

Impact of  
COVID-19 on  
childhood  
immunisation  
programmes –  
a global  
perspective

The Big Catch-Up Immunisation Conference  
20/10/23

Pete Murray  
Public health physician  
HNEPHU

# Acknowledgement of Country

# What I will cover today

## Global perspective:

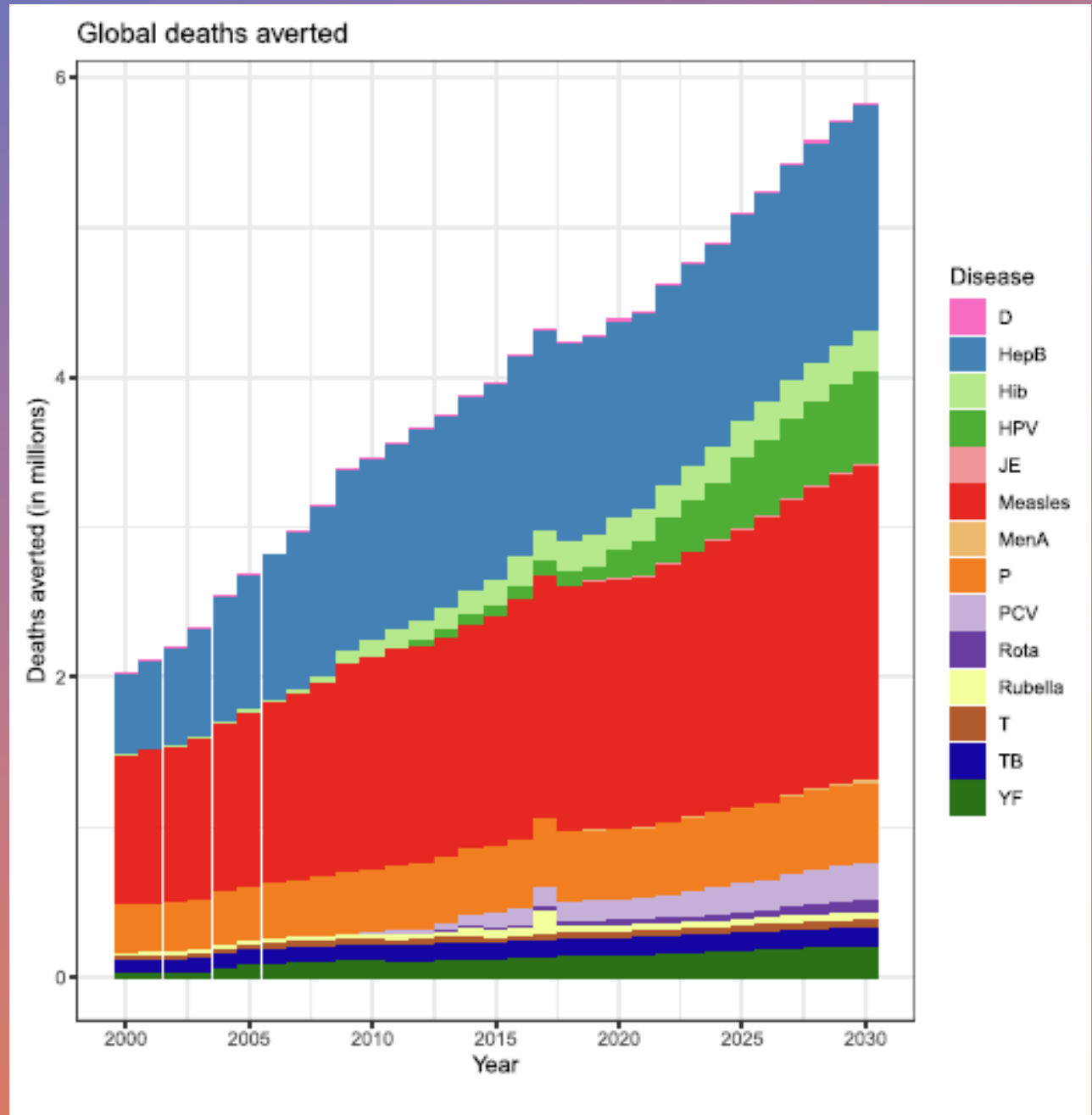
- Why is global immunisation coverage relevant to us?
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Regional issues

## Specific issues:

- Measles
- Polio

# Why is global immunisation coverage relevant to us?

Source: Carter A, Msemburi W, Sim SY, Gaythorpe KA, Lambach P, Lindstrand A, Hutubessy R. Modeling the impact of vaccination for the Immunization Agenda 2030: Deaths averted due to vaccination against 14 pathogens in 194 countries from 2021 to 2030. Vaccine. 2023 Aug 1:



Why is global  
immunisation  
coverage relevant  
to us?



# Impacts of COVID-19

## **COVID-19 pandemic fuels largest continued backslide in vaccinations in three decades**

**WHO and UNICEF sound the alarm as new data shows global vaccination coverage continued to decline in 2021, with 25 million infants missing out on lifesaving vaccines**

15 July 2022 | Joint News Release | Geneva/New York | Reading time: 6 min (1581 words)

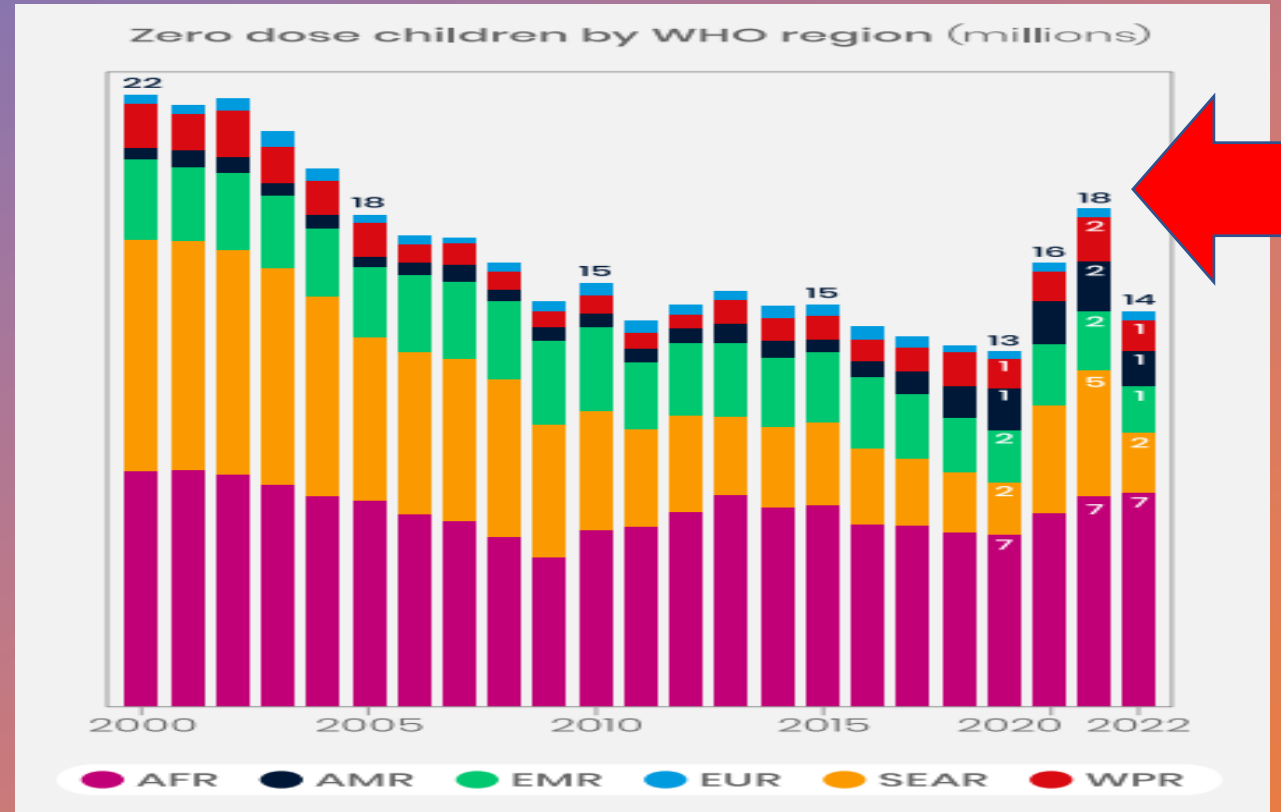
Impacts of COVID-19 -

Multiple drivers of decline in coverage



# Impacts of COVID-19 -

In 2022, there were  
~14 million zero-dose  
children



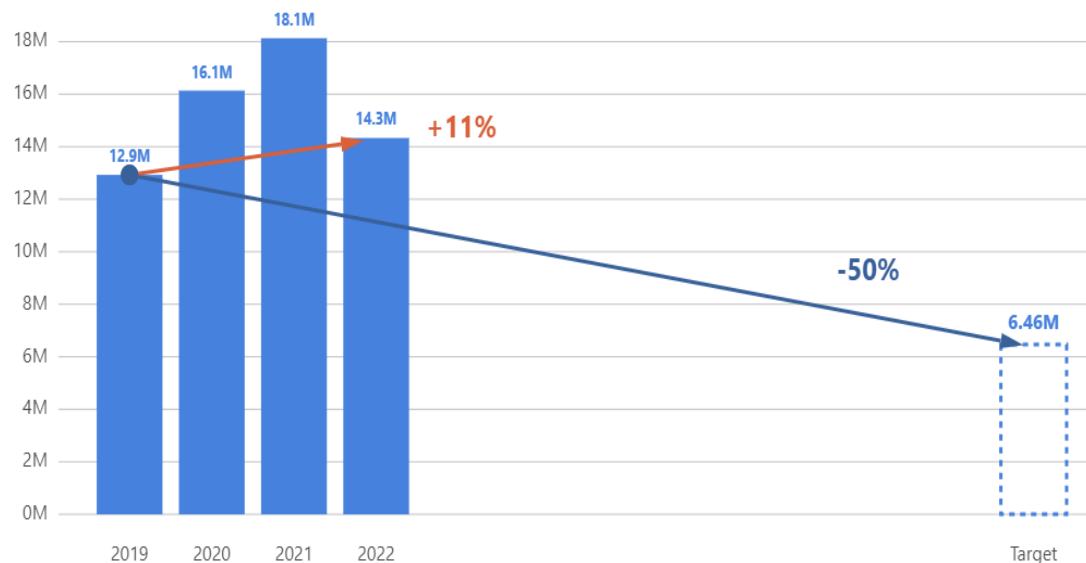
SOURCE: UNICEF. Progress and challenges with achieving universal immunization coverage (July 2023)  
[https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges\\_wuenic2022.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges_wuenic2022.pdf)



# Impacts of COVID-19 -

Pandemic set back progress towards global zero-dose 2030 target

Number of zero-dose children—Global



Target:  
**50%**  
reduction in number  
of zero-dose children

! Off track toward 2030 target

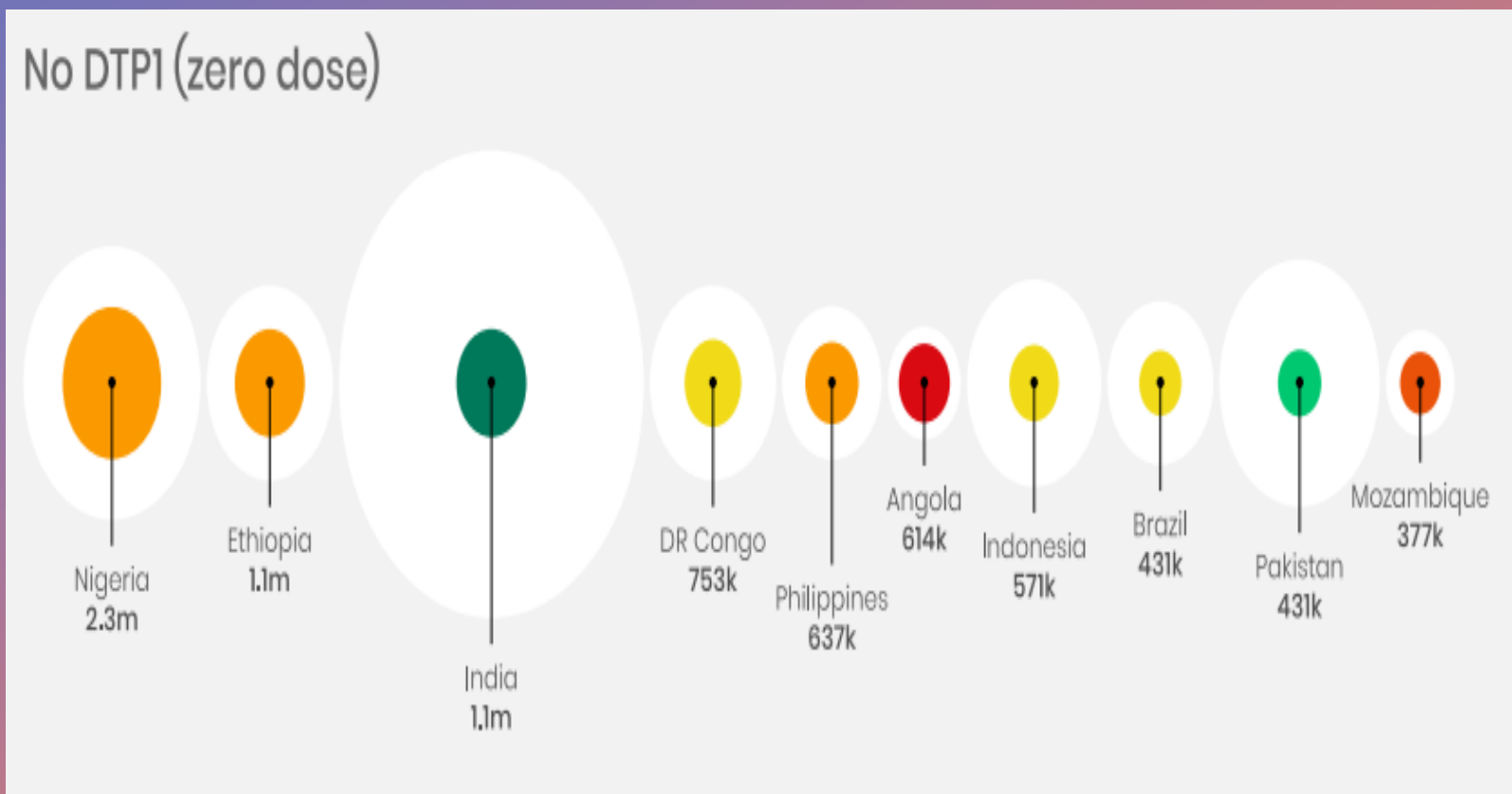
Immunization Agenda 2030 Scorecard

**Data source:** WHO-UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) and UNPD population estimates

12 October 2023 © Immunization Agenda 2030

# Impacts of COVID-19 -

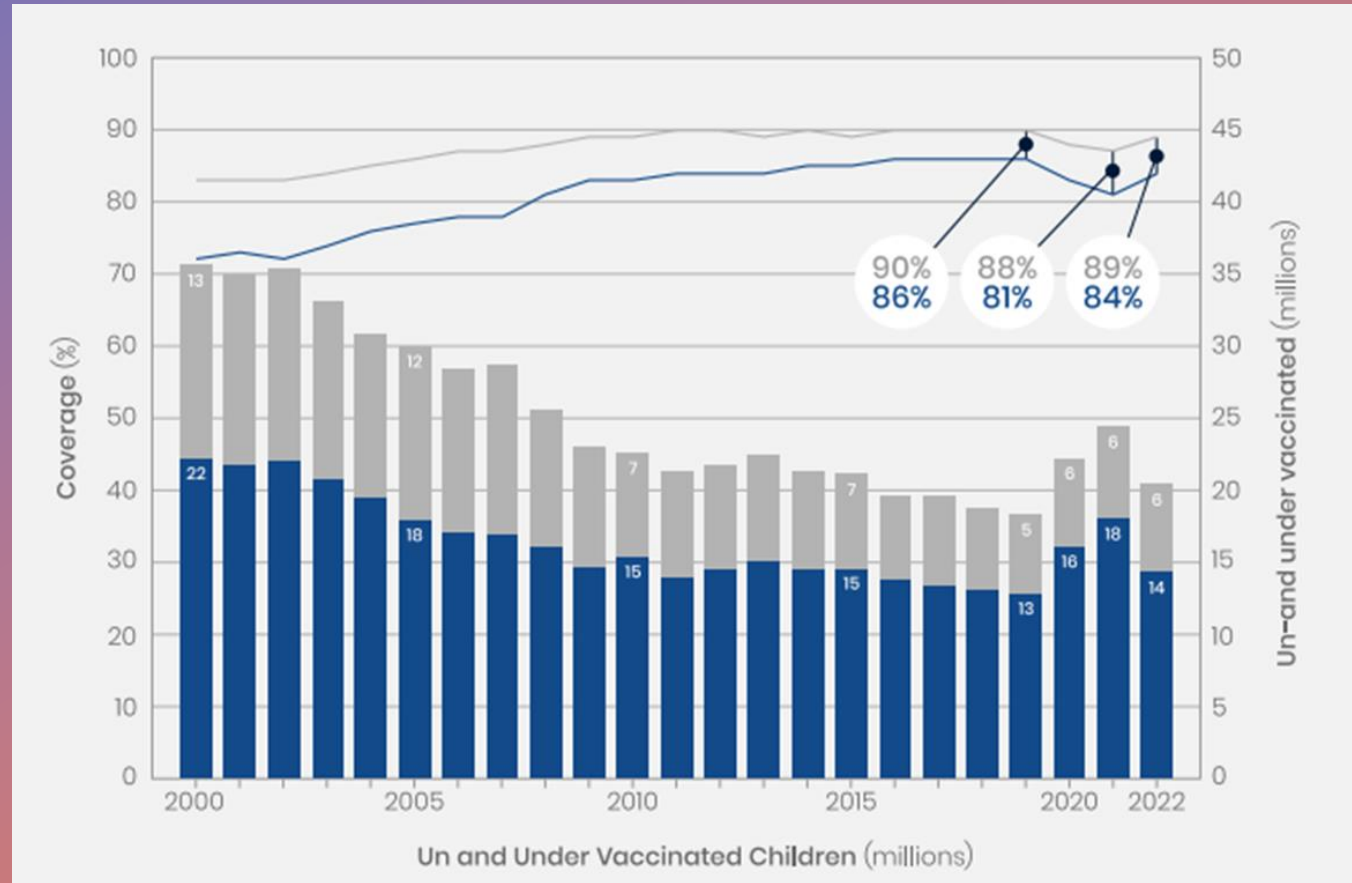
10 countries  
account for 58%  
of zero-dose  
children (2022)



SOURCE: UNICEF. Progress and challenges with achieving universal immunization coverage (July 2023)  
[https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges\\_wuenic2022.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges_wuenic2022.pdf)

# Impacts of COVID-19 -

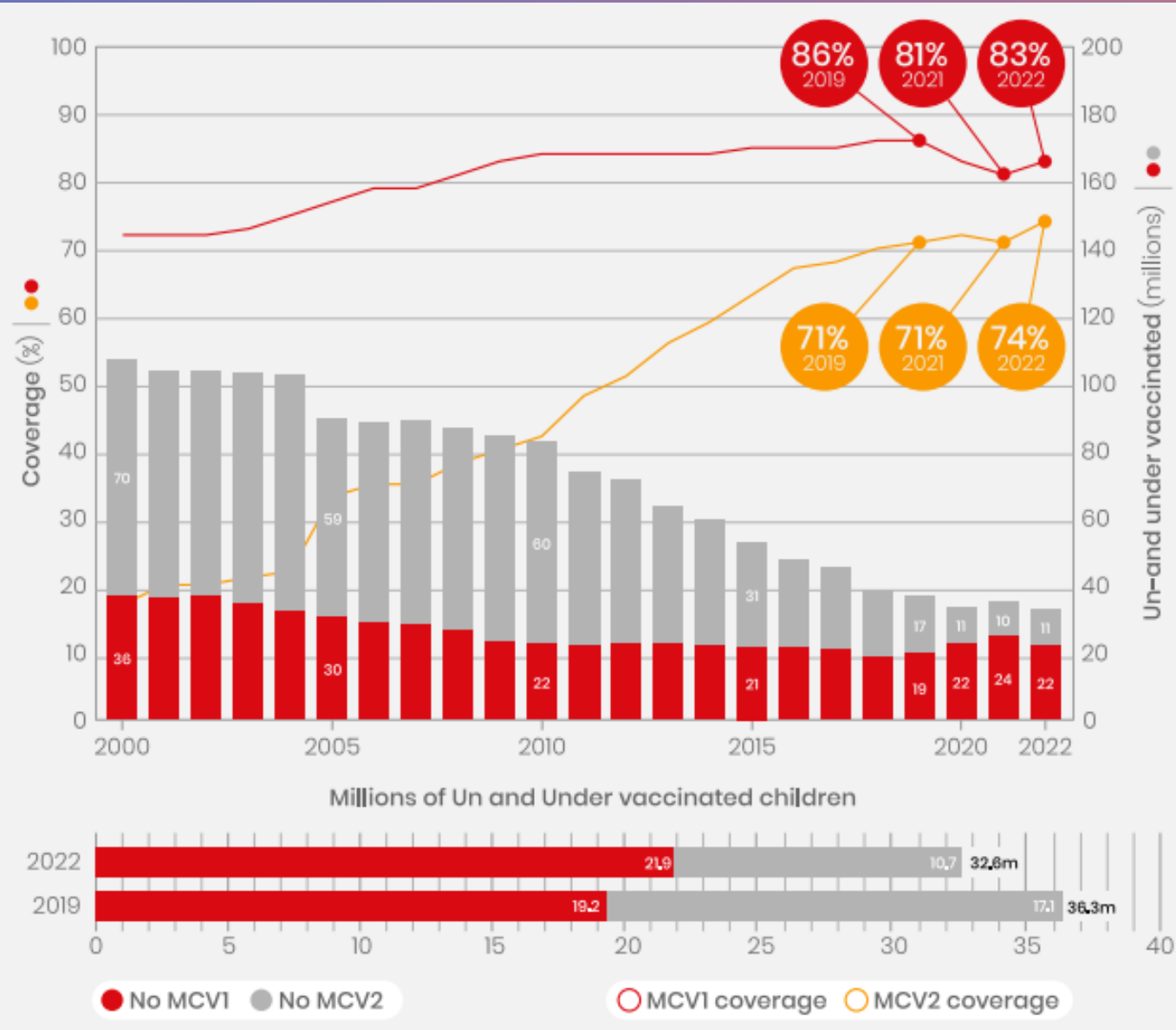
In 2022, DTP coverage improved



SOURCE: UNICEF. Progress and challenges with achieving universal immunization coverage (July 2023)  
[https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges\\_wuenic2022.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges_wuenic2022.pdf)

# Impacts of COVID-19 -

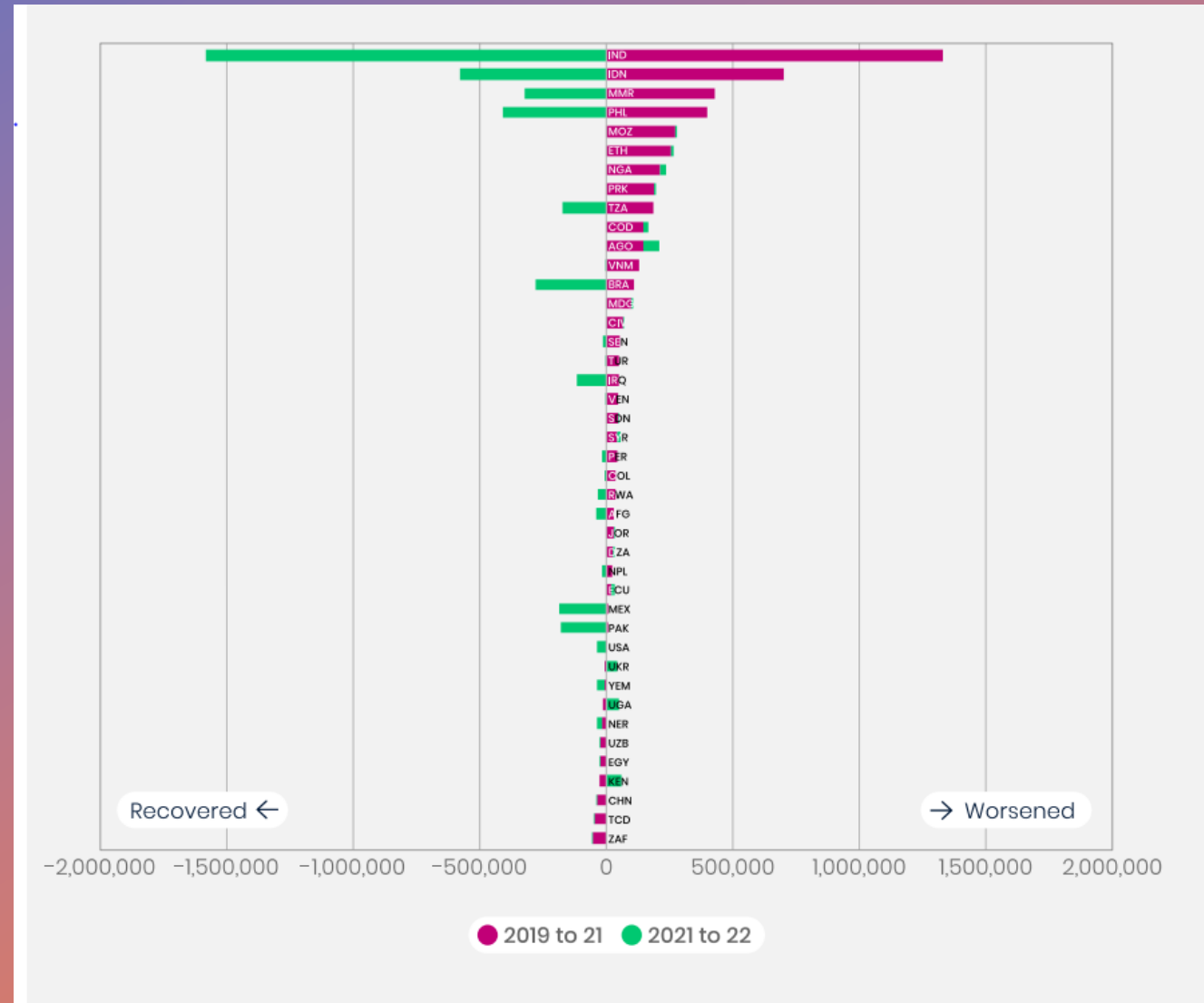
## MCV coverage is a little slower to improve (2022)



SOURCE: UNICEF. Progress and challenges with achieving universal immunization coverage (July 2023)  
[https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges\\_wuenic2022.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges_wuenic2022.pdf)

# Impacts of COVID-19 -

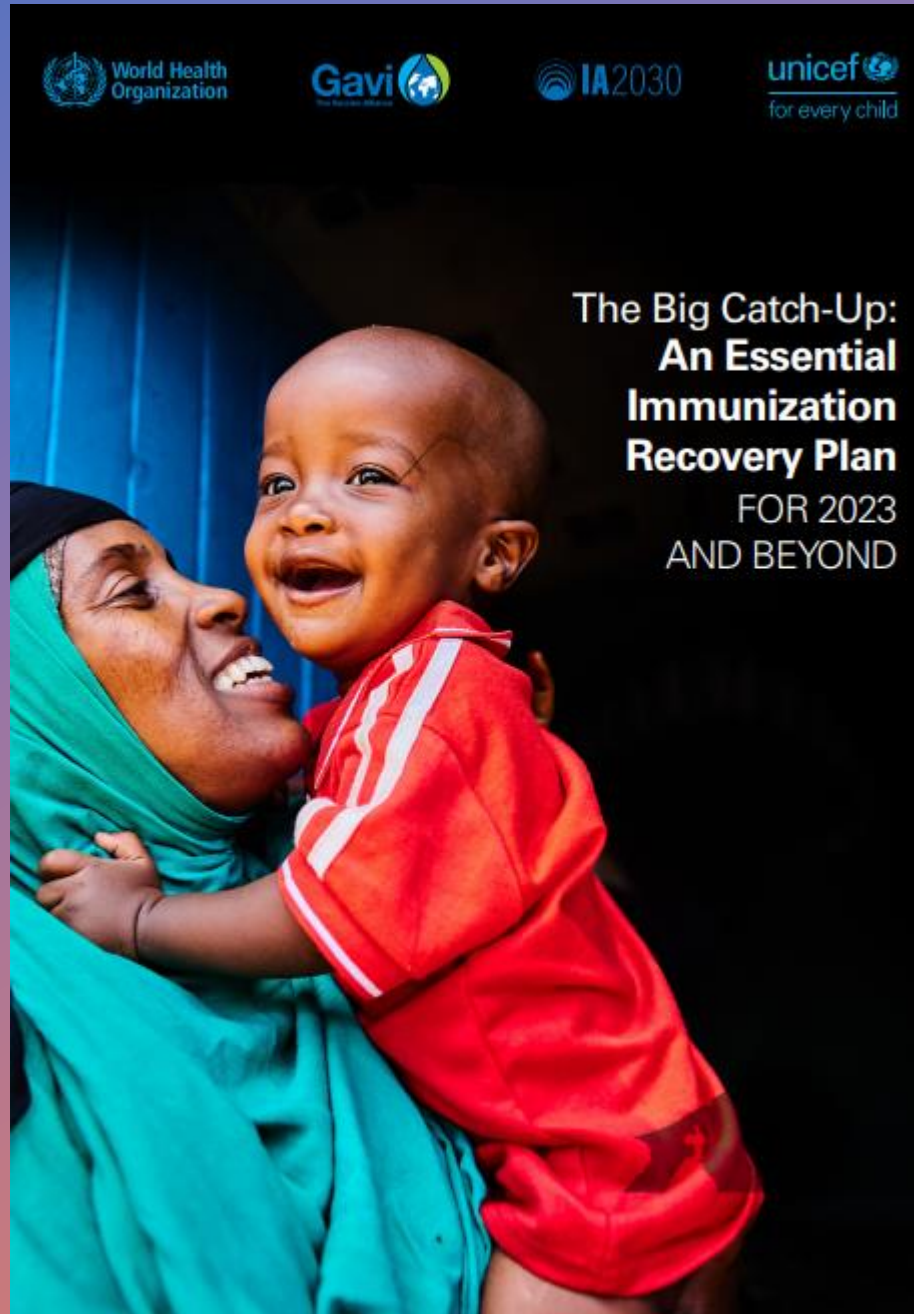
## Post-pandemic recovery is not consistent across countries



SOURCE: UNICEF. Progress and challenges with achieving universal immunization coverage (July 2023)  
[https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges\\_wuenic2022.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/progress-challenges_wuenic2022.pdf)

# Impacts of COVID-19 -

## The Big catch up!



World Health Organization Gavi The Global Vaccine Alliance IA2030 unicef for every child

### The Big Catch-Up: An Essential Immunization Recovery Plan FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

# The strategy



Our strategy is driven by three core objectives:

1

### CATCH-UP

Reach children who missed vaccination during the period 2019-2022, which was partly due to the pandemic, and provide all missing vaccinations.

2

### RESTORE

Restore vaccination coverage rates for the current birth cohort in 2023 to at least 2019 levels.

3

### STRENGTHEN

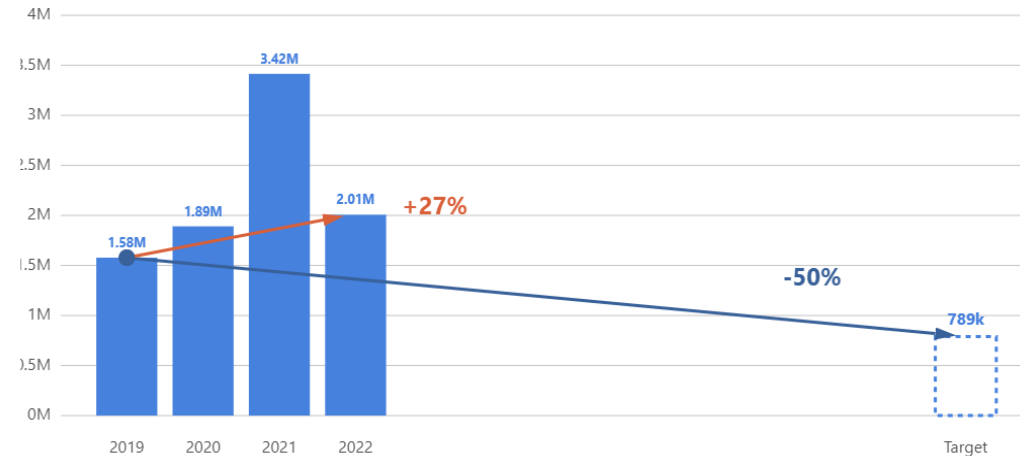
Strengthen immunization systems within PHC approaches, to improve programme resilience and accelerate towards reaching zero-dose children in line with IA2030 and Gavi 5.1 goals and targets.

# Regional issues -

~2 million zero-dose children in EAP region (2022)

Most children in Indonesia and Philippines

Number of zero-dose children—UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region



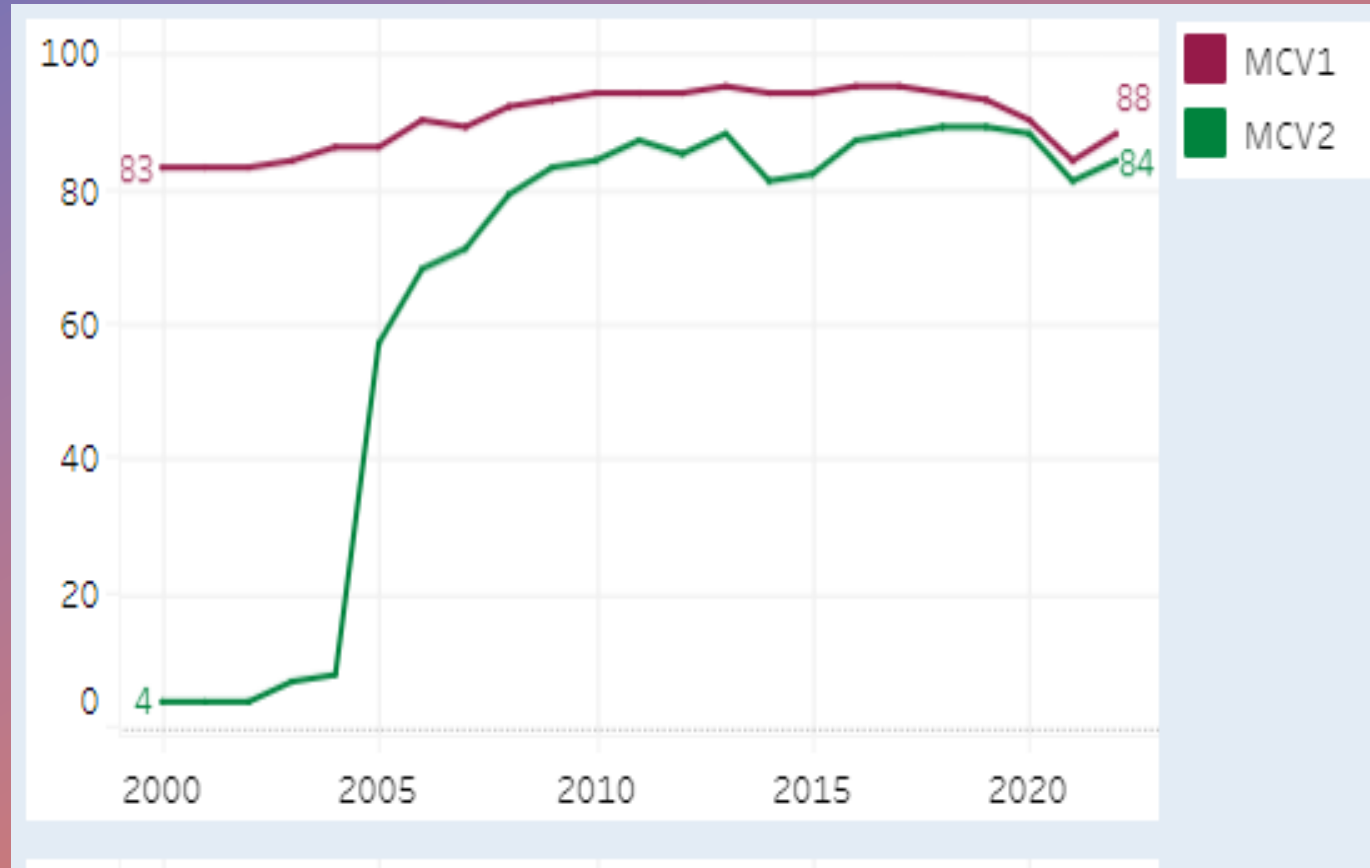
Immunization Agenda 2030 Scorecard

**Data source:** WHO-UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) and UNPD population estimates  
12 October 2023 © Immunization Agenda 2030

SOURCE: IA2030 Scorecard – UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region.  
<https://scorecard.immunizationagenda2030.org/jg2.1?reg=EAPR>

## Regional issues -

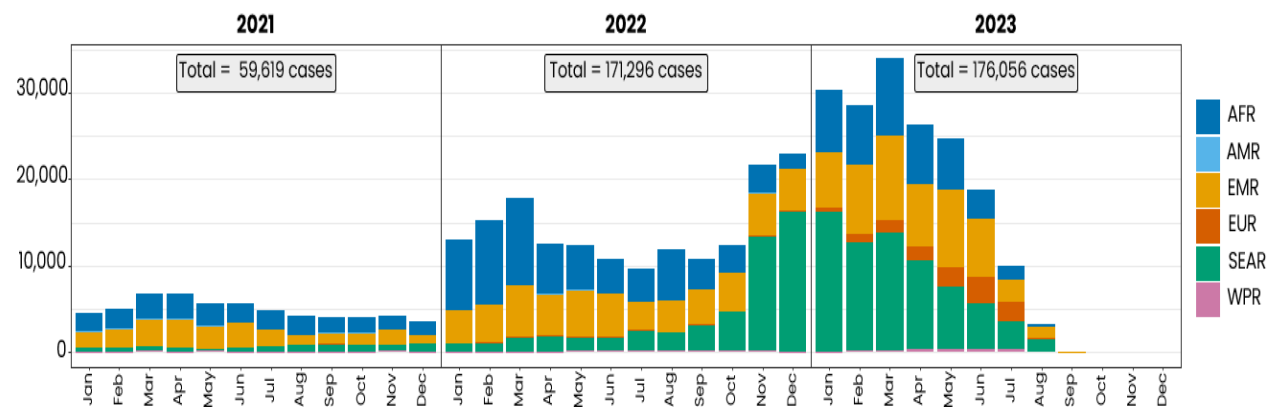
Over 2019-2022, MCV1 coverage decreased in the EAP region, but is recovering



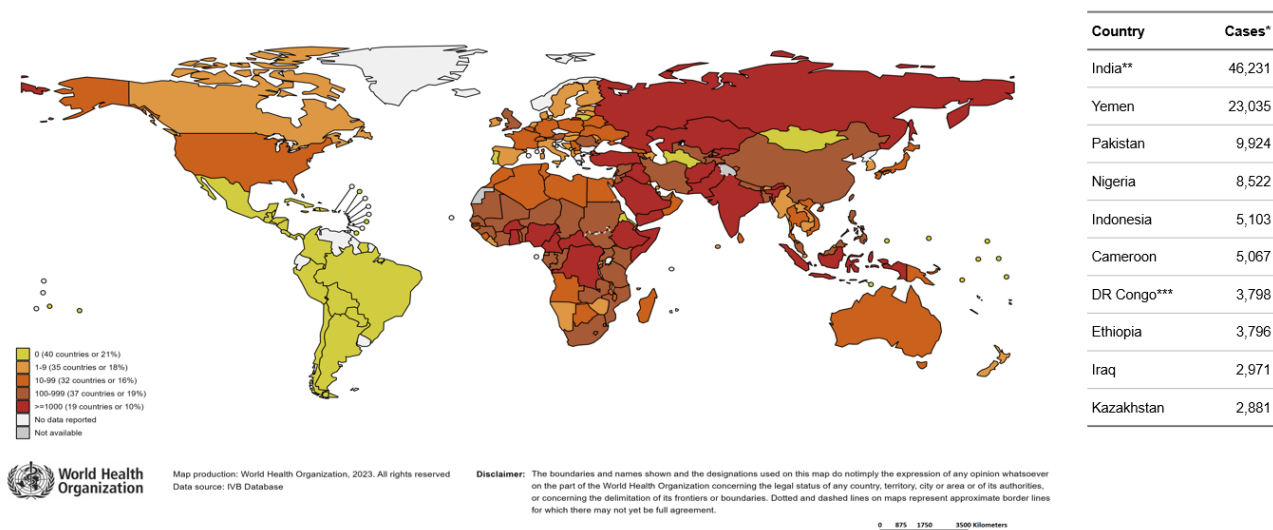
SOURCE: UNICEF. Immunization regional snapshot. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/regional-immunization-snapshots/>



# Specific issues - measles



Number of Reported Measles Cases (Last 6 months)



SOURCE: WHO. Measles and Rubella Global Update September 2023. [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/immunization/immunization-coverage/global\\_mr\\_update.pptx?sfvrsn=c83eebae\\_142](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/immunization/immunization-coverage/global_mr_update.pptx?sfvrsn=c83eebae_142)

# Specific issues - measles

News / National

## Measles alert at Sydney Airport after infectious passenger arrives on Qantas flight

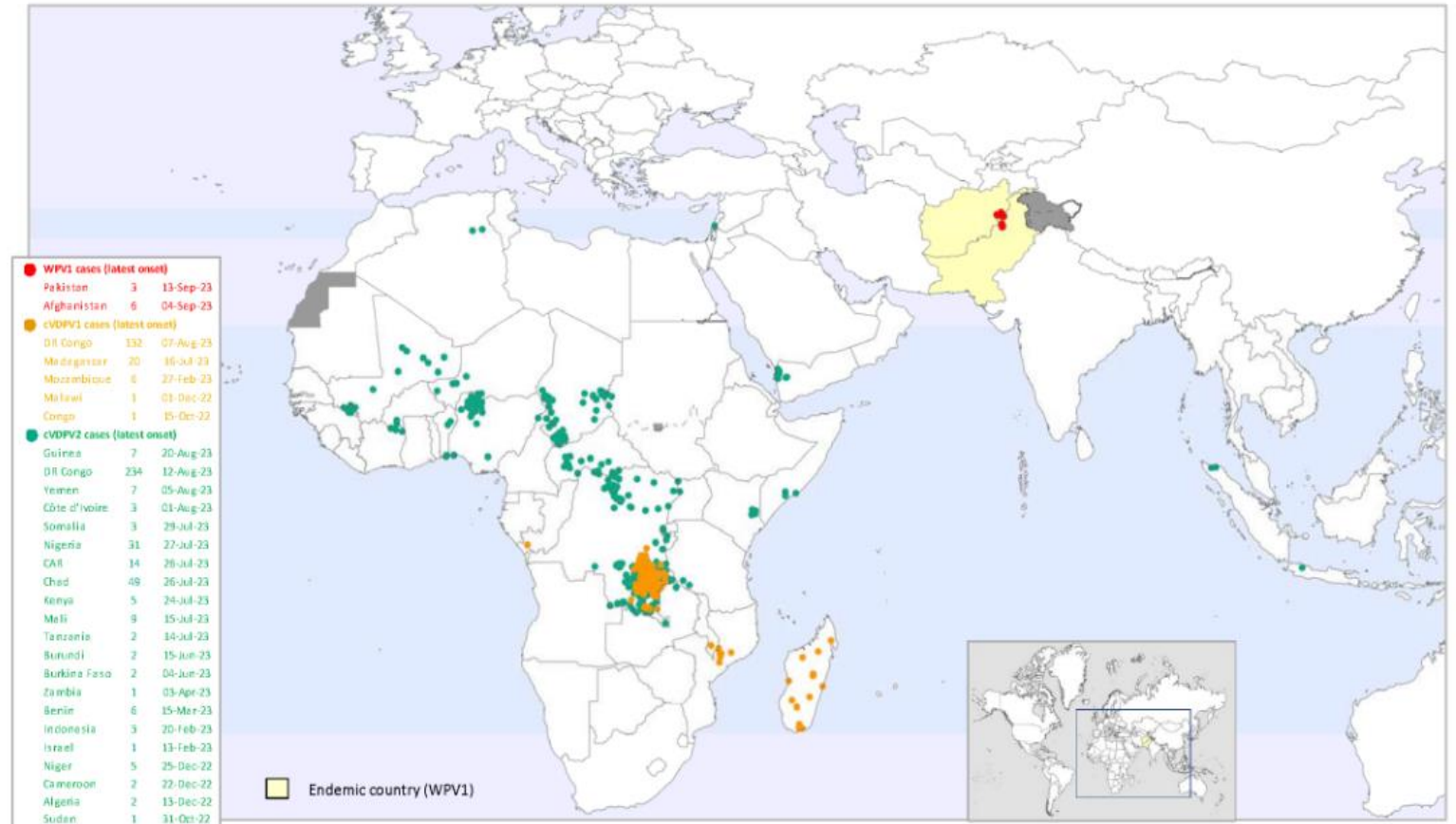
## London at risk of major measles outbreak, UK Health Security Agency warns

**Thousands could be hospitalised and dozens die if MMR vaccine take-up doesn't rise, say immunologists**

**[Explainer: Why are there fears of an outbreak and what can be done?](#)**

# Specific issues - polio

Global WPV1 & cVDPV Cases<sup>1</sup>, Previous 12 Months<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Excludes viruses detected from environmental surveillance; <sup>2</sup>Onset of paralysis: 11 Oct. 2022 to 10 Oct. 2023

Data in WHO HQ as of 10 Oct. 2023

# Specific issues - polio

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

## How polio came back to New York for the first time in decades, silently spread and left a patient paralyzed

PUBLISHED TUE, OCT 4 2022·10:14 AM EDT | UPDATED TUE, OCT 4 2022·1:09 PM EDT

Spencer Kimball

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Thank you!