Global updates on vaccination uptake

29 April 2025

World Health Organization

Presentation outline

- Brief on Africa Vaccination Week
- Immunisation Agenda 2030
- Zero Dose Children
- (DTP) Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis coverage
- Measles containing vaccine coverage
- Conclusion

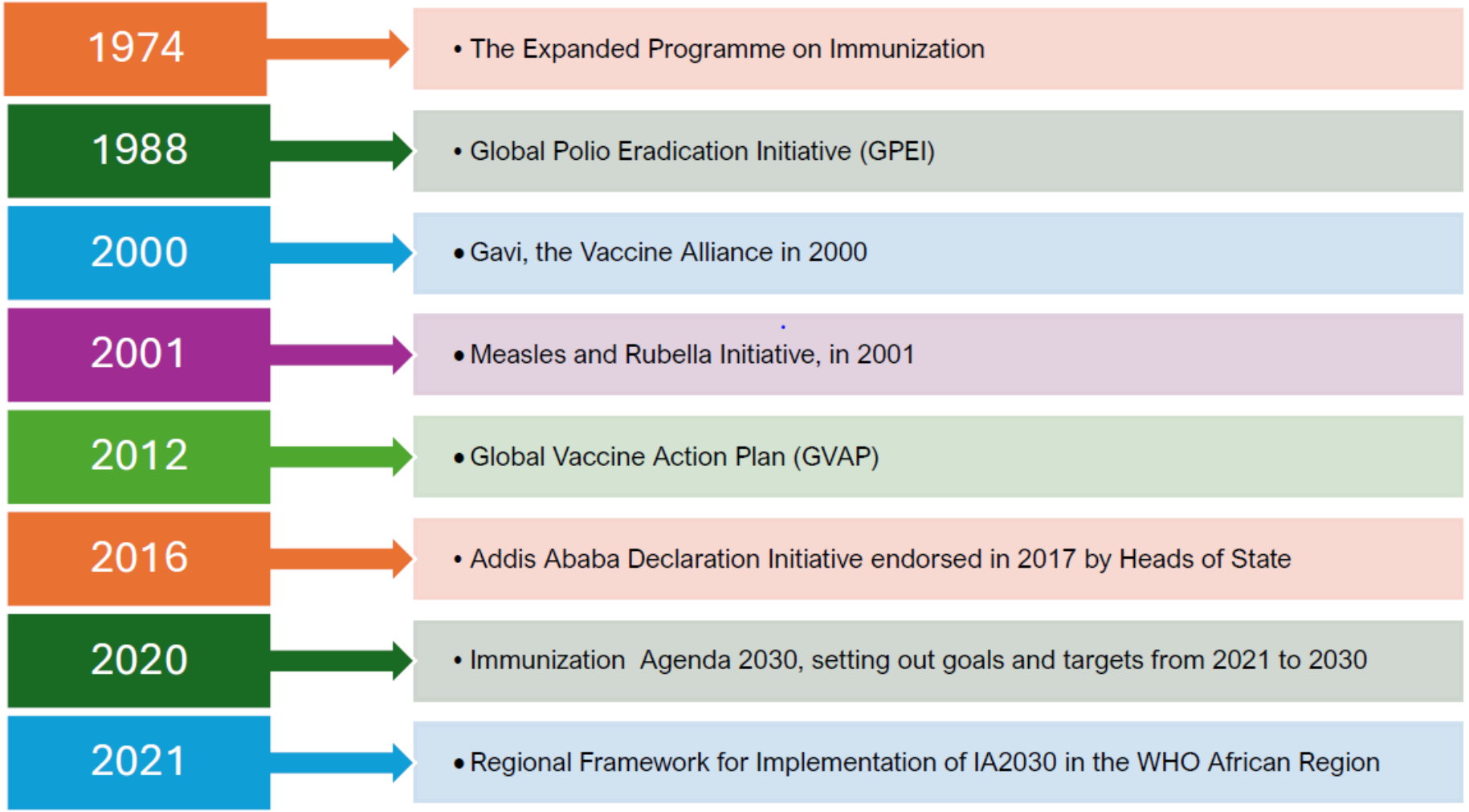
Africa Vaccination Week

- **History**
  - Synchronized with the **World Immunisation Week (WIW)**
  - Africa Vaccination Week (AVW) was institutionalized in **September 2010**. It's an annual event celebrated in the **last week of April (24-30 April)**

- **Importance**
  - AVW highlights the **collective actions needed to strengthen immunization** programmes in the region,
  - increasing the timely use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
  - It **aims to keep immunization high on the national and regional agendas** through advocacy and partnerships, while promoting delivery of other lifesaving interventions.

- **2025 theme** is '' Immunization for all is humanly possible'' drawing from the overarching slogan "Vaccinated communities, Healthy communities"

Global and Regional initiatives



Current Global EPI guiding document is the Immunisation agenda 2030

Countries develop their immunisation strategies

Immunization Agenda – 2030: Vision and Goals

Vision

A world where everyone, everywhere, at every age…

…fully benefits from vaccines…

…for good health and well-being

Impact goals

Reduce mortality and morbidity from vaccine-preventable diseases for all across the life course.

Leave no one behind, by increasing equitable access and use of new and existing vaccines.

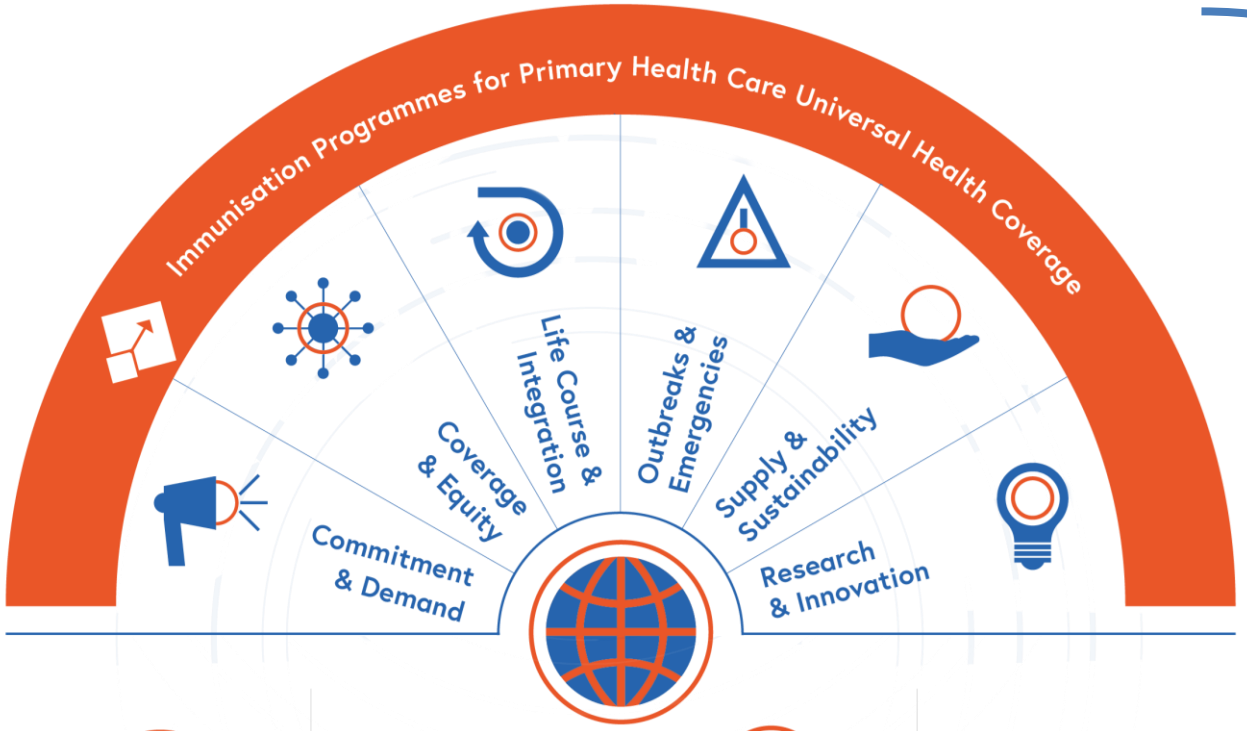
Ensure **good health and well-being for everyone** by strengthening immunization within primary health care and contributing to universal health coverage and sustainable development.

IA2030 strategic framework

7 Strategic Priorities

informed by

4 Core Principles for action



National immunisation strategy

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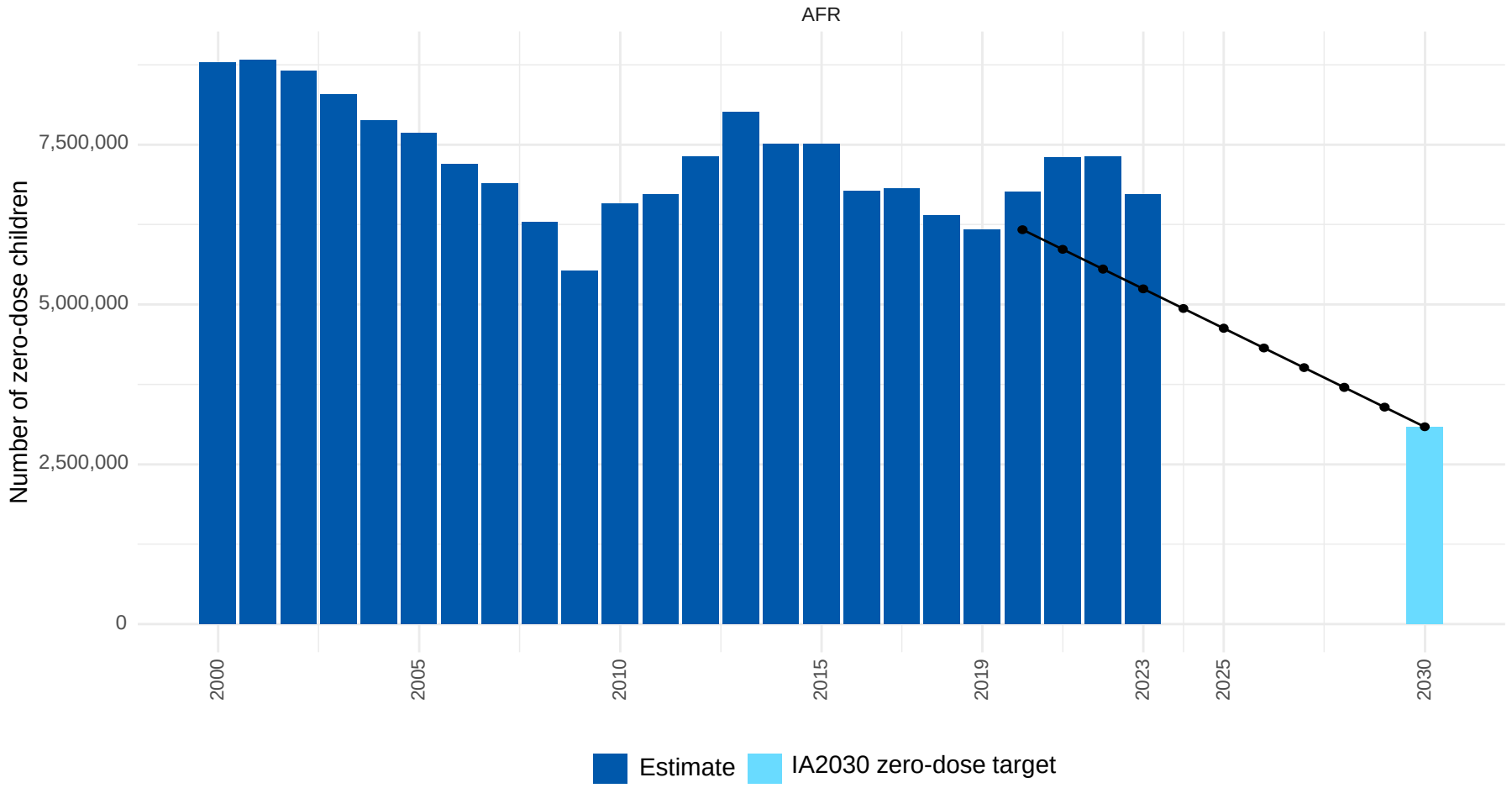
Impact Goal Indicators and Targets

Impact Goal		Indicator	2030 Target
1 Prevent Disease	Save lives	1.1 Number of future deaths averted through immunization[1]	**50 million future deaths averted globally**
	Control, eliminate & eradicate VPDs	1.2 Number and % of countries achieving endorsed regional or global VPD control, elimination and eradication targets[2]	**All countries achieve the endorsed regional or global VPD control, eradication, and elimination targets**
	Reduce VPD outbreaks	1.3 Number of large VPD outbreaks[3]	**50% reduction in number of large VPD outbreaks**
2 Promote Equity	Leave no one behind	2.1 Number of **zero dose children**	**50% reduction in the number of zero dose children at country, regional, and global levels**
	Provide access to all vaccines	2.2 Introduction of new or under-utilized vaccines[4] in low and middle income countries	**500 introductions**
3 Build strong immunization programmes	Deliver across the life course	3.1 Vaccination coverage across the life course (**DTP3, MCV2, HPVc, PCV3**)[5]	**90% global coverage for DTP3, MCV2, HPVc, and PCV3**
	Contribute to PHC/UHC	3.2 UHC Index of Service Coverage	**Improve UHC Index of Service Coverage at country, regional, and global levels**

1. Vaccine antigens included: HepB, Hib, HPV, JE, measles, MenA, Streptococcus pneumoniae, rotavirus, rubella, yellow fever, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, BCG. Measured relative to zero coverage levels (absence of vaccination); target includes deaths averted over the lifetime of the birth cohort by vaccines given during 2021-30.
2. Eradication (polio), elimination of transmission (measles, rubella), elimination as a public health problem (HPV, MNT, hepatitis B), control (Japanese encephalitis)
3. Large outbreaks of cholera, meningococcus, measles, polio, and yellow fever will be defined based on criteria for each disease. A 3-year mean will be used to account for year-to-year variation in outbreaks. The target will be achieved if the mean for 2028-2030 is at least 50% less than the baseline.
4. Vaccines include: HepB birth dose, HPV, IPV2, JE, YF, MCV2, meningococcus, PCV, rotavirus, rubella, DTP booster, COVID-19. Malaria and other new vaccines will potentially be included when recommended.
5. COVID-19 vaccination coverage will potentially be included.

ZERO DOSE CHILDREN

Estimated number of zero-dose children, 2000-2030 and target by 2030, AFR



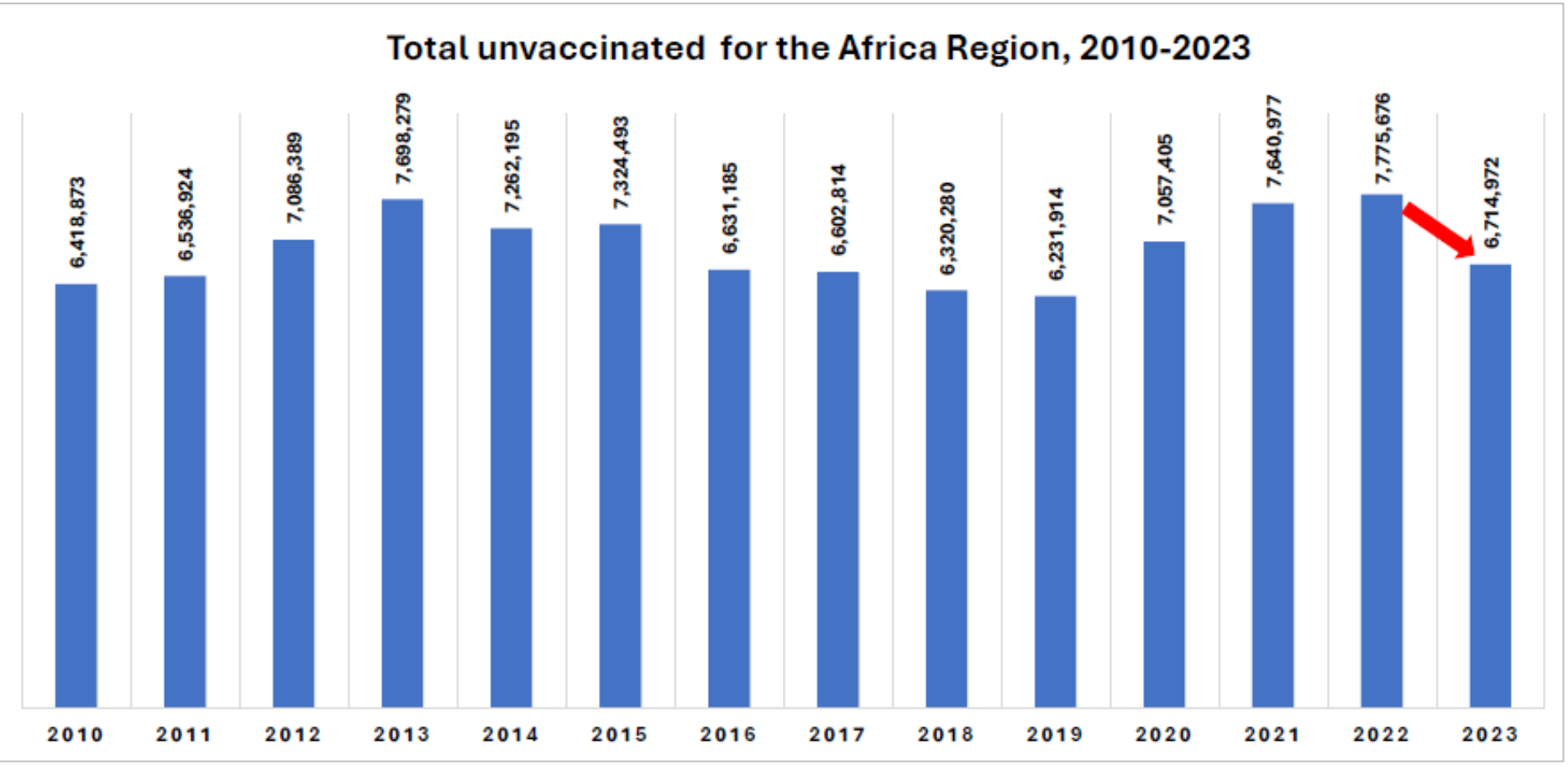
Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision.

Note: The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero dose children in 2019 by half by 2030. Dark blue bars are the estimated number of zero-dose children in 2000-2030, light blue bar is the target number of zero-dose children by 2030. Line shows trajectory the country needs to be on, and points show annual goals to meet the target by 2030,assuming a linear decline.

- The Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) aims to leave no one behind with immunization and calls on all countries to reduce the number of zero dose children by half by 2030.

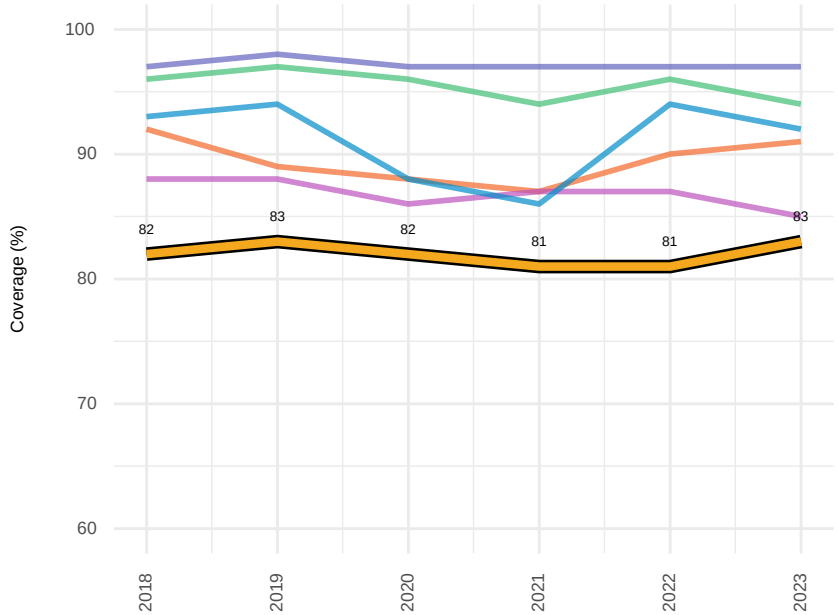
- Annual goals to reach the 2030 target based on a linear trajectory (points)In 2023, the number of zero-dose children was approximately 28% higher than the annual goal.

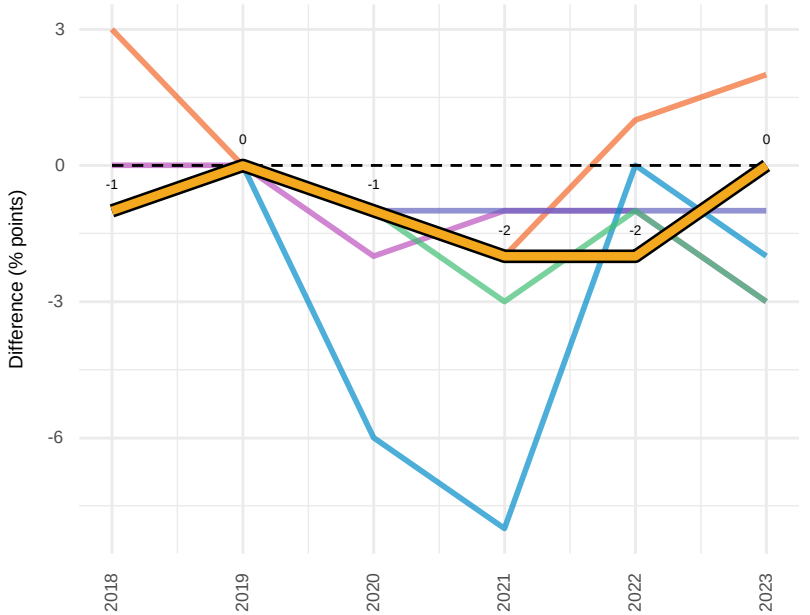
Burden of zero-dose children remains high in Africa



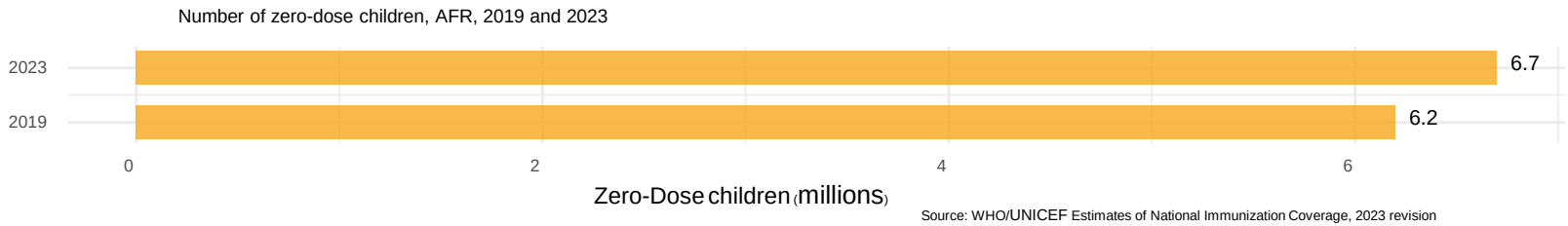
Backsliding in vaccination post COVID-19 pandemic in Africa came after a decade-long stagnation of vaccination coverage and an increase in number of children not receiving any vaccine due to several factors

DTP1 coverage, 2018-2023 and DTP1 coverage difference compared to 2019





In 2023, AFR ranked number 6 out of 6 WHO regions, with DTP1 coverage of 83%.



Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

Note: Coverage difference compared to 2019 - values above zero indicate coverage higher than in 2019 and values below zero indicate coverage lower than in 2019

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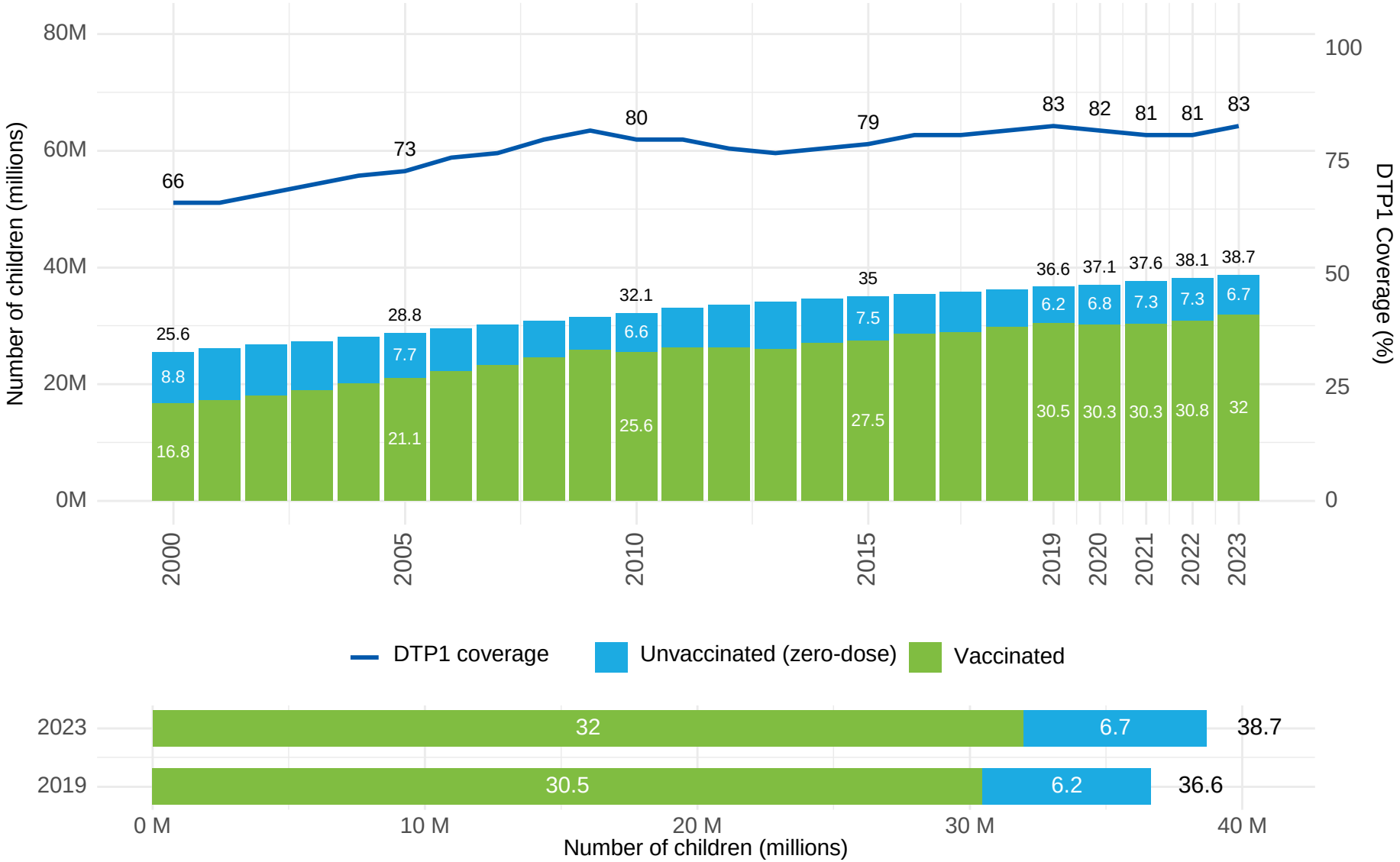
Estimated DTP1 coverage, AFR, 2000-2023



Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

- DTP1 coverage in 2023 was the same as in 2019 (83%).
- In 2023, 1.5m more children were vaccinated than in 2019.
- For vaccine coverage to increase, the number of children vaccinated must increase at a faster rate than the population increases

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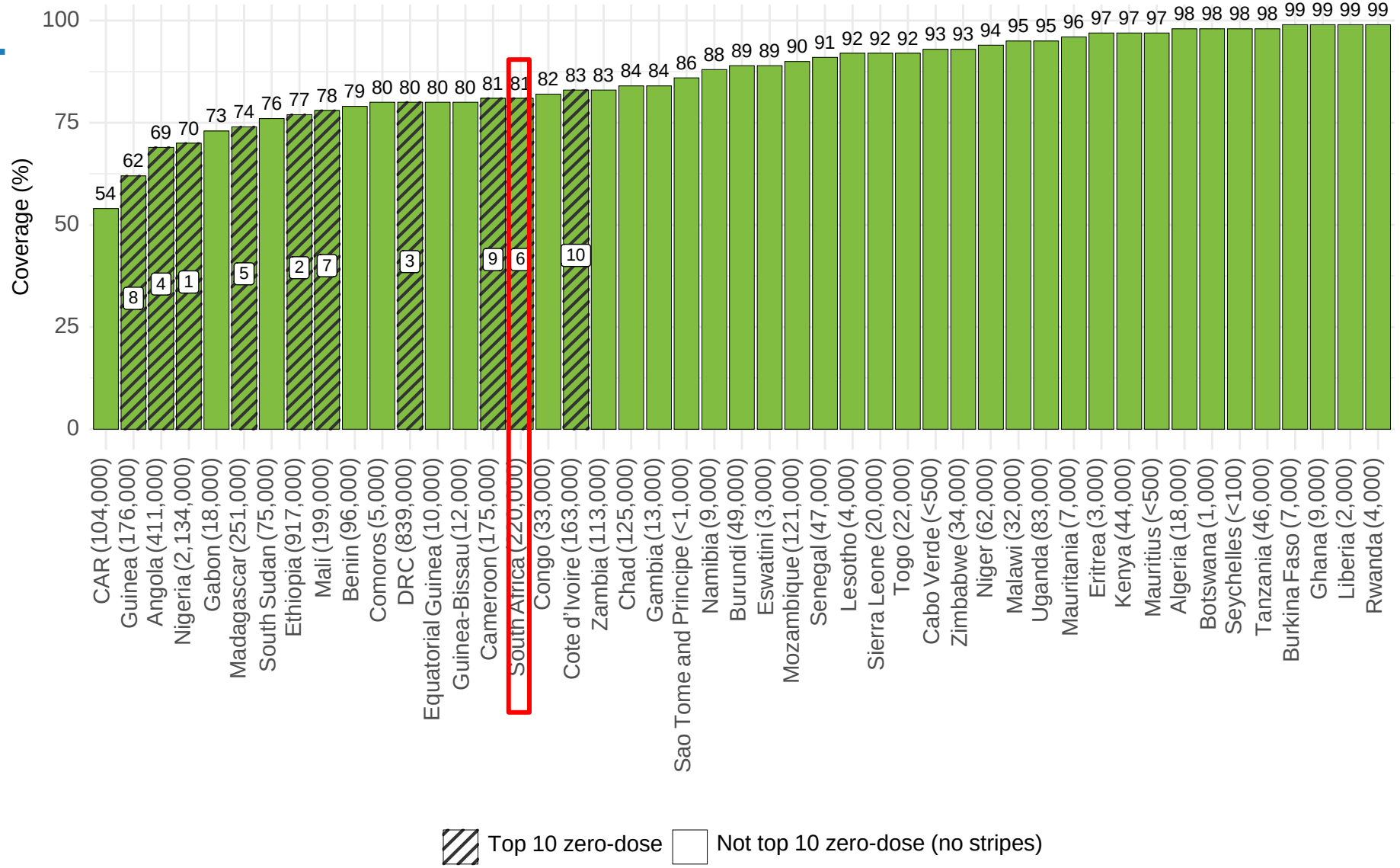
DTP1 coverage by country in Africa, 2023



More than half (25 countries) had a coverage of less than 90% and this includes South Africa.

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision
Note: Bars are ranked by ascending coverage.
Numbers in bubbles display top 10 rank based on absolute number of zero-dose children.Number in parentheses shows number of zero-dose children.

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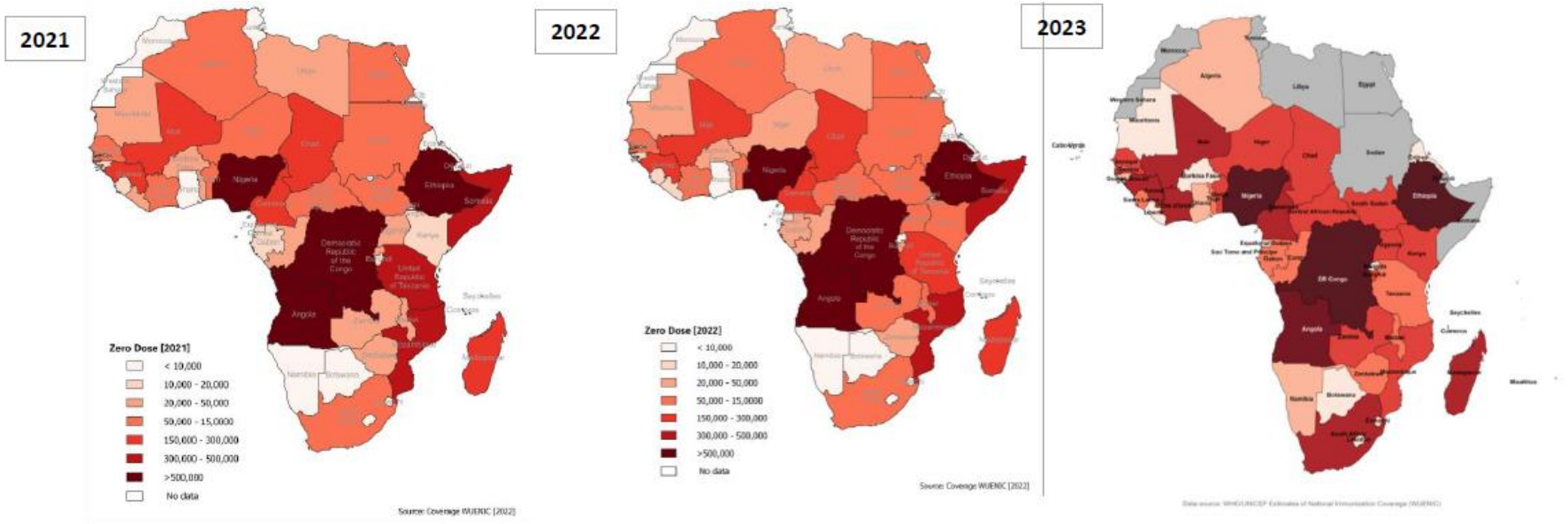
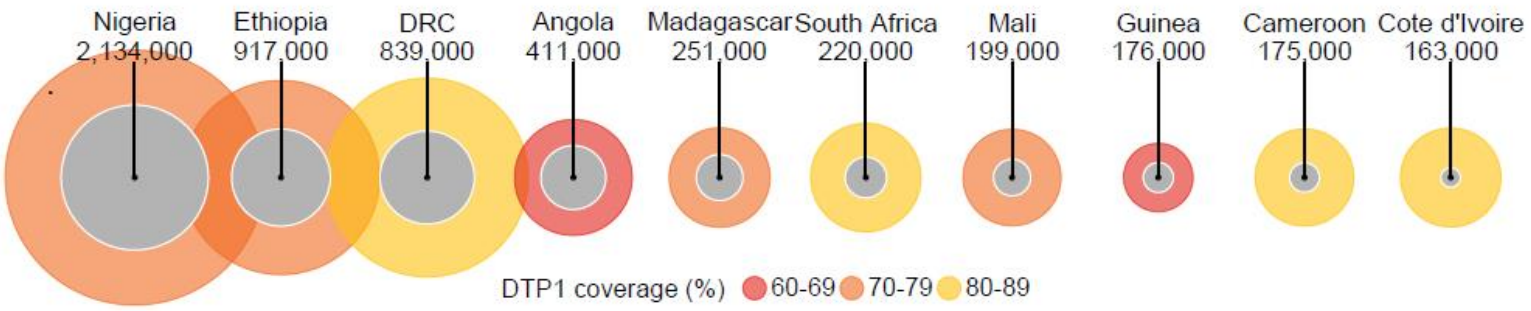
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ZERO-DOSE CHILDREN



The number of zero-dose children is driven by a combination of birth cohort size and programme performance; as such, large birth cohort countries may have many zero-dose children despite higher coverage than other countries.



Top 10 countries with the most zero-dose children, 2023

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

Data Source WUENIC DTPCV1

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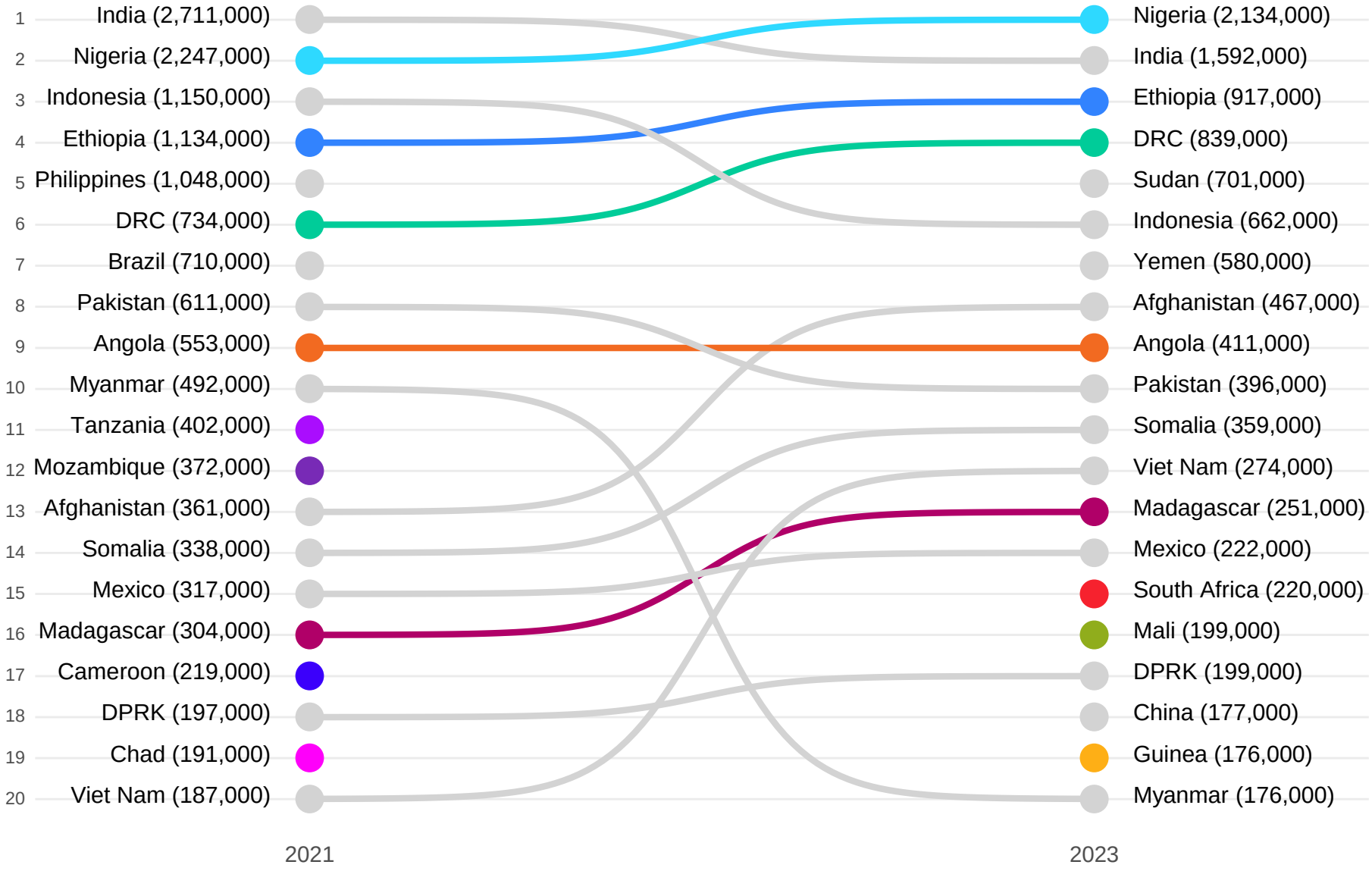
Top 20 zero-dose countries rank, 2021-2023



- Top 20 countries prioritised based on their number of zero-dose children in 2021.
- In 2021, 9 countries in AFR were among the top 20 countries with the most zero-dose children globally
- In 2023, 8 countries in the region were among the top 20 zero-dose countries.

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision
Note: Countries in AFR are highlighted in colour. Number in parentheses is the number of zero-dose children

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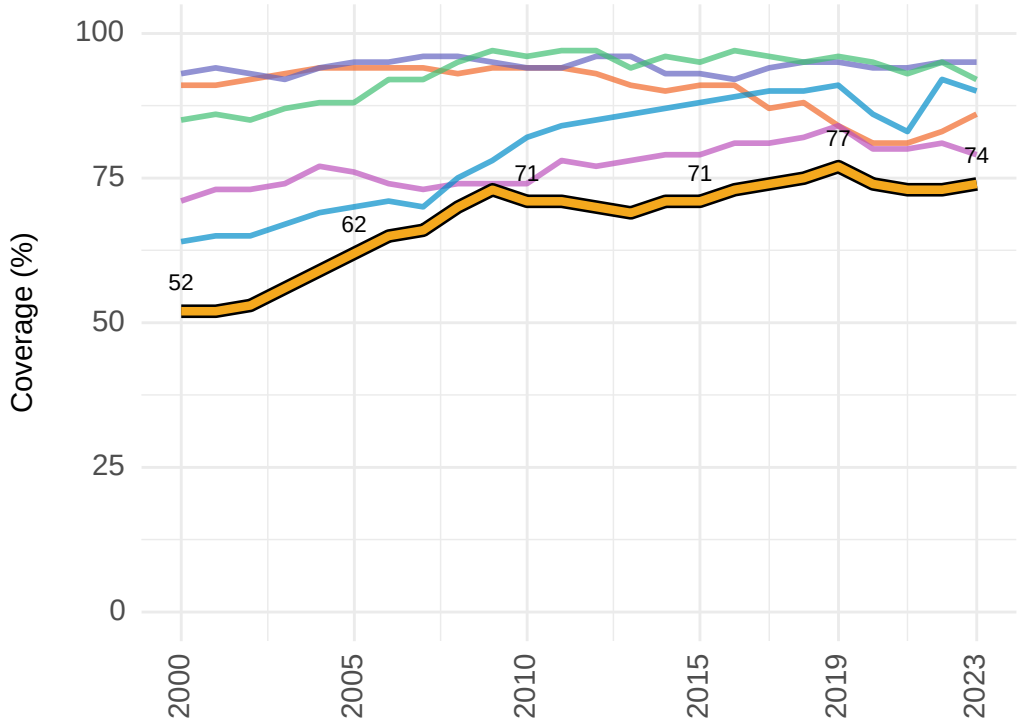
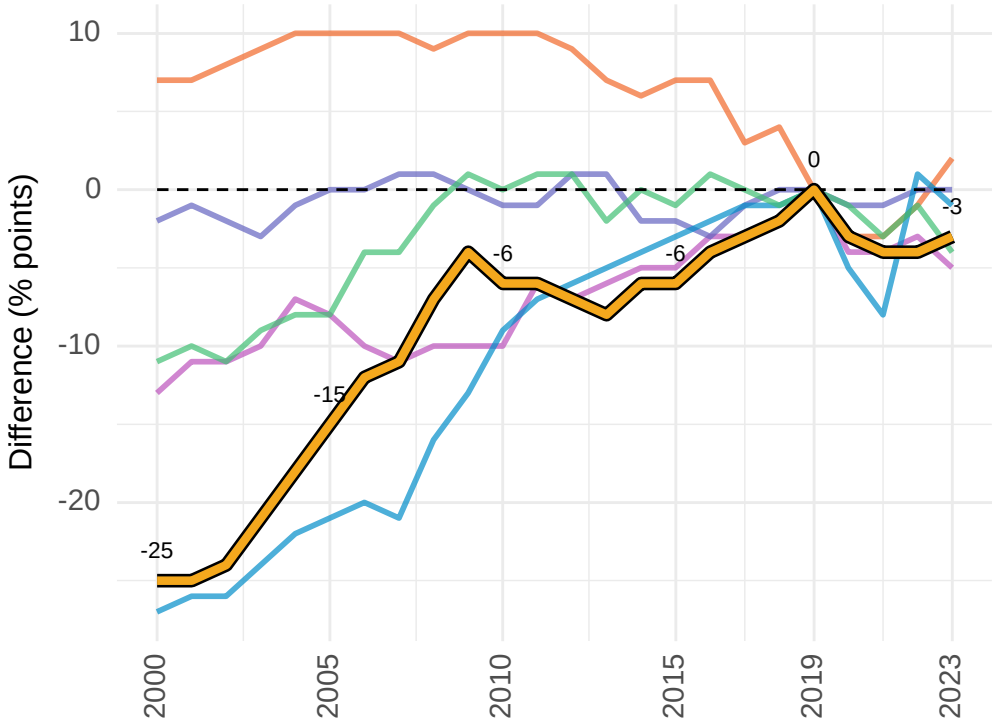
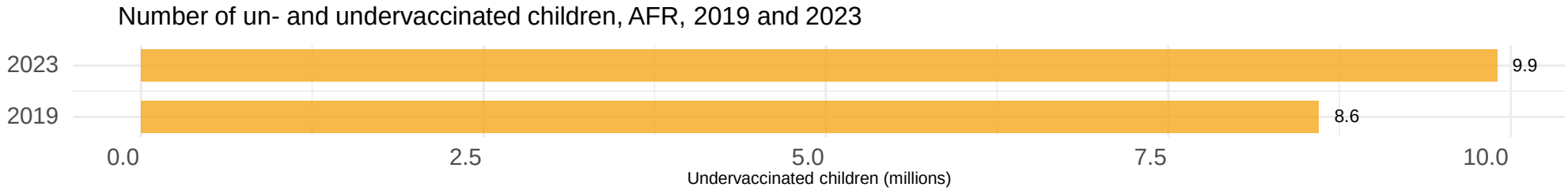
DTP 3 (DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS) COVERAGE

DTP3 coverage and difference compared to 2019







Africa is the lowest ranking of the WHO regions

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

Note: Coverage difference compared to 2019 - values above zero indicate coverage higher than in 2019 and values below zero indicate coverage lower than in 2019

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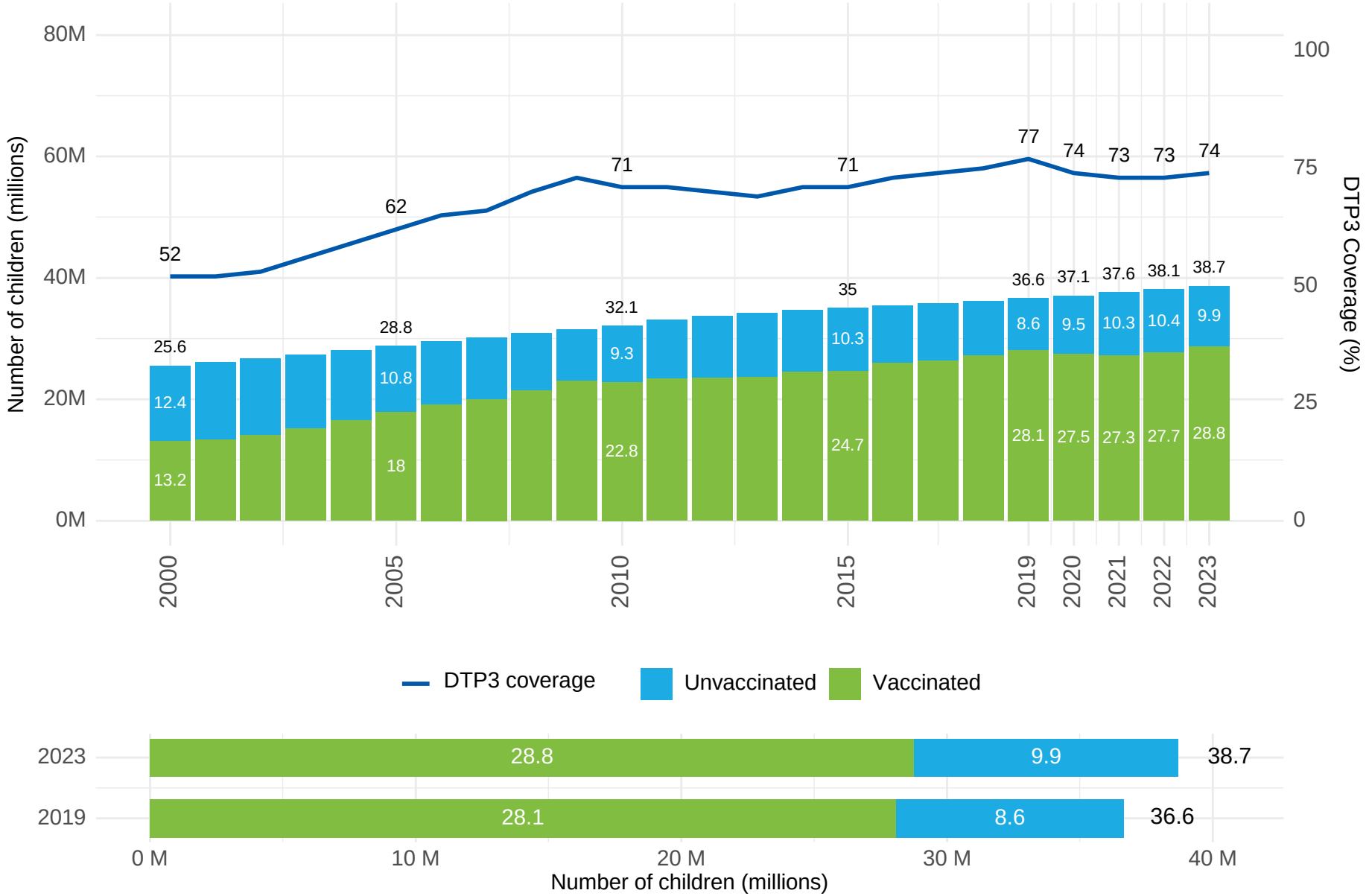
Estimated DTP3 coverage, AFR, 2000-2023



Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

DTP coverage was lower in 2023 despite more children being vaccinated

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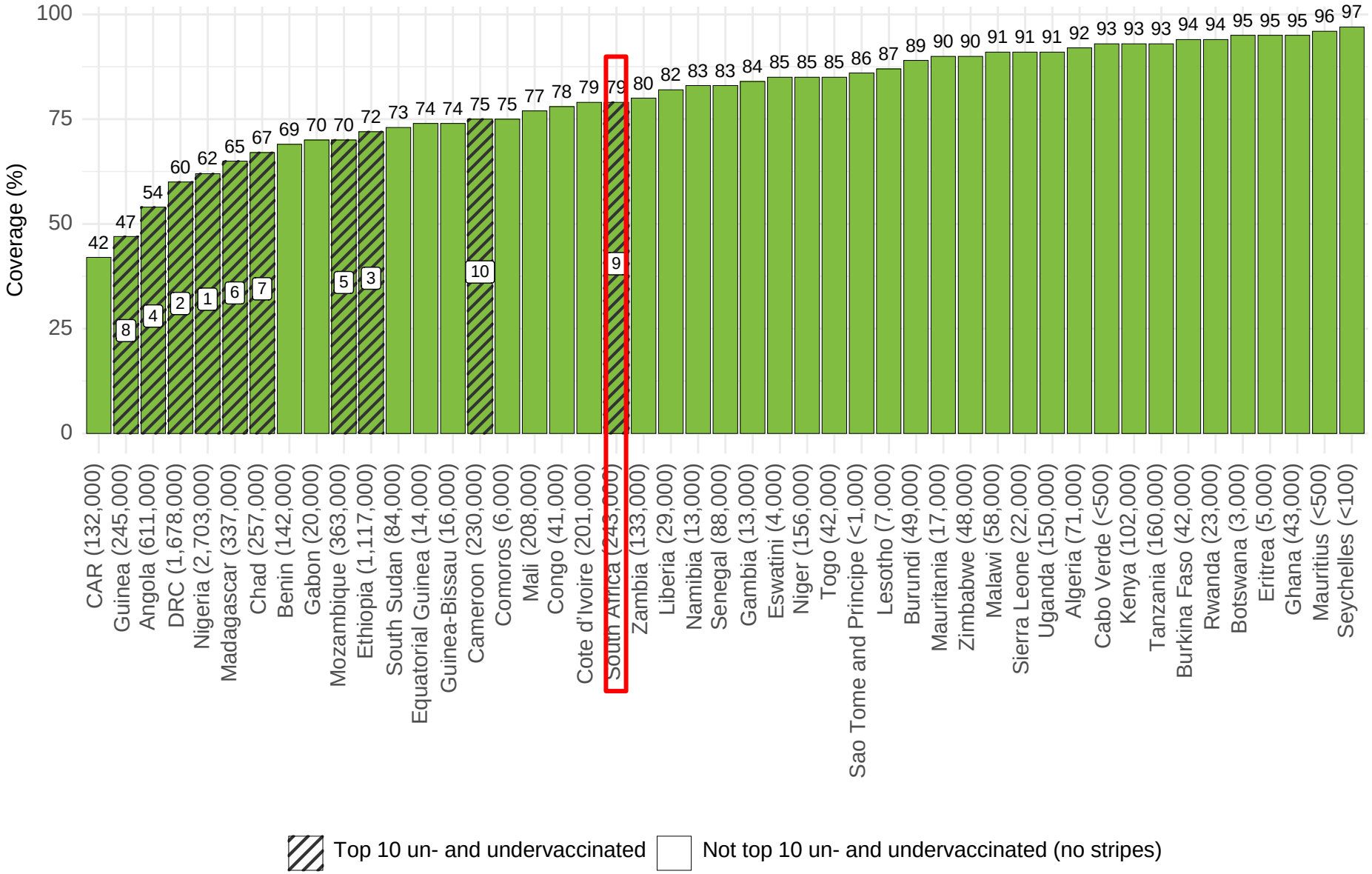
DTP3 coverage, by country, AFR, 2023



68% of the countries had coverage of less than 90% and this includes South Africa

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision
Note: Bars are ranked by ascending coverage.
Numbers in bubbles display top 10 rank based on absolute number of un- and undervaccinated children.Number in parentheses shows number of un- and undervaccinated children.

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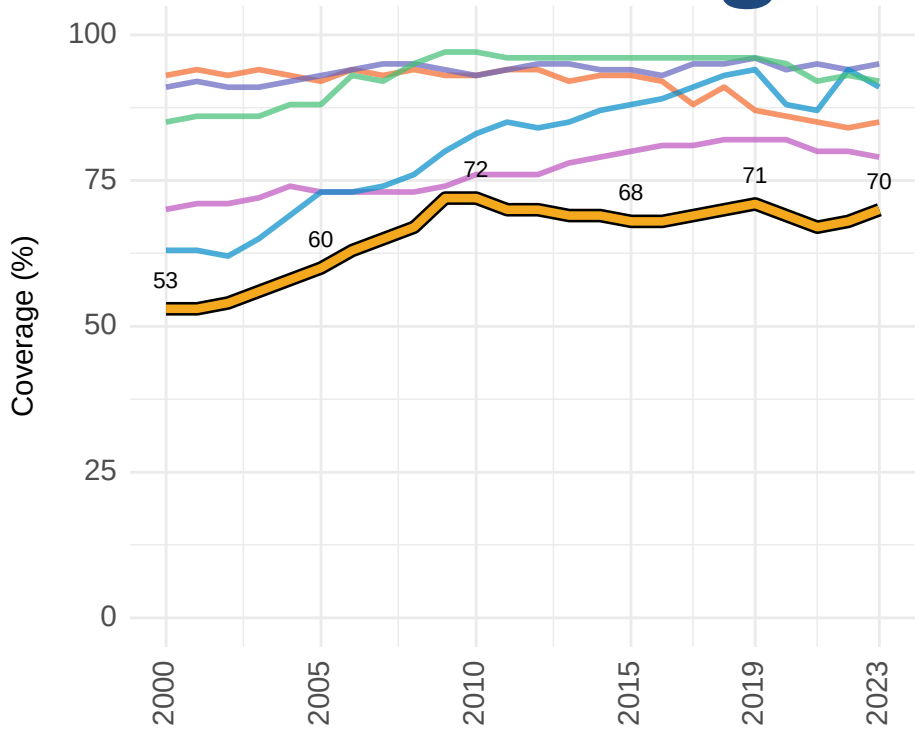
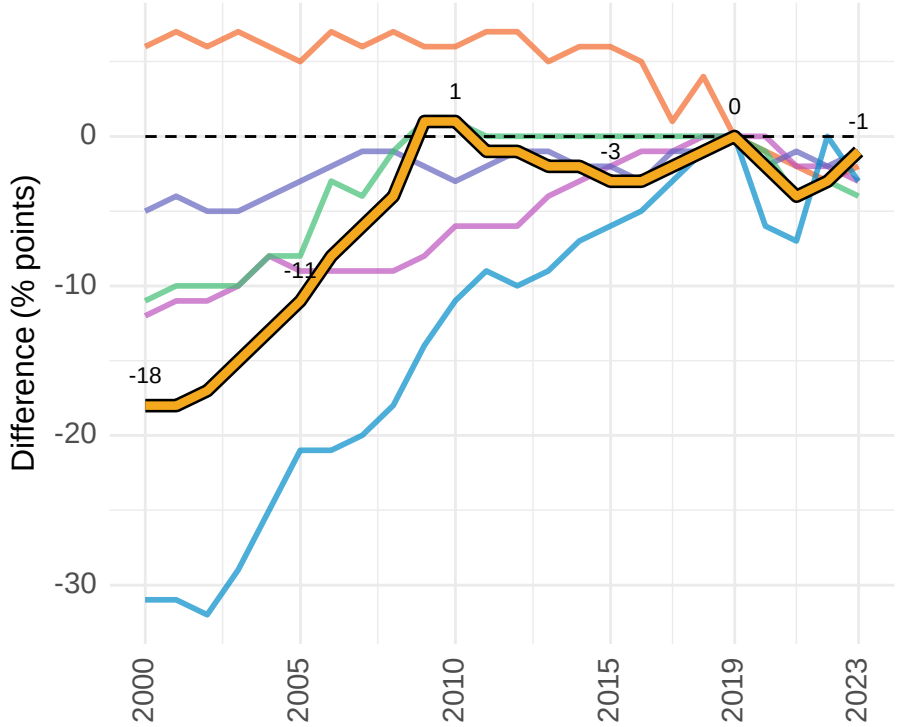
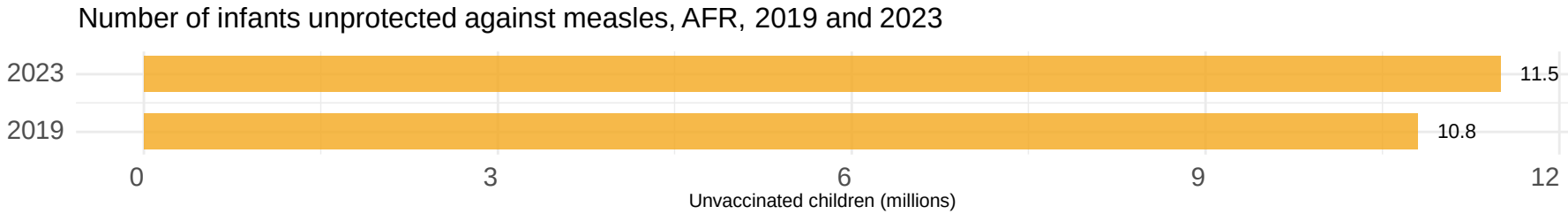
MEASLES CONTAINING VACCINE COVERAGE

MCV1 coverage and difference compared to 2019





MCV1 coverage is suboptimal for but has improved from 2000



Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

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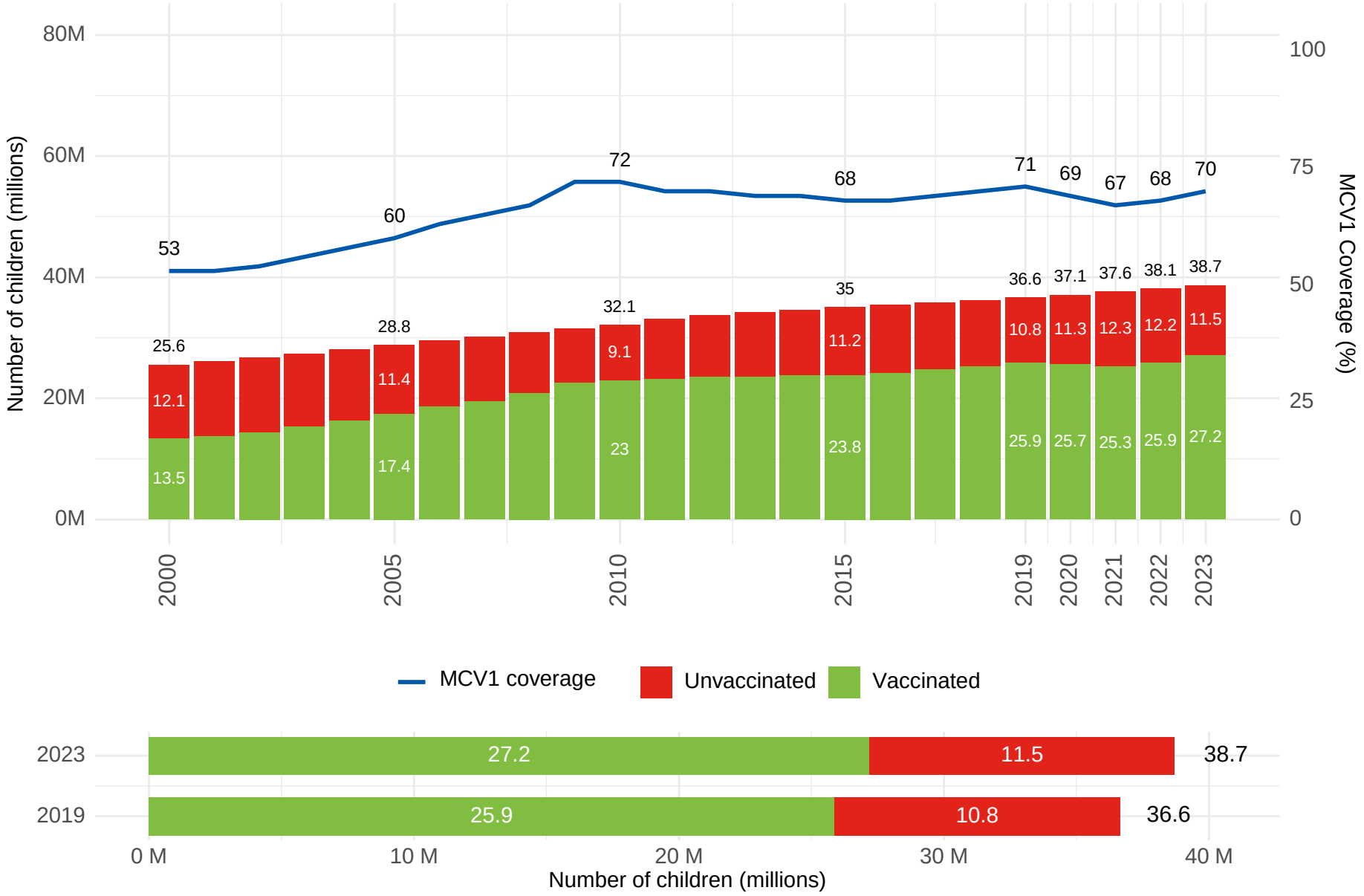
Estimated MCV1 coverage, AFR, 2000-2023



Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

MCV1 coverage is suboptimal in the African region and the number of unvaccinated children is high

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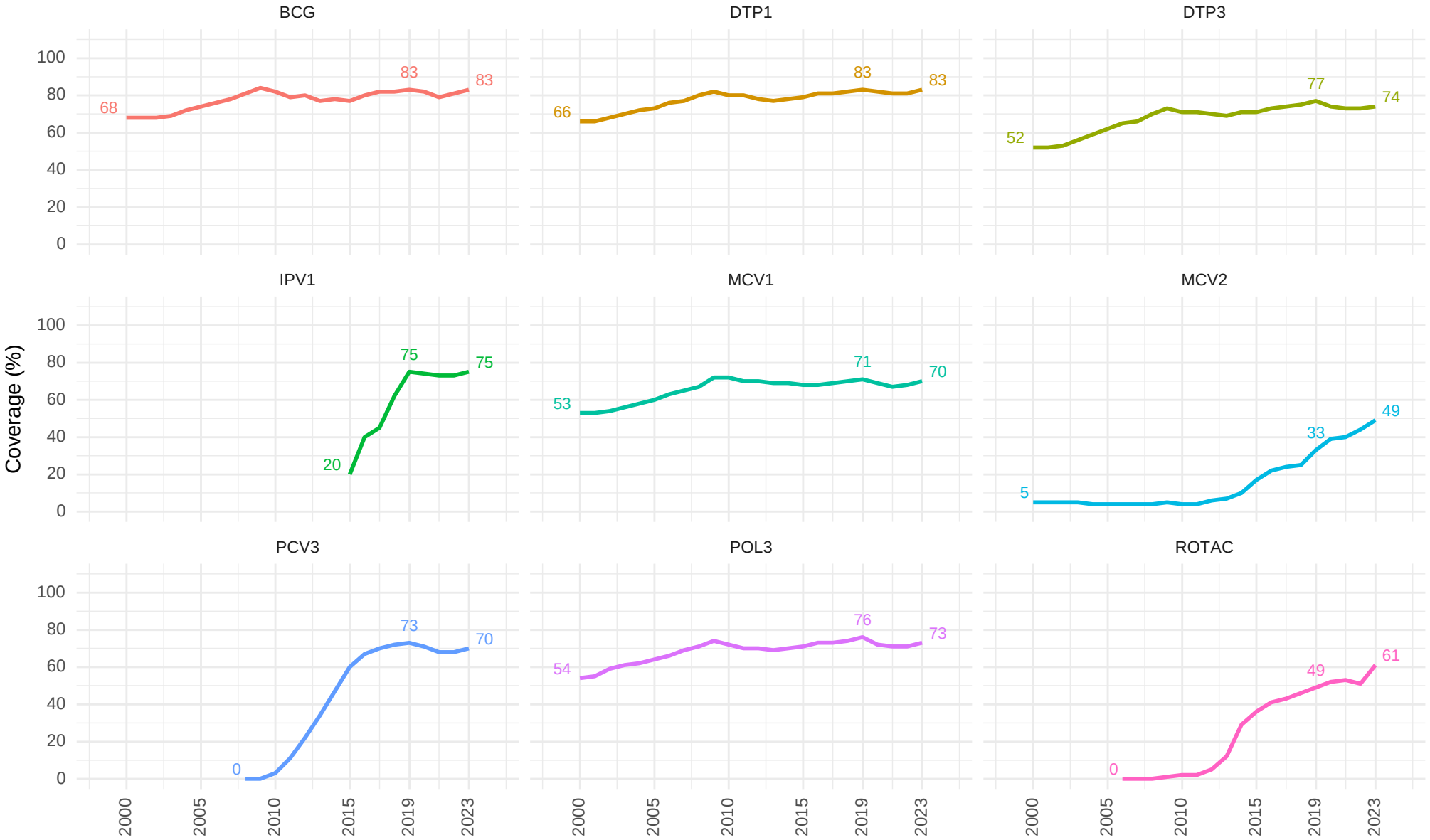
Afr. coverage of recommended routine vaccines



Some antigens have plateaued post COVID-19

Source: WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2023 revision

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In summary

By the end of 2023:

- **22 out of 47 countries** had achieved the global target of 90% coverage for the first dose of Diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis containing (DTP1), which is an improvement from the previously reported 13 countries in 2022
- **Coverage remained low**, with an estimated 83% of children receiving DTP1 and 74% receiving the third dose (DTP3)
- **16 out of 47** (34%) countries had a DTP3 coverage rate of at least 90%.
- The number of children receiving the first dose **(MCV1) increased from 69% in 2022 to 70% in 2023.**
- **Only 3 countries out of 43 had achieved the global target of 90% MCV2** coverage (Algeria, Mauritius, and Sao Tome), while 14 countries have recorded less than 50%

A Case for Immunization: An investment that delivers multiple benefits

Saving lives and ensuring healthier lives

>2.5M lives saved every year

Acting as an accelerator for PHC and UHC

>117M people immunized every year

Ensuring health security

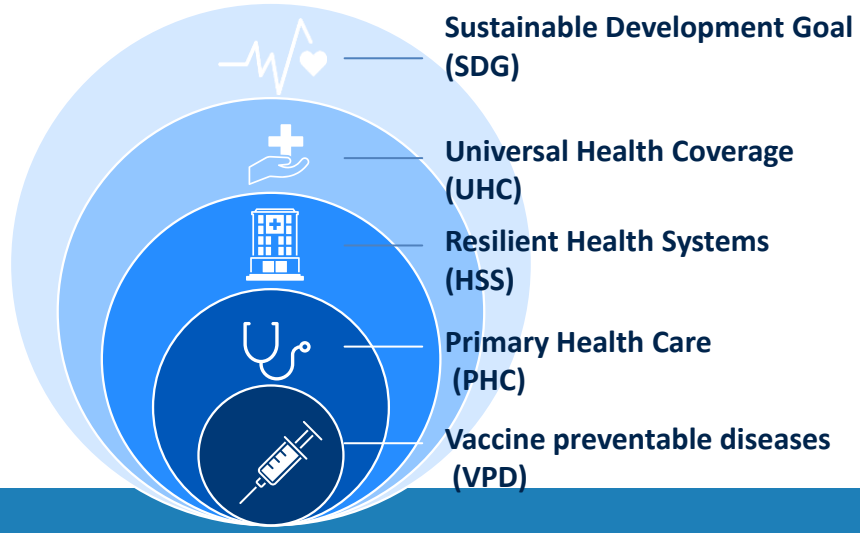
Thousands of deaths caused by measles and diphtheria outbreaks

Delivering economic benefits

44-times return on investment

Promoting sustainable development

Contributes to or enhances 14 out of the 17 SDGs



Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Resilient Health Systems (HSS)

Primary Health Care (PHC)

Vaccine preventable diseases (VPD)

In conclusion

Are we on-track to achieving Immunization Agenda 2030 goals where everyone, everywhere, has access to life-saving vaccines at all times?

The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

We all have a part to play: What is your role?

THANK YOU