



EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNISATION IN SOUTH AFRICA (EPI-SA) AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK WEBINAR

STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING VACCINATION COVERAGE

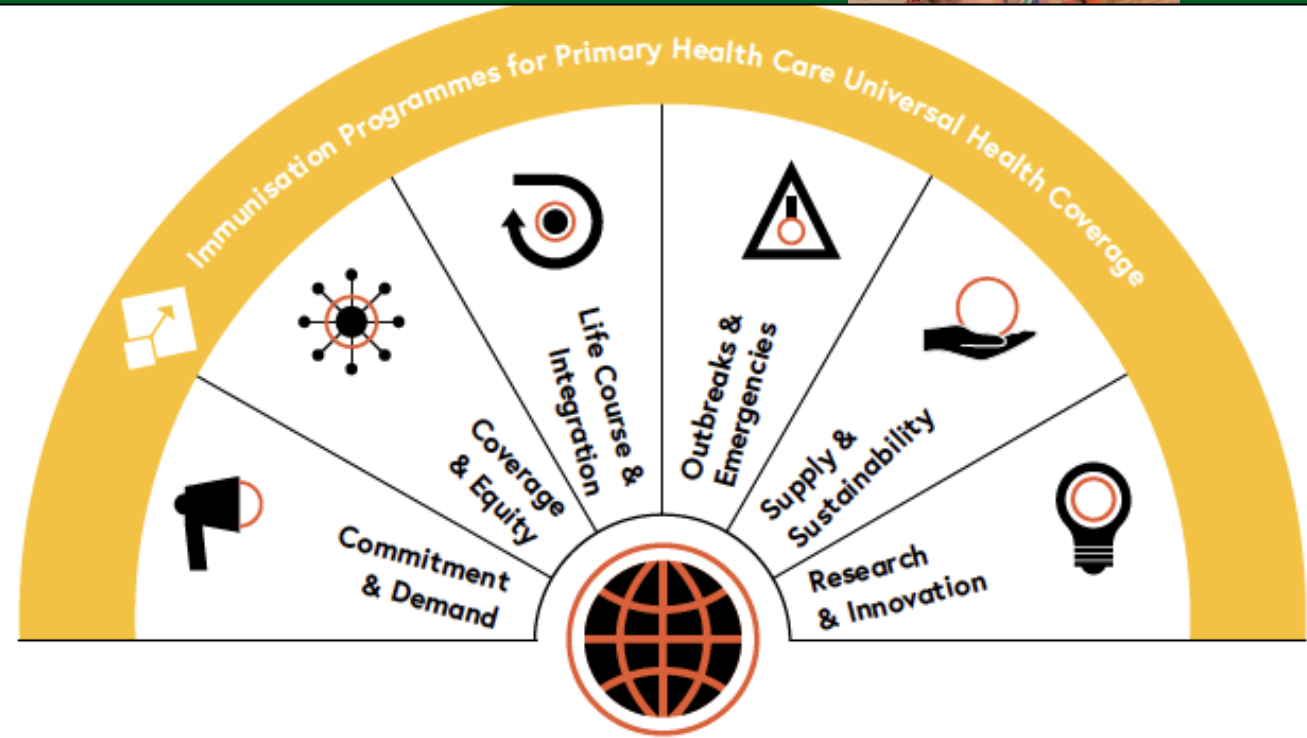
29th APRIL 2025



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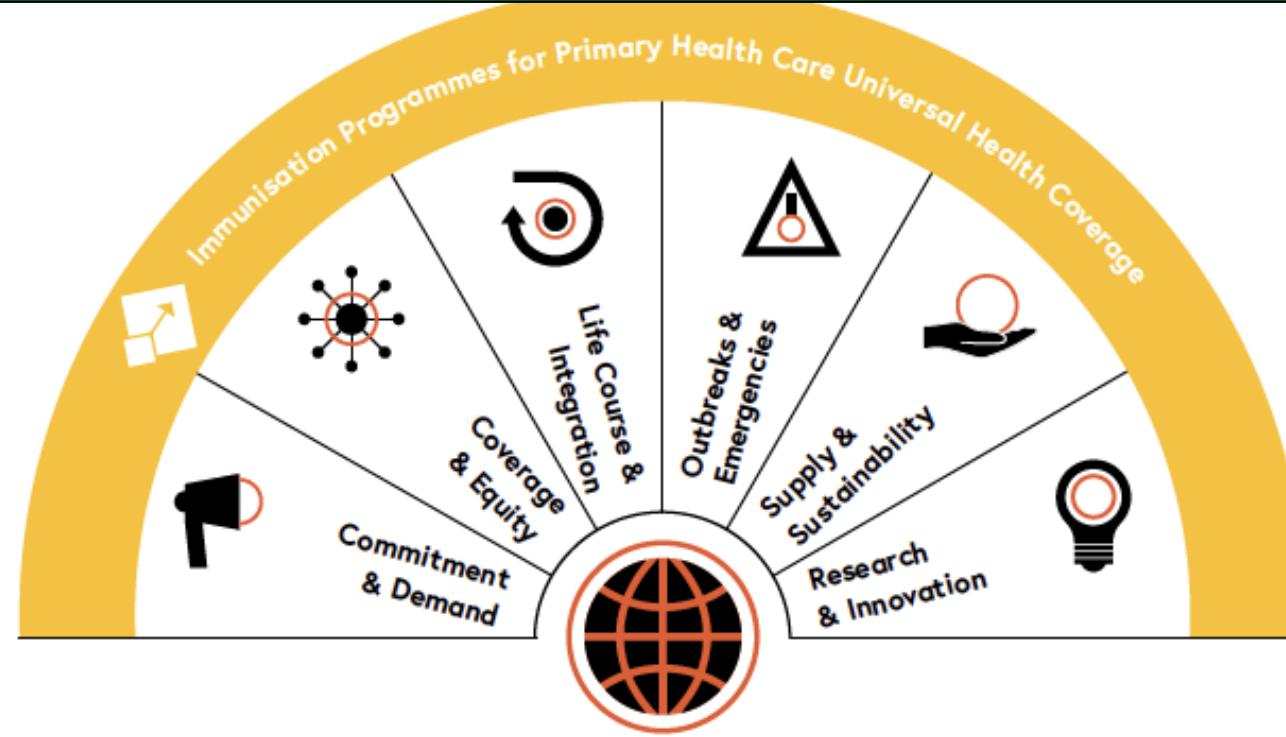
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Components of a well-functioning immunisation programme



- Governance, co-ordination and planning
- Financing
- **Service delivery**
- Human resources
- Vaccine and logistics
- **Communication and social mobilisation**
- Immunisation monitoring within health information systems
- Pharmacovigilance
- VPD surveillance, control initiatives and outbreak response



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Why adopt a life course approach to vaccination?

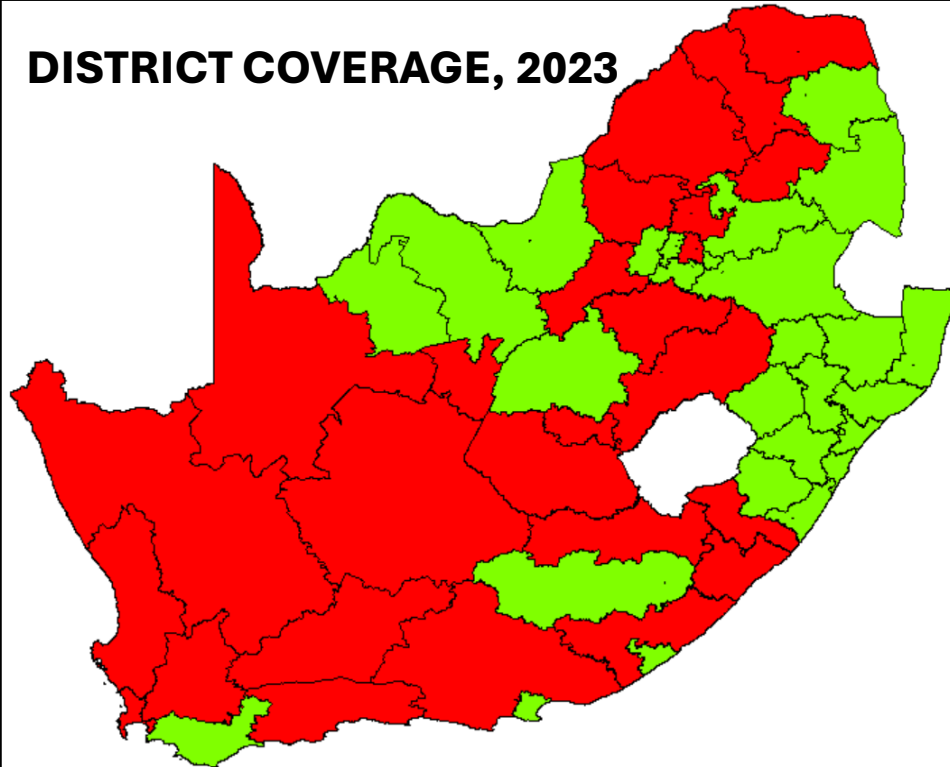


- Over the next decade, changes in population demography, disease epidemiology and the availability of new vaccines will increase the need to reach different age groups across the life course.
- A life course approach to vaccination, expanding or developing new delivery platforms, will provide opportunities for immunization services to be integrated with other health programmes. This has the potential to provide a more people-centred approach to health across each stage of life.
- Immunization programmes that are better integrated in the wider health system can more comprehensively address population health needs of over time, make efficient use of resources, and improve health outcomes, especially of those who are underserved.
- Better preparation for outbreaks and pandemics – lack of an adult vaccination platform hampered efforts to rapidly scale-up vaccination during the COVID pandemic.

FULLY IMMUNISED COVERAGE (%) < 1 YR, YEAR 2023 & 2024



DISTRICT COVERAGE, 2023



IMMUNISATION COVERAGE < 1YR

LEGEND

NO. OF DISTRICTS

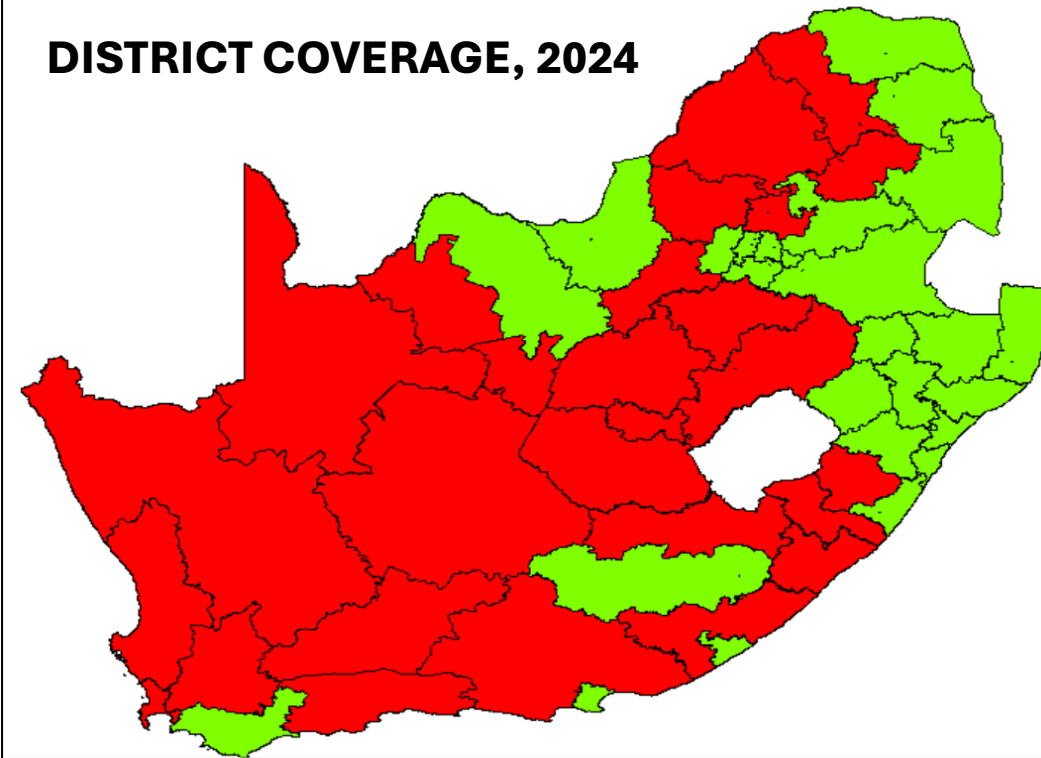
≥ 80.0%

26

< 80.0%

26

DISTRICT COVERAGE, 2024



IMMUNISATION COVERAGE < 1YR

LEGEND

NO. OF DISTRICTS

≥ 80.0%

25

< 80.0%

27

**NUMBER OF
DISTRICTS WITH
FULLY
IMMUNISED
CHILDREN
(≥80,0%)**

YEAR 2020 = 27

YEAR 2021 = 33

YEAR 2022 = 38

YEAR 2023 = 26

YEAR 2024 = 25

What strategies do we have for improving service delivery?



- Reduce the number of zero dose children and improve coverage through reducing missed opportunities for vaccination and strengthening catch-up vaccination.
- Strengthen school-based vaccination through introduction of Tdap and provision of MR during rubella-containing vaccine introduction.
- Develop guidelines and other resources aimed at strengthening provision of adult and maternal immunisation as part of the PHC platform.
- Expanding collaboration with the private sector.
- Develop and implement defaulter tracing systems.
- Strengthen supervision of vaccination services through quarterly facility visits.
- Strengthen provision of outreach services – mobilising community health care workers.

	Province	District	Target Population	Zero Dose by Number #	Proportion of Zero Dose %
8 DISTRICTS WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF ZERO DOSE	Gauteng	City of Johannesburg MM	97, 754	18, 378	19%
	KwaZulu-Natal	eThekweni MM	73, 792	16, 858	23%
	Eastern Cape	Oliver Tambo DM	40, 903	16, 628	41%
	Gauteng	Ekurhuleni MM	70, 042	15, 362	22%
	North West	Bojanala Platinum DM	35, 399	12, 139	34%
	Gauteng	City of Tshwane MM	62, 532	10, 847	17%
	Western Cape	City of Cape Town MM	73, 026	10, 665	15%
	Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo DM	22, 406	8, 710	39%
7 DISTRICTS WITH PROPORTION OF ZERO DOSE	Eastern Cape	Oliver Tambo DM	40, 903	16628	41%
	Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo DM	22, 406	8710	39%
	KwaZulu-Natal	Ugu DM	18, 926	7397	39%
	North West	Bojanala Platinum DM	35, 399	12139	34%
	KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala DM	12, 827	4314	34%
	Mpumalanga	Gert Sibande DM	25, 025	7650	31%
	Eastern Cape	Amathole DM	14, 772	4526	31%

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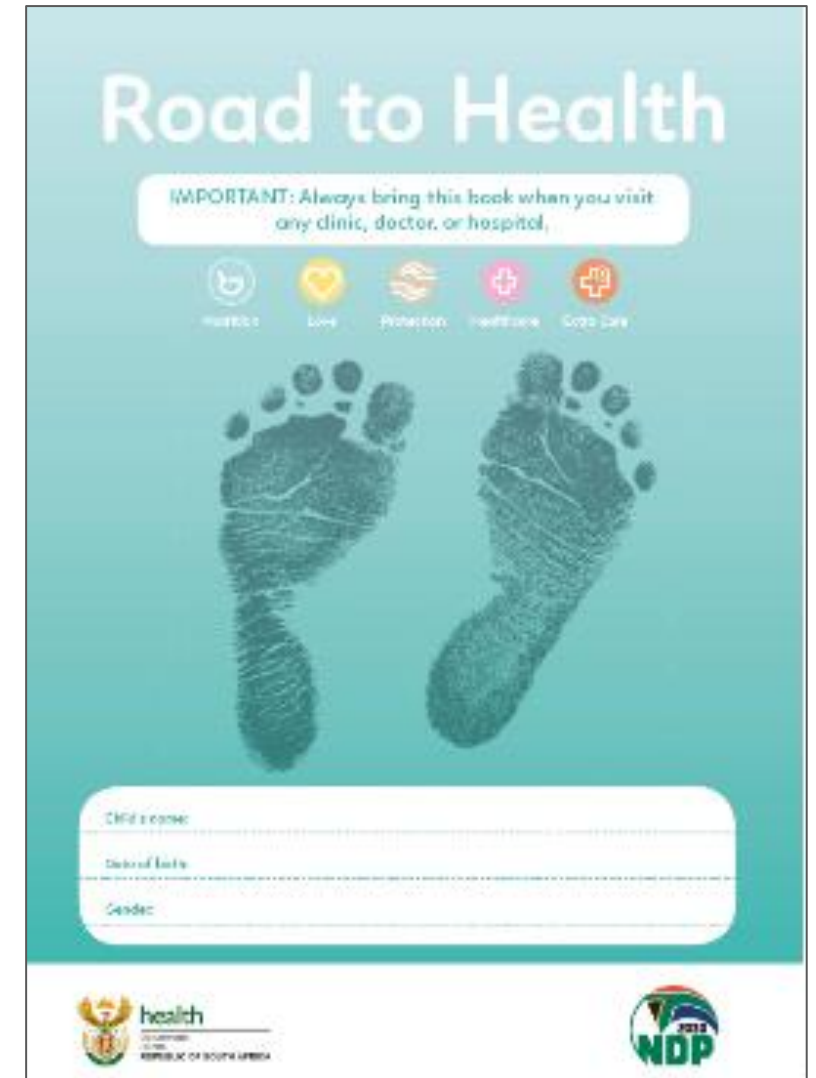
SIDE-BY-SIDE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL

Children receive nurturing care and protection to enable them to reach their full health, educational and earning potential – **optimum child development**.

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve primary caregivers' understanding of the full scope of care required for ECD.
2. Improve primary caregivers' understanding of their role in early childhood care and education
3. Shift healthcare workers' focus from *survive* to *thrive*
4. Increase uptake of the new Road to Health book among primary caregivers and healthcare workers (HCWs).
5. Increase conversation and collaboration among HCWs and primary caregivers.
6. Mobilise communities to identify, support and demand quality ECD.



THE 5 THEMES OF THE ROAD TO HEALTH BOOK ARE WHAT CHILDREN NEED TO DEVELOP



NUTRITION Good nutrition is important for you and your child to grow and be healthy. It starts with breastfeeding.



LOVE Your child learns from looking at you when you hold them close to you and love, play and talk to them.



PROTECTION Your child can be protected from disease and injury by getting immunised and by playing in safe places.



HEALTHCARE Your child needs help from you or a health worker when they are sick or injured.



EXTRA CARE Your child may need special care or support and knowing what to do and where to go will help both of you.

HIGHLIGHTS



IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AVAILABLE

- Implementers toolkit published – guides public health managers, district health partners, NGOs, any possible stake holder in implementing the campaign
- All campaign materials and guide to implantations now freely and easily accessible on www.sidebyside.co.za

RADIO SHOW SUCCESSFULLY ON AIR

- Side-by-Side weekly drama and discussion show is on air on 11 radio stations around the country in all official languages, reaching 3.5 million people weekly.
- Monthly incentive for tuning through a cash competition testing message absorption .
- Feedback from producers is that listeners find the show engaging, the content useful and relevant. Listeners demand a longer programme!
- Listeners are continually referred to MomConnect, Side-by-Side Facebook, eRTHB (mobile app)



FACEBOOK PAGE GAINING GROUND

- Side-by-Side Facebook page now has >8 000 followers and growing daily
- Full-time dedicated community manager answers questions from caregivers, in consultation with Help Desk
- A platform to share health messaging, connect with caregivers, and built a community

DEMAND CREATION FOR PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN SOUTH AFRICA, RCCE



- School communities will be the center of the vaccination programme
- Targeting, ECDs, care givers. It also assists maximizes impact of social mobilization.
- Community dialogues and feedback, to identify and develop strategic plans on challenges existing in routine immunization in the context of life-course .



- Advocate, addressing cultural and religious misconceptions about vaccines
- Promote immunisation and counter anti-vaccine sentiments
- Collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure comprehensive support for immunisation efforts.



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THANK YOU



Love them,

Immunise them,

Feed them,

Protect them,



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