

# A Historic Opportunity

Protecting all African  
children with PCV and  
Rotavirus vaccines

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# The lifesaving potential of PCV and Rotavirus vaccines

*The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation remains steadfast in our commitment to preventing pneumonia and rotavirus*



# NYT story spurs foundation's immunization work

“  
When Melinda and I started this work more than a decade ago, we were inspired by the conviction that *all lives have equal value*. So one of the first things we invested in was vaccines, which protect all children who receive them, no matter how rich or poor they may be. In short, vaccines work.”

—Bill Gates, Co-Chair, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (1997)



# The foundation's work on immunization

*The Immunization team applies new perspectives to immunization challenges and funds solutions to improve the delivery of high-quality, affordable vaccines for more equitable coverage.*



**Vaccine Access**



**Vaccine Programs**



**Immunization Platforms**



**Routine Immunization strengthening in polio high-risk geographies (RISP)**



**Gavi**

**Advocacy and Communications**

# Where we're going

*Our investments in immunization are rigorous in tracking toward our desired results by 2030*

16.2<sub>m</sub>

Future deaths averted

50%

Reduction in zero-dose children



Eradication of Polio

# PCV and Rotavirus Vaccine Strategies

*The Foundation's PCV and Rotavirus vaccine strategies span from vaccine development and evidence generation to new vaccine introduction and immunization program strengthening.*

Low cost and next generation vaccine development



Optimizing PCV dosing schedules



Assessing the impact of PCV and Rotavirus vaccines



Supporting PCV and Rotavirus vaccine introductions



Immunization program strengthening



# Routine immunization strengthening in polio high-risk geographies (RISP)



In 2019, the foundation launched a time-limited, cross-team special initiative that would complement two major foundation investments:



**BMGF's biggest-ever investment**

**Goal:** Ensure all children have equal access to vaccines

**Strategies:** New Vaccine Introduction, Routine Immunization Coverage Improvement



**BMGF's second-biggest investment**

**Goal:** Eradicate poliovirus

**Strategies:** Preventive and outbreak response campaigns, surveillance, etc.

*But there were certain very specific subnational geographies where neither effort seemed to be succeeding*

Enter....

**RISP**

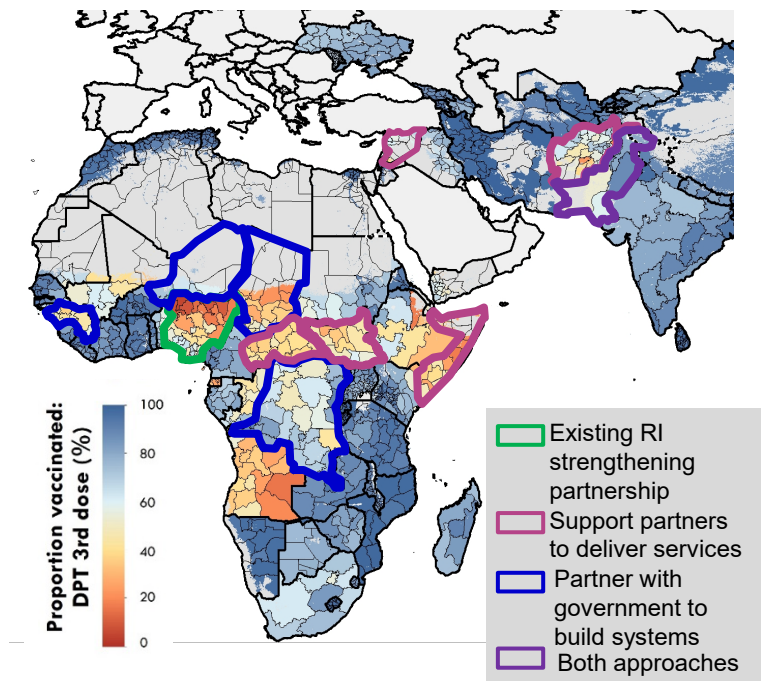
**Routine Immunization Strengthening  
in Polio High-Risk Geographies**



# The RISP initiative focuses on rapidly improving RI coverage for over 1.6M children annually in select subnational areas with the weakest coverage and high polio risk

Where possible, we work to strengthen government management, financing, and sustainability. In areas affected by conflict or significant fragility, we work with an ecosystem of partners to raise immunization coverage in the short term and to maintain gains through service delivery partners.

Approach	Country	Subnational RISP Focus Areas	Start of RISP	Original Target Population: <1-year-old <sup>14</sup> (Annual)	% DTP3 Coverage Baseline		
					National Survey	National WUENIC	Sub-Nat'l Survey (RISP areas)
Systems-Building (MOUs)	Chad	Lac, Khanem & Hadjer Lamis regions	2019	91K	65 <sup>3,a</sup>	46	64 <sup>3</sup>
	DRC	Haut Lomami, Tanganyika, Lualaba	2019	365K	48 <sup>4</sup>	71	37 <sup>4</sup>
	Guinea	Kankan region	2022 (elections, coup d'état)	99K	40 <sup>5</sup>	47	47 <sup>5</sup>
	Niger	Diffa, Zinder & Maradi regions	2022 (elections, hiring challenges)	452K	63.5 <sup>6</sup>	79	54 <sup>6</sup>
Mixed	Pakistan	40 Super High-Risk UCs	2019	105K <sup>12</sup>	75 <sup>7</sup>	80	71 <sup>7</sup>
Conflict	Afghanistan	Helmand, Kandahar, Urozgan	2019	226K	61 <sup>8</sup>	72	13 <sup>8</sup>
	CAR	Régions Santé 4, 5, 6	2021	54K	34 <sup>9</sup>	42	25 <sup>9</sup>
	Somalia	Started in 5 districts in Gulmadug and Jubaland, expanding to 20 districts in Gulmadug, Jubaland and Hirshabelle	2019	40K <sup>13</sup>	12 <sup>10,b</sup>	42	9 <sup>10</sup>
	South Sudan	Unity, Jonglei & Upper Nile	2019	176K	49 <sup>11</sup>	49	31 <sup>11</sup>
	Syria	Idlib & Aleppo Governates	2014	67K	27 <sup>14,c</sup>	47	27 <sup>12</sup>



Map Source: Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation

<sup>a</sup> 2020 Chad LQAS subnational average estimates 60%; <sup>b</sup> Somalia subnational average estimates include all Jubaland (not just Lower Juba); <sup>c</sup> Syria subnational estimate only includes Aleppo Governate.

<sup>1</sup> 2018 WUENIC (revised 2021); <sup>2</sup> 2021 WUENIC; <sup>3</sup> 2019 MICS-Chad; <sup>4</sup> 2018 MICS-DRC; <sup>5</sup> 2018 DHS-Guinea; <sup>6</sup> 2021 ENAFEME (2017 ECV-Niger results invalidated); <sup>7</sup> 2017 DHS-Pakistan urban for RISP provinces (not just SHRUCs); <sup>8</sup> 2018 Afghanistan Health Survey; <sup>9</sup> 2018-19 MICS-CAR; <sup>10</sup> 2021 HDS Gulmadug + 2021 HDS Jubaland; <sup>11</sup> 2017 EPI Coverage Survey-South Sudan; <sup>12</sup> 2021 ACU Northeast Survey-Syria <sup>13</sup> Pakistan has expanded target population including additional children <2, beyond 105K children <1 <sup>14</sup> Somalia has expanded target population including additional 550K surviving infants under 5 in 20 expansion districts, beyond 40K children <1 in original 5 districts <sup>15</sup> 2022 ECV <sup>16</sup> 2022 TPVCS, urban districts for RISP provinces, note that survey cohort was born between May 2020 – July 2021 during COVID-19 related immunization service interruptions <sup>17</sup> 2022 EPI Assessment

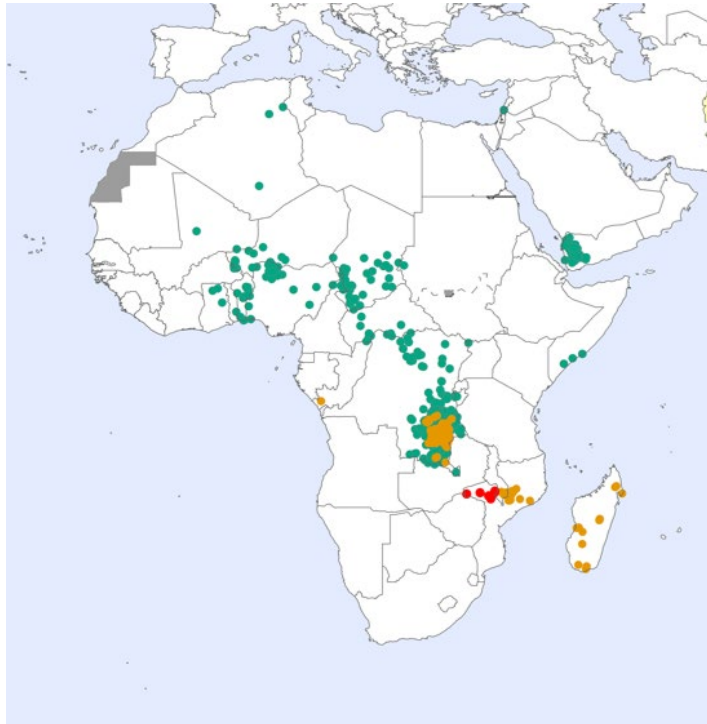
## Target countries for this work were selected based on a range of criteria

Historical risk of poliovirus outbreaks and persistent transmission

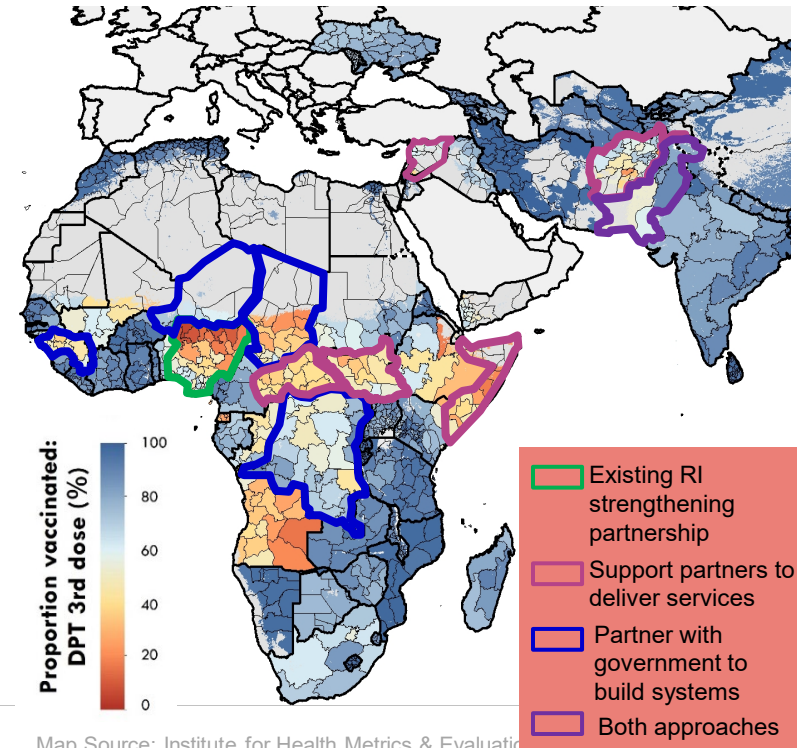
Low routine immunization coverage

Foundation partnerships, comparative advantage and complementarity to existing regional offices

Wild and vaccine-derived poliovirus cases reported in the past 12 months in Africa, WHO



Subnational DTP3 coverage in Africa as of 2019, IHME



Map Source: Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation

RISP Africa Geographies



# Final thoughts



If you want to go fast,  
go alone.

If you want to go far,  
go together.

—African Proverb