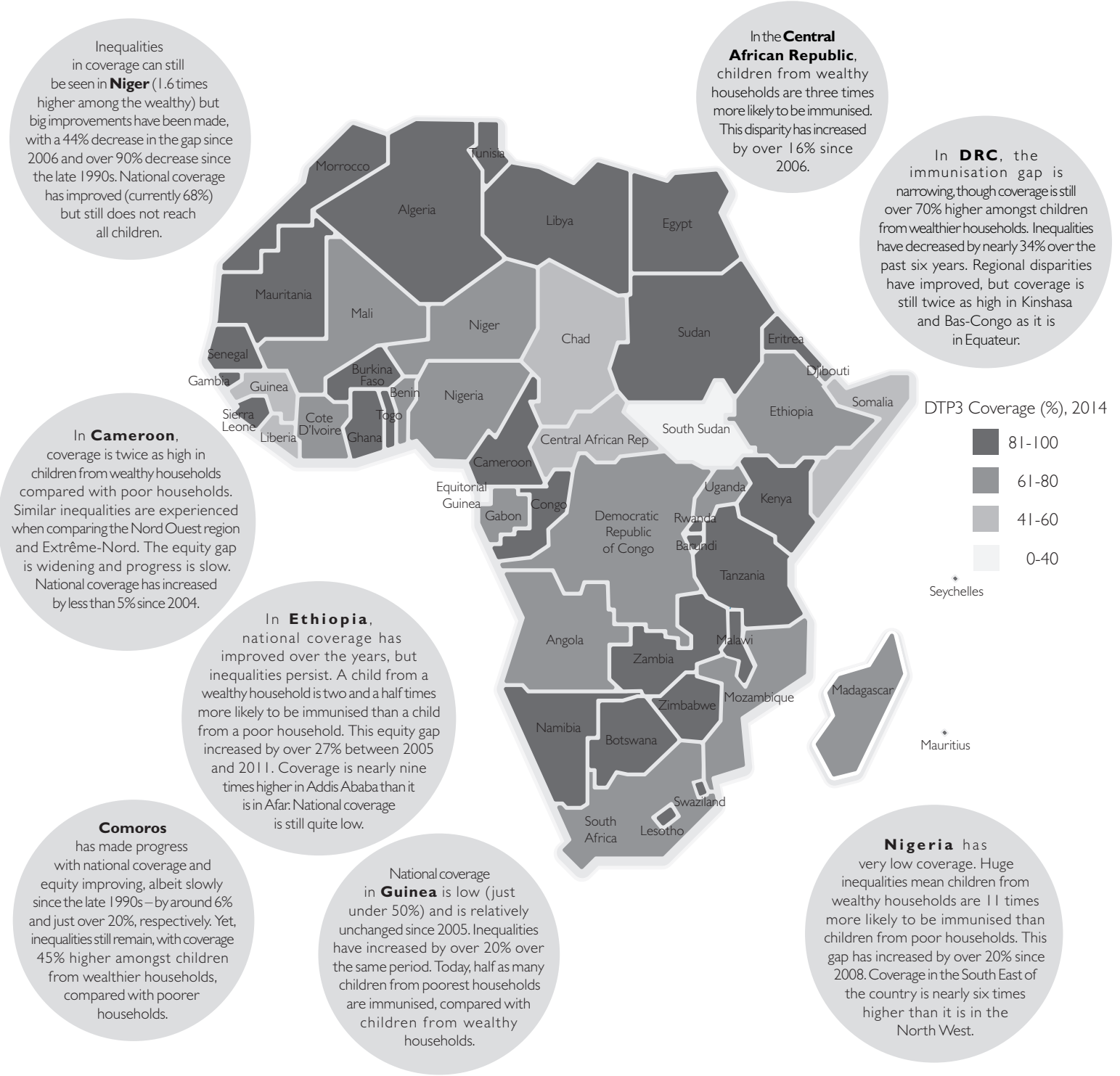


UNIVERSAL IMMUNISATION COVERAGE IN AFRICA: FURTHER, FASTER, FAIRER

IMMUNISATION FOR ALL

Our goal is to ensure that all children, regardless of where they are born and in all settings have access to immunisation and other essential health services, towards Universal Health Coverage. The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) was endorsed by all 194 member states at the World Health Assembly in 2012, committing to more equitable access to immunisation for all people in all communities.



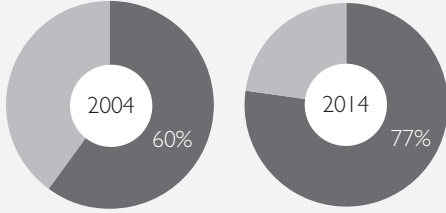
Map based on 2014 WHO data. Countries in circles have the highest inequalities based on wealth according to their most recent national DHS or MICS survey (not older than 2010). There are indications of progress in some countries since their last survey, but these published reports are used for comparability.

THE POWER OF IMMUNISATION

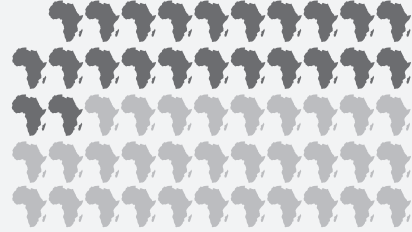
Immunisation saves lives – and offers children a better chance of a healthier and more economically productive future. It is one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions and can help give each child a chance of survival beyond their fifth birthday. Great strides in immunisation have helped achieve the historic drop of over 50% in child deaths in Africa between 1990 and 2012. Immunisation can help build access to other essential health services.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE MADE IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS

Basic immunisation coverage increased by nearly 30% over the last decade.

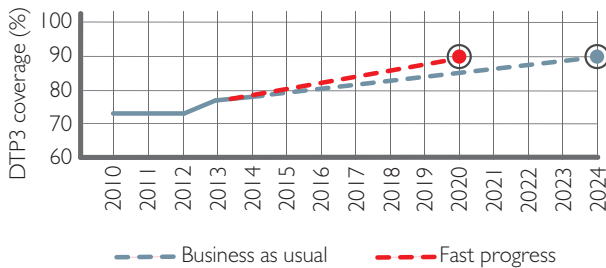


23 countries in Africa have reached the 2015 GVAP goal of 90% national coverage.

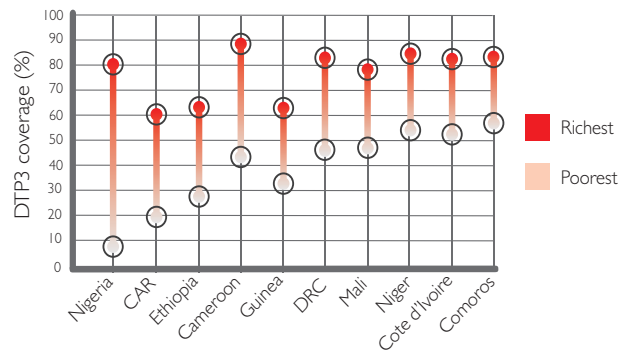


BUT BIG CHALLENGES REMAIN

Coverage is plateauing. Progress must accelerate by over 50% to meet 90% coverage by 2020.



Huge inequalities in coverage persist within countries. Children from the poorest families, remote areas and marginalised groups are being left behind.



Coverage is very low in many countries. 14 countries in the region have coverage of 70% or less; six countries have yet to exceed 50% coverage.



One in five children are still missing out on immunisation.



WHY ARE CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON LIFESAVING VACCINATIONS?

Health systems are under-funded and under-equipped. Only nine countries in Africa have reached the 15% Abuja target for government expenditure on health.



Poor prioritisation of equity and insufficient political action means marginalised children and communities are left behind.



Conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks strain already weak health systems. A 37% drop in immunisation coverage followed Liberia's recent Ebola outbreak.



WE MUST ACT NOW

The Ministerial Conference on Immunisation in Africa, taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24-25 February 2016 is a huge opportunity.

We call on national governments to:

- Commit to and accelerate progress to improve immunisation coverage and equity
- Ensure sufficient and sustainable financing for immunisation and health
- Strengthen immunisation and health systems, in particular in poor and underserved areas
- Empower and engage communities and civil society organisations.

We call on development partners to:

- Support countries to strengthen immunisation systems, as part of health system strengthening
- Ensure civil society representation in monitoring and accountability
- Encourage investment to improve immunisation equity, as a stepping stone towards more equitable healthcare.

We call on civil society to:

- Support and strengthen immunisation and health systems, prioritising equity and those left behind
- Engage in monitoring and accountability frameworks at local, country, regional and global levels.