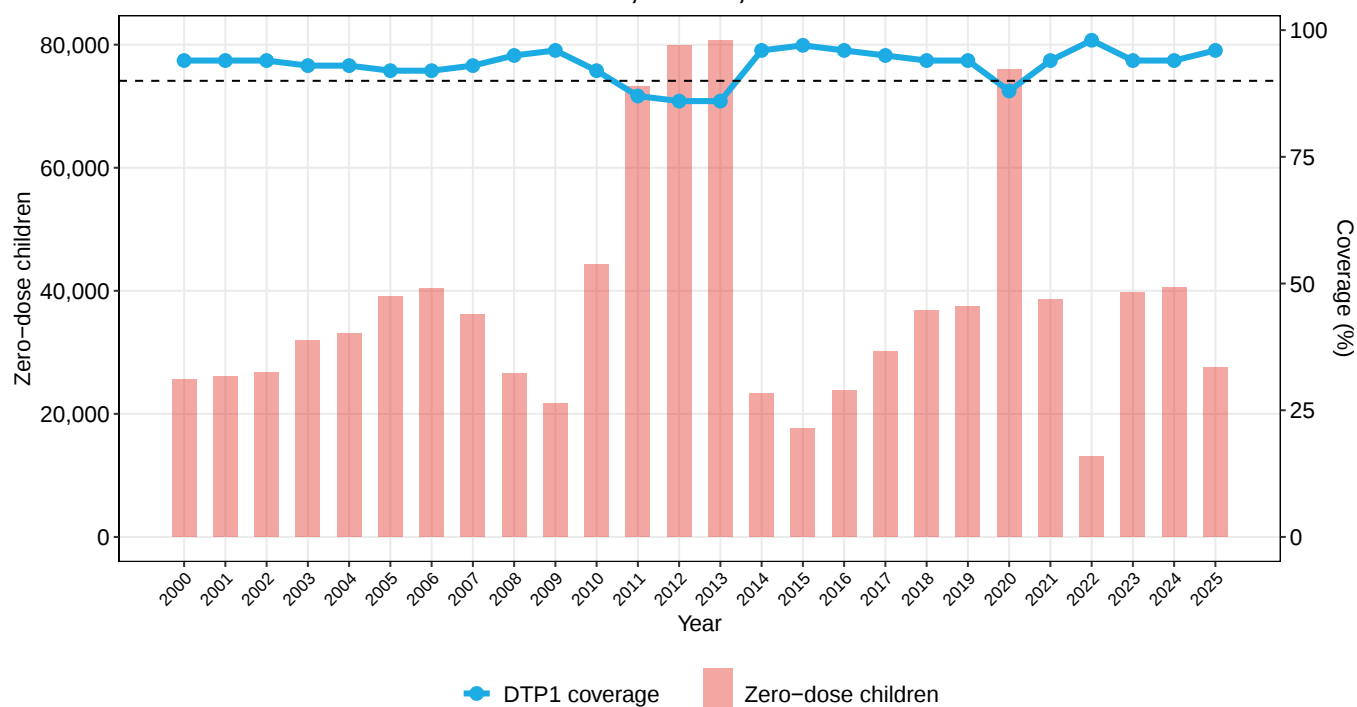


Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.
 Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero-dose children in 2019 in half by 2030.
 Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000–2025, light blue 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 96% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (94%) and higher than in 2024 (94%).
- The percentage of zero-dose children was 1 percentage points higher than the IA2030 target in 2025. There were approximately 27,000 zero-dose children in 2025, fewer than the 38,000 in 2019 and fewer than the 41,000 in 2024.
- Coverage of DTP1 in Zambia (96%) was higher than the Eastern and Southern Africa regional average of 85% in 2025.
- DTP1-to-DTP3 dropout in 2025 was 5%, 1 percentage point lower than in 2019 (6%). Medium DTP dropout rates imply moderate ability to provide a complete vaccine series early in life.

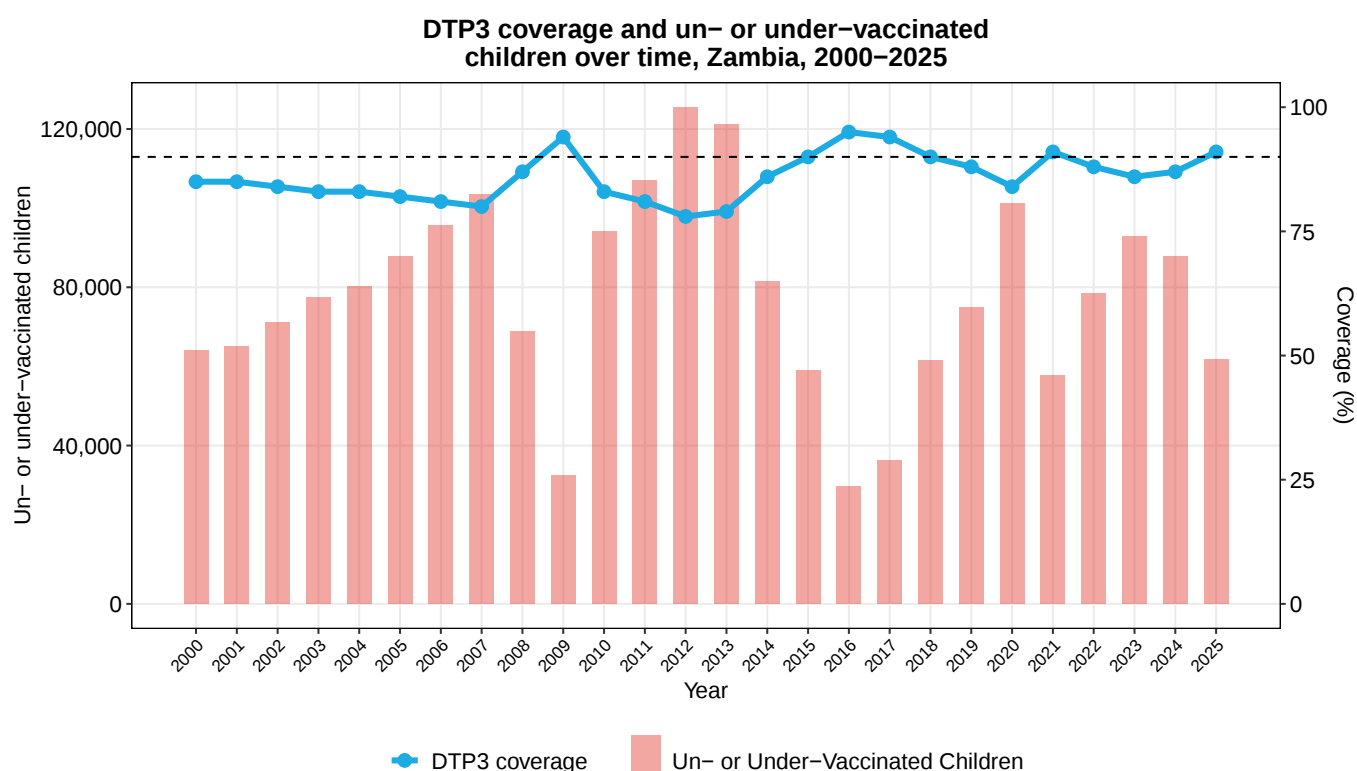
DTP1 coverage and zero-dose children over time, Zambia, 2000–2025



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

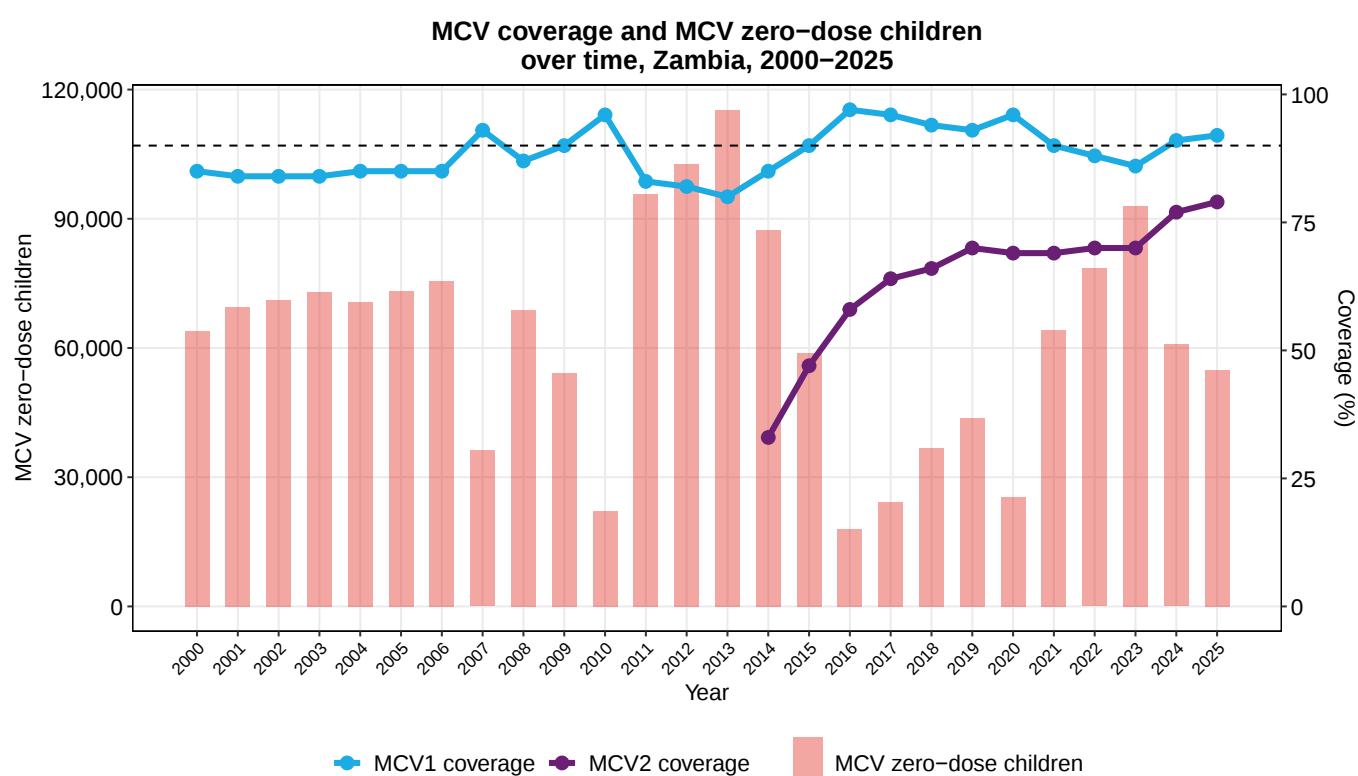
- Coverage of DTP3 stood at 91% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (88%) and higher than in 2024 (87%).
- The number of children vaccinated with DTP3 increased from 550,000 in 2019 to 625,000 in 2025.
- In 2025, there were 62,000 children un- or under-vaccinated in Zambia.
- In 2025, 5% of children who received DTP1 did not receive DTP3. This 5% dropout rate was 1 percentage points lower than in 2019 (6%) and 2 percentage points lower than the 2024 dropout rate (7%).
- Coverage of DTP3 in Zambia (91%) 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

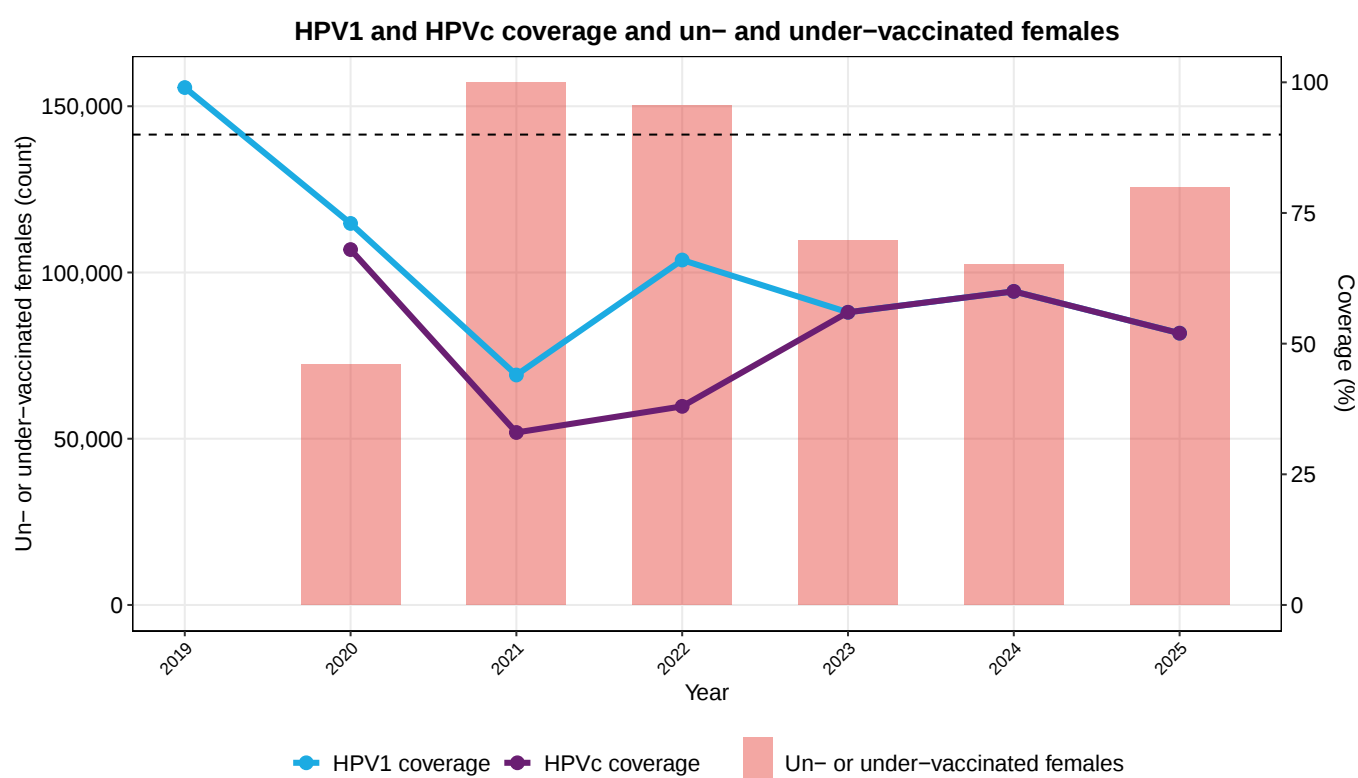
- Coverage of MCV1 stood at 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (93%) and higher than in 2024 (91%).
- Coverage of the second dose of the measles-containing vaccine (MCV2) increased from 70% in 2019 to 79% in 2025. This leaves 55,000 children without any protection against measles and another 81,000 with only partial protection.
- In 2025, 4% of children who received DTP1 did not receive MCV1. This 4% dropout rate was 3 percentage points higher than in 2019 (1%) and 1 percentage points higher than the 2024 dropout rate (3%).
- Zambia has achieved MCV1 coverage above 80% over all of the last 3 years.
- Coverage of MCV1 in Zambia (92%) 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 60% to 52% between 2024 and 2025, and coverage of the last dose (HPVc) also decreased from 60% to 52%.
- HPVc coverage remains well below the IA2030 target of 90%.
- In 2025, approximately 126,000 females in Zambia did not receive any HPV vaccination (unvaccinated).
- Among Eastern and Southern Africa region peers, Zambia ranked 11 out of 17 countries in HPVc coverage in 2025.



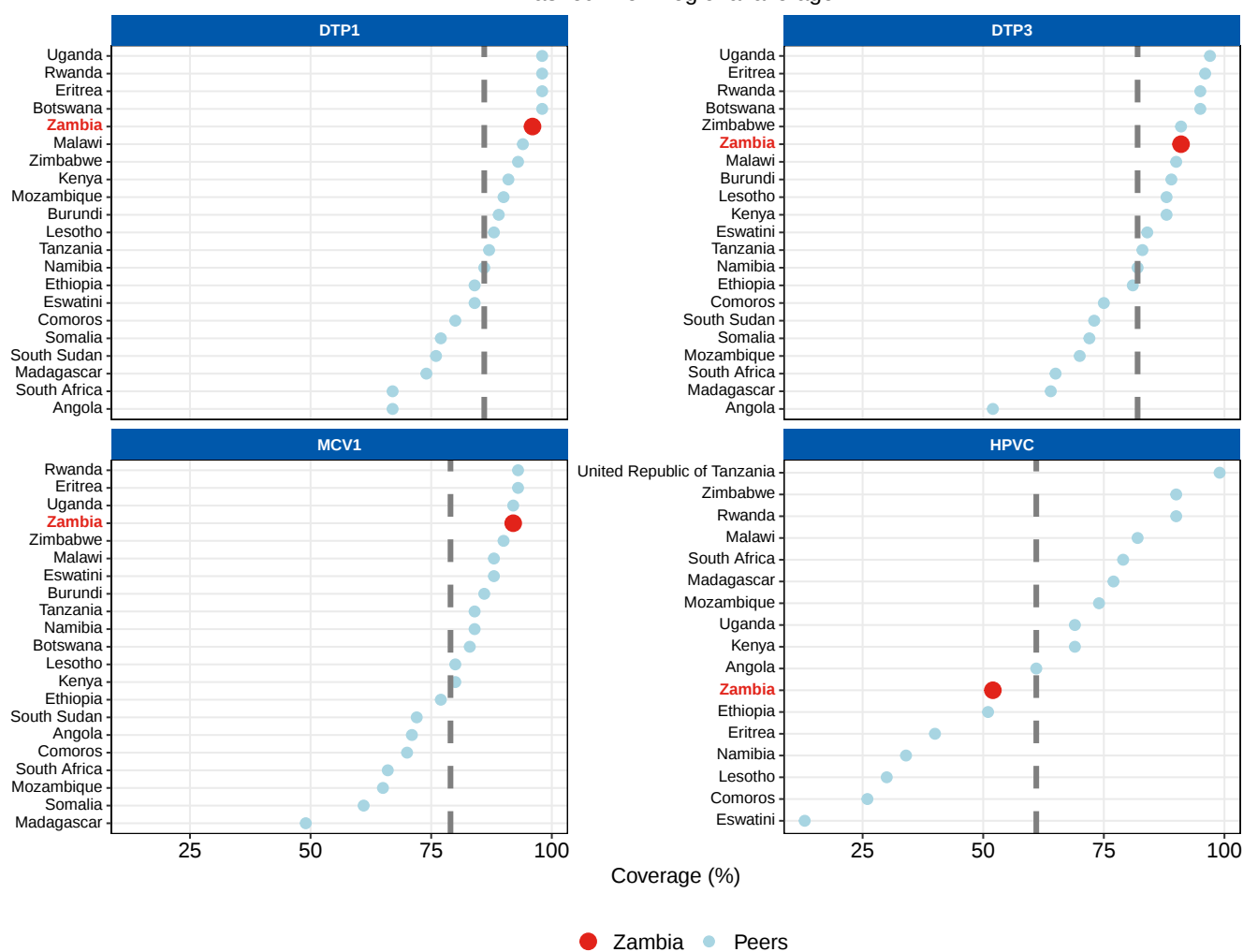
Dotted line shows the IA2030 target of 90% coverage
Source: WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2025 revision.

Regional Comparison

The chart below shows how Zambia 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: Zambia 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 92% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (95%) but higher than in 2024 (90%).
- Coverage of HepB3 stood at 91% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (88%) and higher than in 2024 (87%).
- Coverage of Hib3 stood at 91% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (88%) and higher than in 2024 (87%).
- Coverage of IPV1 stood at 87% in 2025. This is higher than in 2019 (73%) and higher than in 2024 (82%).
- Coverage of PCVC stood at 88% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (89%) but higher than in 2024 (85%).
- Coverage of RotaC stood at 80% in 2025. This is lower than in 2019 (90%) and the same as in 2024 (80%).

Additional vaccine coverage (%), Zambia, 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	94	94	94	93	93	92	92	91	91	92	92	92	92	95	99	97	99	99	91	95	85	92	95	91	90	92
HepB3						82	81	80	87	94	83	81	78	79	86	90	95	94	90	88	84	91	88	86	87	91
Hib3					83	82	81	80	87	94	83	81	78	79	86	90	95	94	90	88	84	91	88	86	87	91
IPV1																			36	73	84	80	78	73	82	87
PCVC															77	81	94	94	90	89	85	89	81	81	85	88
RotaC															73	82	94	96	91	90	87	87	45	53	80	80



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/>