Progress and Challenges with achieving
Universal Immunization Coverage

2017 WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National immunization Coverage
(Data as of July 2018)
DTP3 coverage remains at 85% in 2017, leaving 19.9 million children vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases. Since 2015, the percentage of children who received their full course of three dose diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) routine immunizations remains at 85%, with no significant changes in any region during the past year. This falls short of the global immunization coverage targets of 90%, one of the targets set out in the Global Vaccine Action Plan.

Out of 20 infants, 2 are completely left out, while 1 started but didn’t complete the 3-dose course.
Population growth in Africa makes coverage “plateau”, even as ever more children are vaccinated

Although global immunization coverage with DTP3 remains at 85% in the past few years, it is important to highlight that an additional 4.6 million infants have been vaccinated globally in 2017 compared to 2010, due to global population growth.

Similarly, although DTP3 coverage in the African region remains at 72% since 2010, the regional population growth meant that to sustain the same coverage level, about 3.2 million more infants have been vaccinated in 2017, compared to 2010.
Where are the un- and under-vaccinated children?

Of the 19.9 million infants who are not fully vaccinated with DTP3, almost 8 million (40%) live in fragile or humanitarian settings, including countries affected by conflict.

About 5.6 million of them live in just three countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan – where access to routine immunization services is critical to achieving and sustaining polio eradication.

Note: The size of the bubbles is proportional to the number of unvaccinated infants in each country.
Trends in DTPv3 coverage since 2010 in Gavi transitioning countries

17 countries had transitioned out of Gavi financial support by the end of 2017. Out of these, 7 achieved at least 90% coverage for DTP3 at the national level.

While more than half of 9 countries reached 90 percent coverage in accelerated transition phase; in 2 of them, coverage actually declined since 2010.
Coverage in low performing countries

Ten countries had DTP3 or one dose of measles vaccine (MCV1) coverage below 50%: Angola, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Ukraine.

Children in these countries, already subject to multiple deprivations, remain at risk of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and threats to their lives.
Global coverage from measles containing vaccines

Globally, 85% of children have been vaccinated with the first dose of measles vaccine by their first birthday through routine health services and 67% with a second dose. 167 countries have included a second dose of measles vaccine as part of their routine vaccination schedule. Nevertheless, coverage levels remain well short of the WHO recommended measles immunization coverage of at least 95% to prevent outbreaks, avert preventable deaths, and achieve regional elimination goals.
New vaccine introduction Pneumococcal and Rotavirus vaccine

New vaccine introduction is lagging in middle income countries.

Newly available vaccines are being added as part of the life-saving vaccination package – such as those to protect against meningitis, malaria and even Ebola. On the other hand, vaccines to prevent against major killers of children such as rotavirus, a disease that causes severe childhood diarrhoea, and pneumonia, have been around for over a decade. But the use of rotavirus and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines is lagging behind.

In 2017, global coverage for rotavirus was only 28% and 44% for PCV. Vaccination against both these diseases has the potential to substantially reduce deaths of children under 5 years of age, a target of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Pneumococcal vaccine introduced in 140* member states

Rotavirus vaccine introduced in 97** member states

* Includes partial introduction for 5 countries
**includes partial introduction for 6 countries
Only 1 out of 5 15 years old girl lives in a country with HPV vaccine in national immunization schedule

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract, and can cause cervical cancer, other types of cancer, and genital warts in both men and women.

In 2017, the HPV vaccine was introduced in 80 countries covering 22 percent of global cohort of 15 year old girls.