

# Impact of Covid-19 in Immunization in the African Region



**VPD, WHO AFRO**

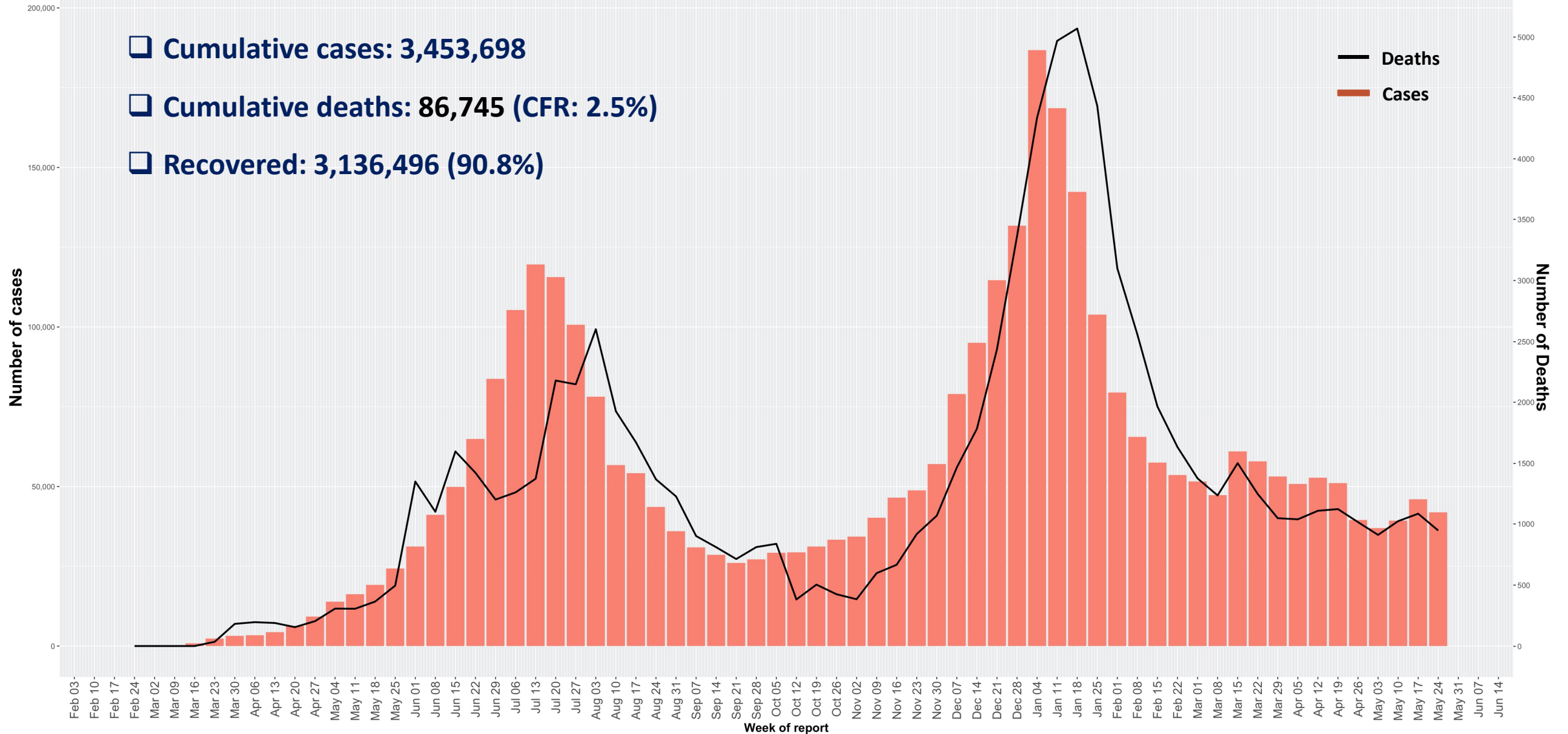
By Dr. Richard Mihigo



01

Update on Covid-19 EPI and vaccines roll-out in  
Africa

# COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION (data as of 29 May 2021)



Region  
All

IST  
All

Country  
All

Country Category  
All

Covax status  
All

Summary 2 | Graphs | Tables | Maps

**49,110,790**

Vaccine doses received in  
**51** countries

**51** countries started vaccination



Data as of (GMT) 9:08 PM  
Sunday, June 6, 2021

**19.592.420**

Doses received from COVAX in  
**43** countries

**1,028,850**

doses received from AVATT in  
**10** countries

**28,489,520**

doses received bilaterally in  
**39** countries

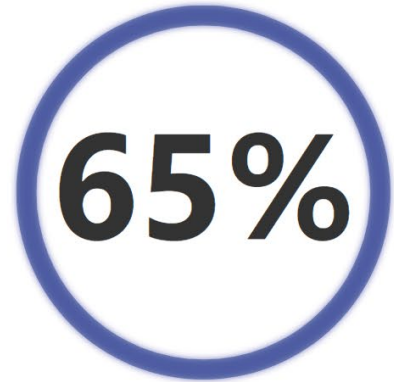
**48** countries reported having administered  
**31,797,563** vaccine doses (dose 1+dose 2)

**7.373.499** people fully vaccinated

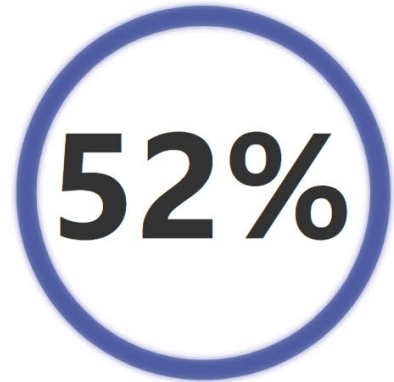
Country passport card

<b>Morocco</b>	
14,807,200	14,050,494
Doses_Received	Total_doses_administered
95%	14
% doses administered	% Full doses Vaccinated_...

<b>Nigeria</b>	
4,225,500	1,637,078
Doses_Received	Total_doses_administered
39%	(Blank)
% doses administered	% Full doses Vaccinated_...



of doses received were administered



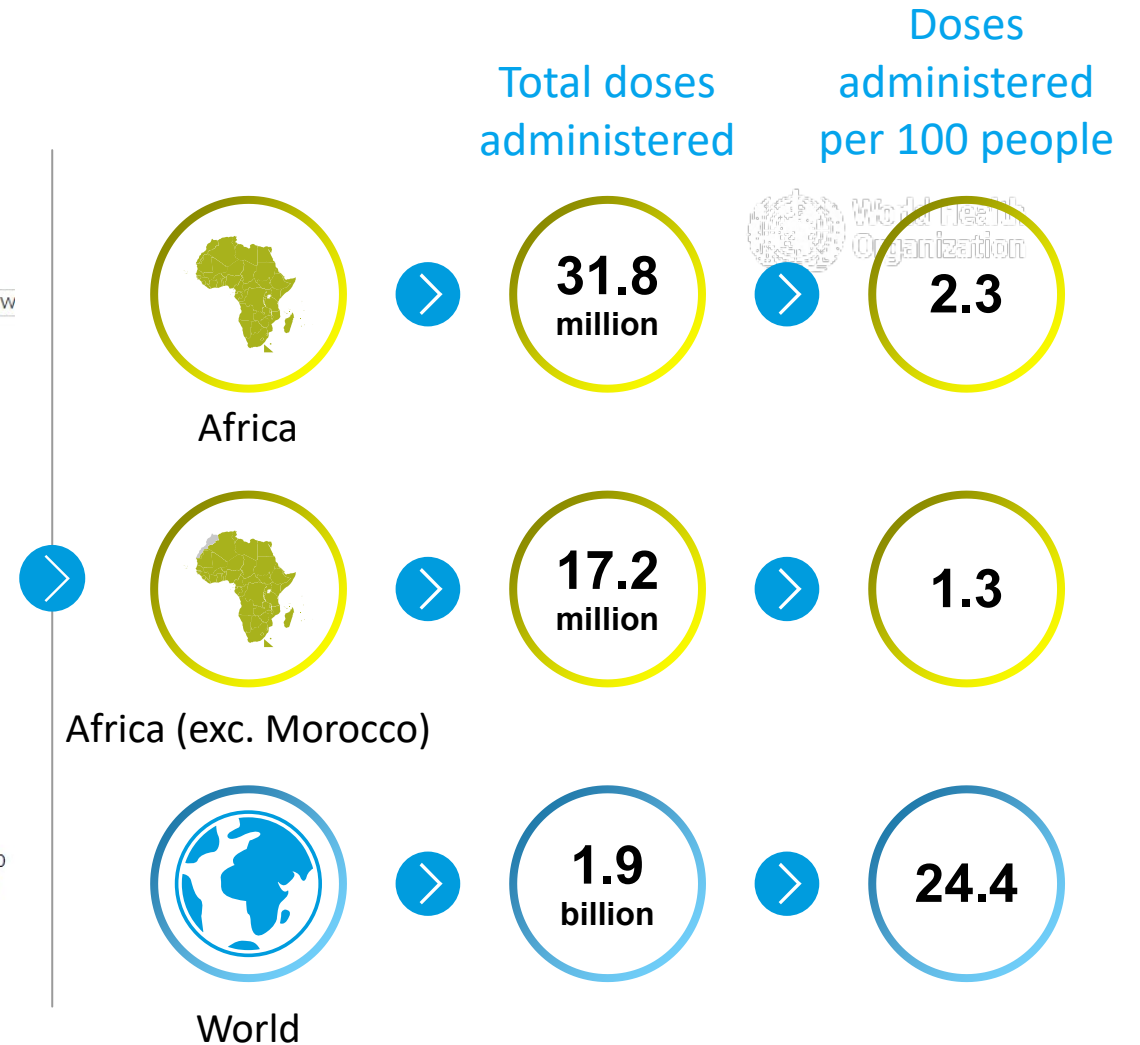
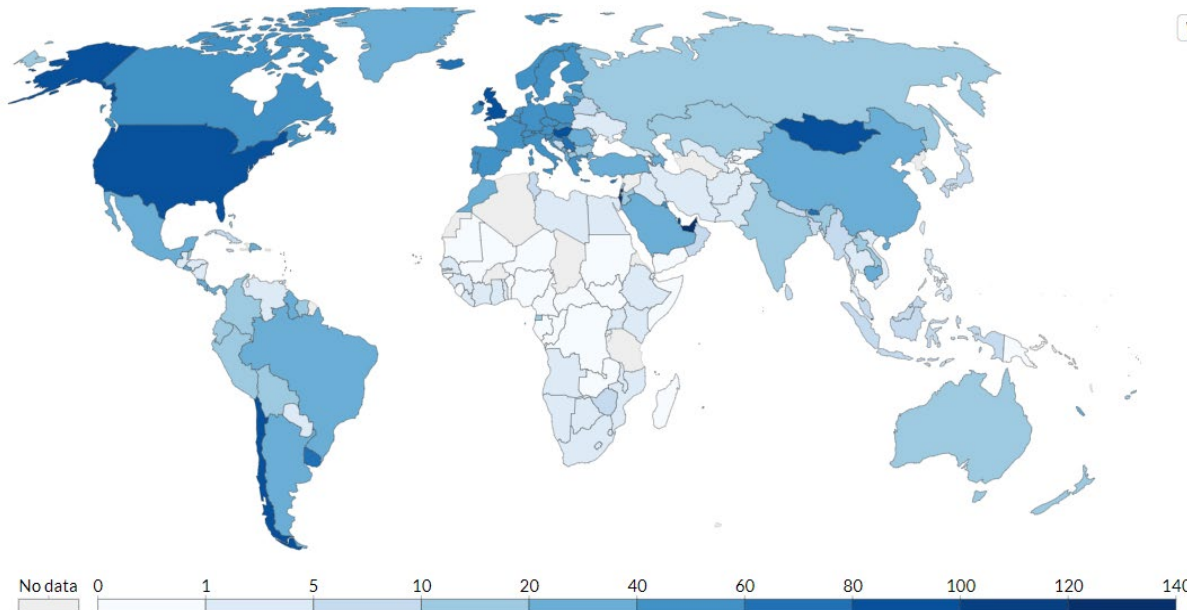
of doses received were administered  
(excluding Morocco)

# Very few doses administered in Africa: around 2 doses only administered per 100 people



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA SUPPORTS THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

Doses administered per 100 people





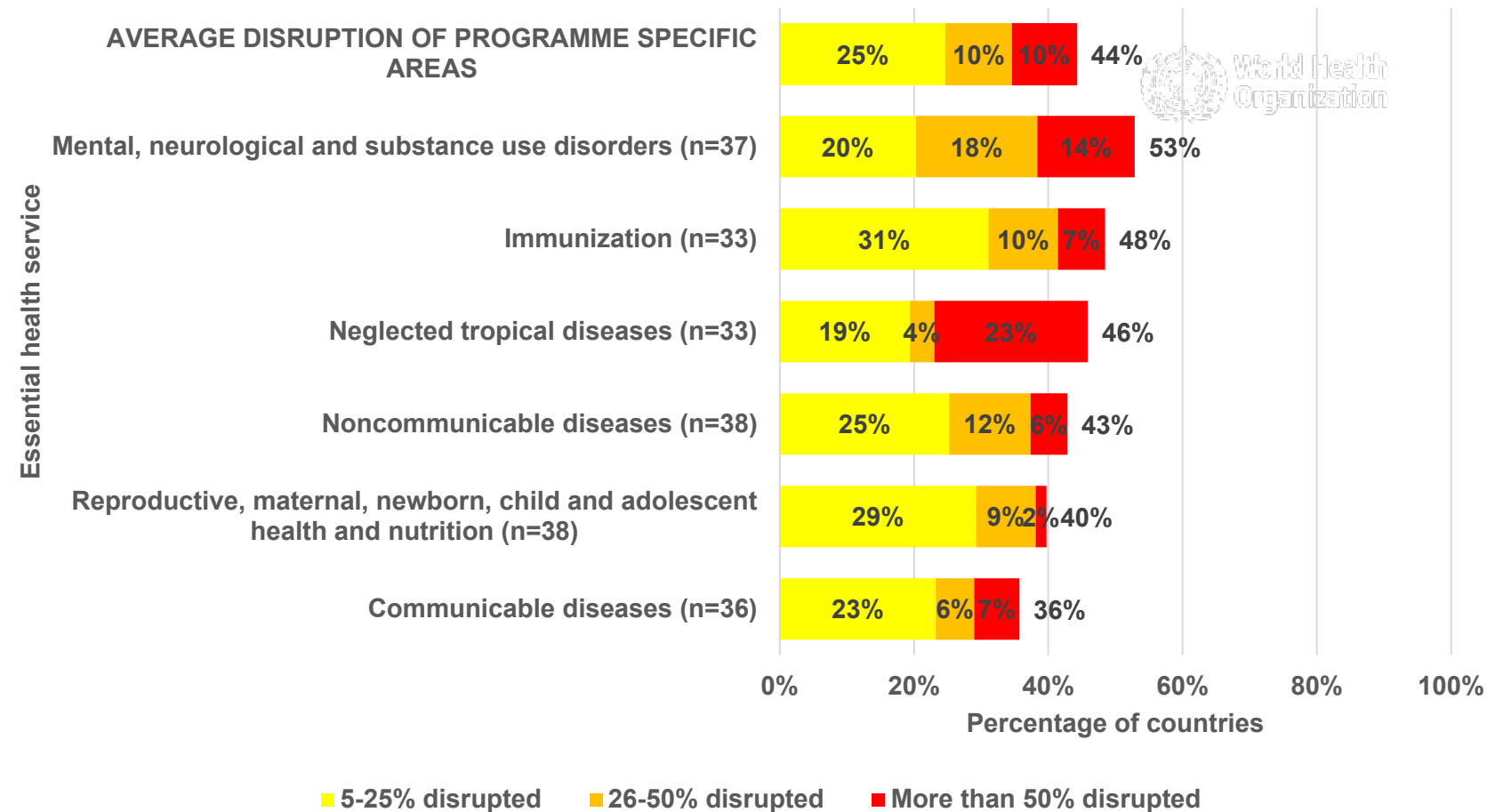
02

Disruptions to essential health services persist across the AFRO region

# Disruptions were reported across all the main programmes

- **53%** of AFRO countries reported disruptions to mental health
- **48%** of countries reported disruptions to immunization services
- **46%** reported disruptions to Neglected Tropical Diseases ;
- **43%** of countries reported disruptions to NCD services
- **40%** and **36%** reported disruptions to RMNCAH and Communicable diseases respectively

Percentage of countries reporting disruptions across tracer service areas



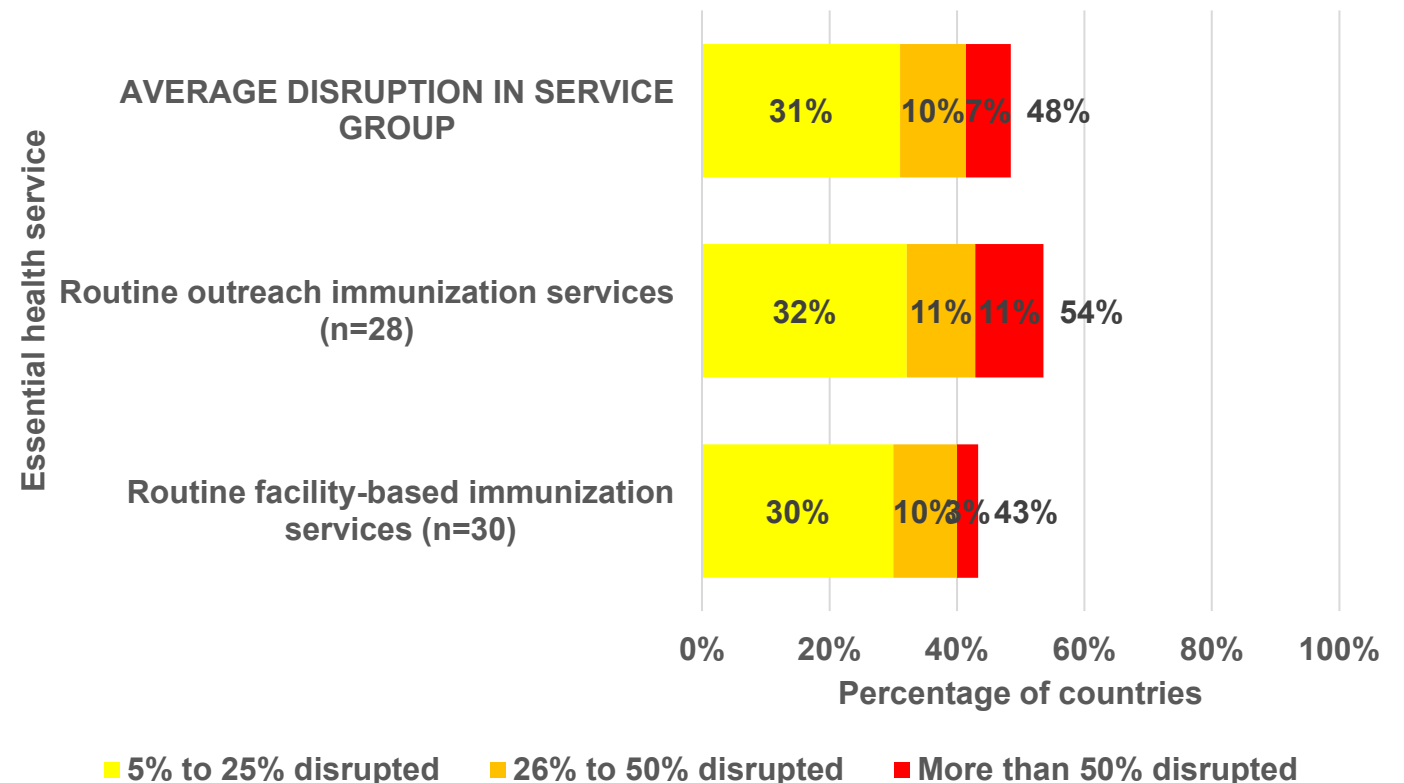
# Disruptions in immunization services

More than 1/3 of countries reported disruptions to both facility-based and immunization services. Essential service disruptions due to COVID-19 have relatively decreased but still continued.

Among immunization services :

- **54%** of countries reported disruption to routine outreach immunization services and,
- **43%** to routine facility-based services

Percentage of countries reporting disruptions in immunization services





# VPD campaigns postponed due to COVID-19: 58 campaigns in 48 countries, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021\*



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA SUPPORTS THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

No. of countries with campaigns that have been postponed because of COVID-19 \*counting from March 2020 - current as of 2021-06-01

Diseases/ Vaccines	No. of countries with postponed campaigns (fully or partially)	No. of campaigns postponed (fully or partially)	No. of campaigns postponed by regions					
			AFR	AMR	EMR	EUR	SEAR	WPR
Measles/ Measles Rubella/ Measles Mumps Rubella (M/MR/MMR)	23	23	4	5	2	6	3	1
Polio (IPV)	13	13	10				2	1
Bivalent Oral Poliovirus (bOPV)	6	7	2		3		2	
Monovalent Oral Poliovirus Type2 (mOPV2)								
Meningitis A (Men A)	3	3	3					
Yellow Fever (YF)	2	2	1		1			
Typhoid (TCV)								
Cholera (OCV)	4	5	2		1		2	
Tetanus (Td)	4	5	1		2			2
<b>Total postponed</b>	<b>48*</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Total no. of countries with at least one VPD immunization campaign postponed (fully or partially)

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Data source: WHO/IVB Repository, as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

# Essential Service Disruption

## Insufficient staff availability due to deployment to provide COVID-19 relief is the major cause of disruption



**Supply-side** reasons are linked to staff deployment to COVID-19 relief and insufficient staff availability. Cancellation of elective care and changes to treatment policies are also reported as reasons for disruptions

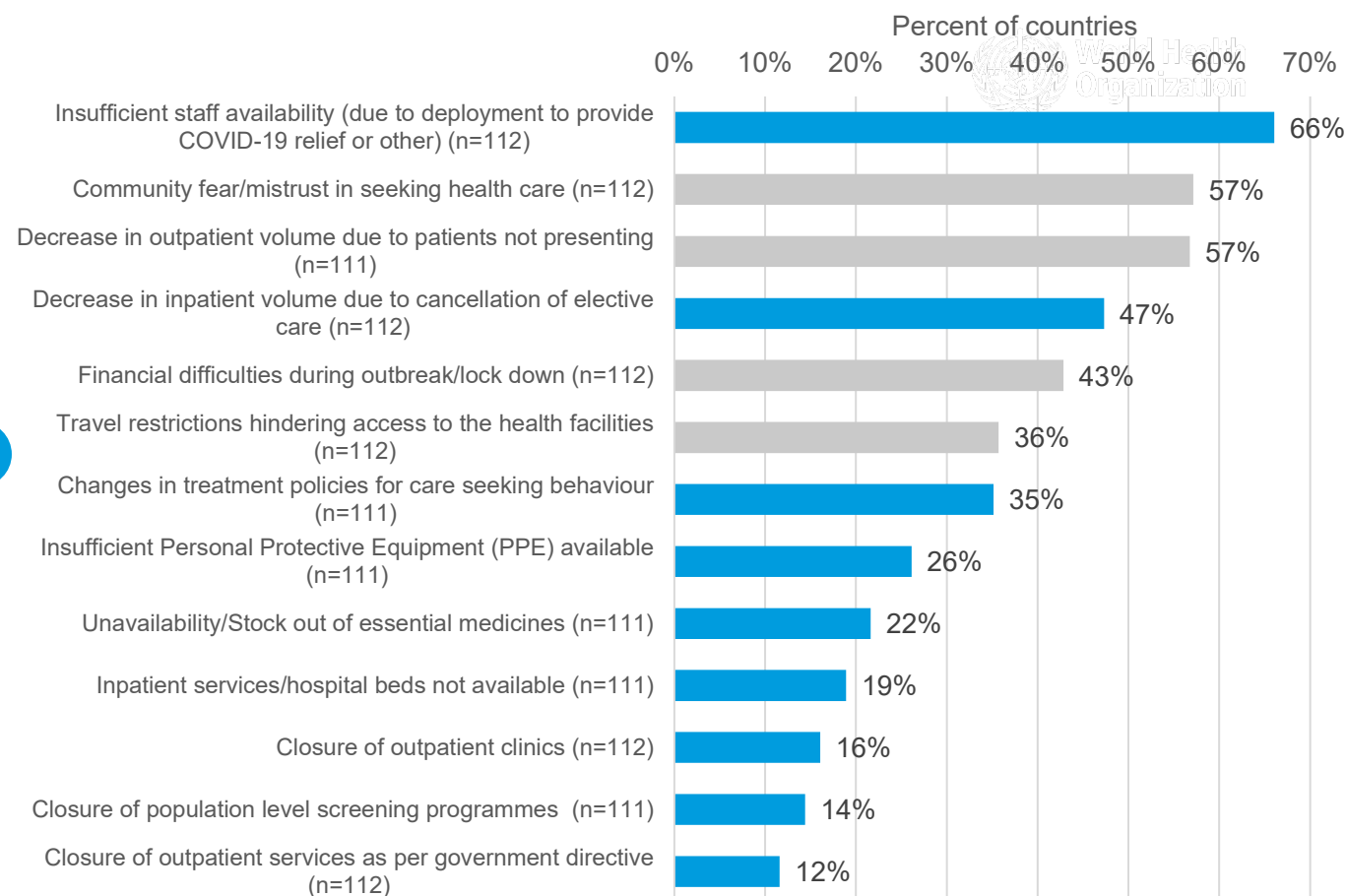


**Demand-side** reasons included: community fear/mistrust, decreases in OPD volume due to patients not presenting, travel restrictions and financial difficulties during the pandemic.



In some countries, measures for COVID-19 control may contribute to increased barriers to accessing care (e.g. fear of getting infected, limited PPE access, limitations in movement, loss of income, increased financial burden etc.)

Reasons for service disruptions (n=112)



■ Demand side factor ■ Supply side factor

# Emerging challenges and Lessons in COVID-19 Vaccine rollout



## Multiple vaccines in country

Reports of schedules being completed using a different vaccine AZ doses received through AVATT have very short shelf life



## Costing & financing

Reports of diversion of funds from other programs to cover operational costs



## Vaccine hesitancy

Suspension of vx in HICs due to reports of AEFI has a big impact in LICs/LMICs



## Safety monitoring

Delays in some countries in reporting adverse events. Concerns about the safety of AZ vaccine, related to suspension in some EU countries. New concerns about J&J in the US



## Target population

Reports of diversion of doses because co-morbidities cannot be verified or to prevent wastage



## Knowledge management

Emerging data on efficacy, effectiveness and safety of different products against variants of concern



## Monitoring tools

Need to support the use of IAR tools to more systematically document lessons learned



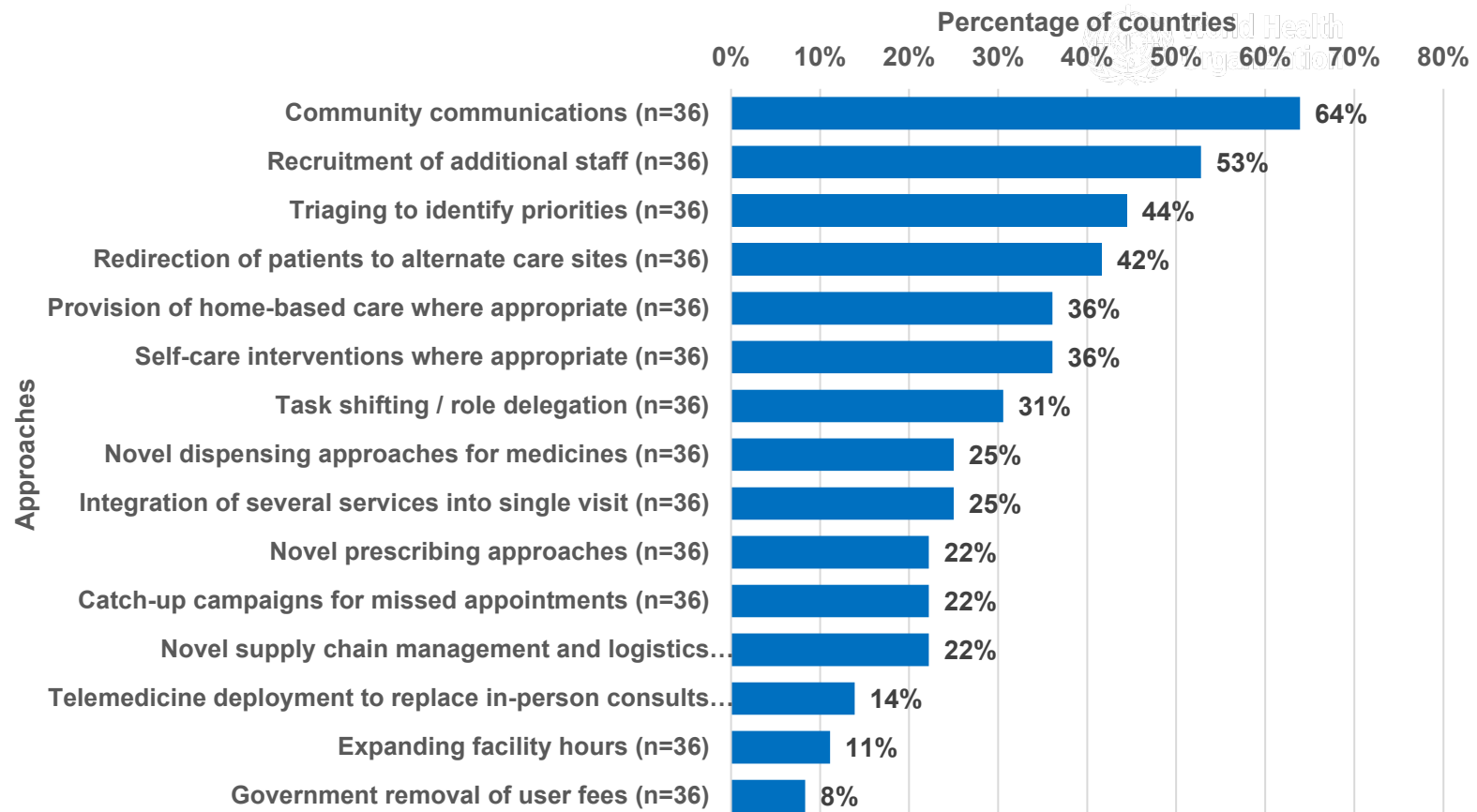
## RI and other programs

Concern from AFRO and partners on a potential decline in RI coverage (even though this was not observed in 2020) Other programs may also suffer if funding is diverted

# Strategies to restore or adapt service delivery being implemented by many countries

- More than half countries report using community communications (64%) and staff recruitment (53%) to overcome service disruptions
- 42% of countries have redirected patients to alternative care sites
- 36% of countries have provided home-based care where appropriate
- 22% of countries have conducted campaigns for measles to catch up

Approaches for overcoming disruptions



# The future of PHC systems

**Primary health care systems and services will need to be scaled up to accommodate and address the needs of adults and older age population.**

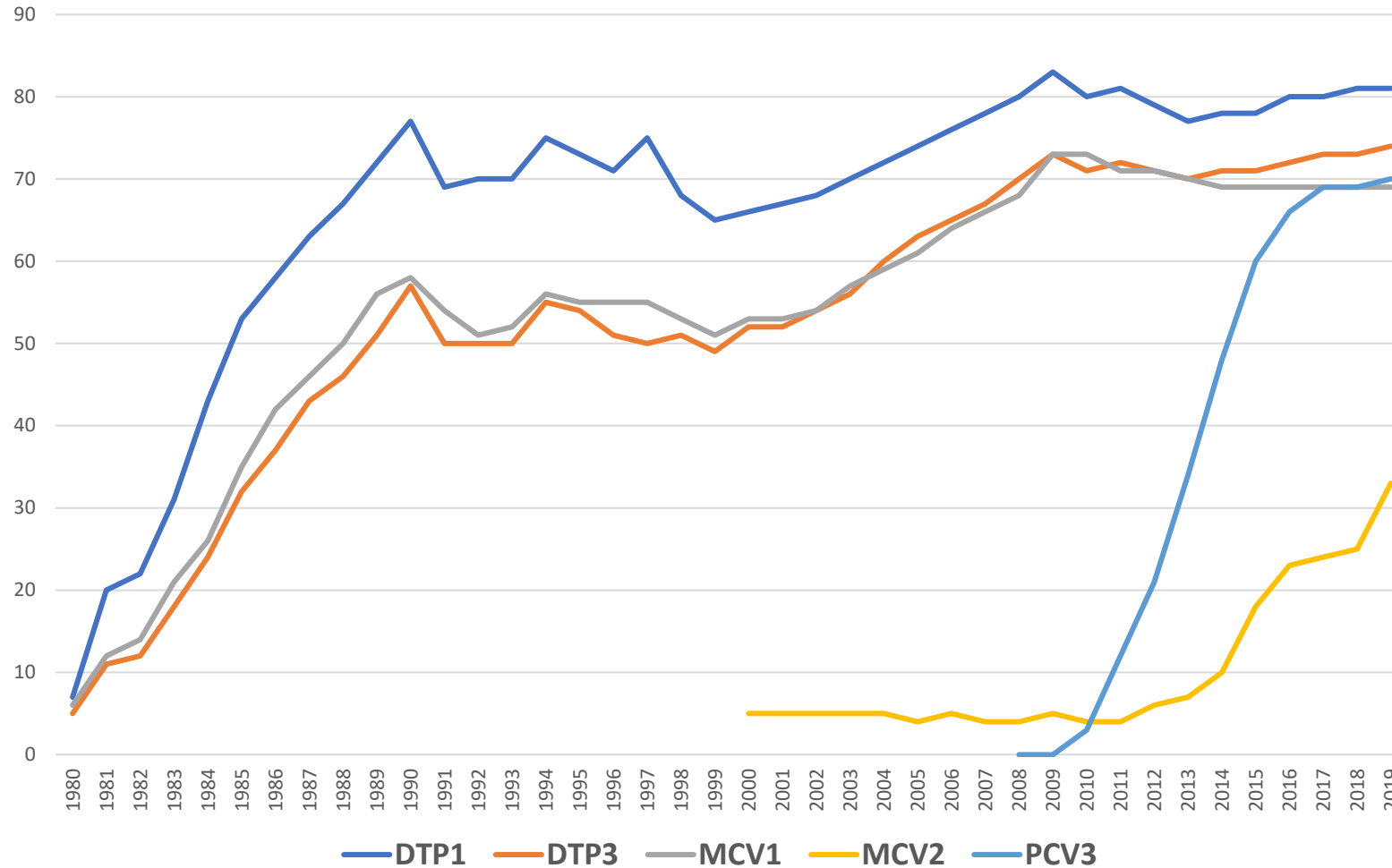
1. **Data systems** : Optimizing data collection, analysis and management tools to **capture older age population and adults** (beyond children, mothers and adolescents)
2. **Human Resource**: Number of health providers and their skill sets (non-communicable and chronic diseases)
3. **Cold Chain capacity**: Expand Cold chain and logistics capacity to **accommodate for new vaccines including COVID-19**
4. Essential health **service re-packaging**
  - Including a widespread **routine Adult vaccination** services
  - Service delivery **sites to include schools** (adolescents and young people)
  - Outreach service delivery to include **non-traditional sites such as workplaces, public gathering sites**
  - Address health challenges of the **older age and adult populations** eg. Non-communicable diseases
5. Governance and **organisation of PHC**



03

Impact on essential immunization

# Routine Immunization progress in the African Region (WUENIC), 1980 - 2019



**2019 Coverage**

DTP1= 81%

DTP3= 74%

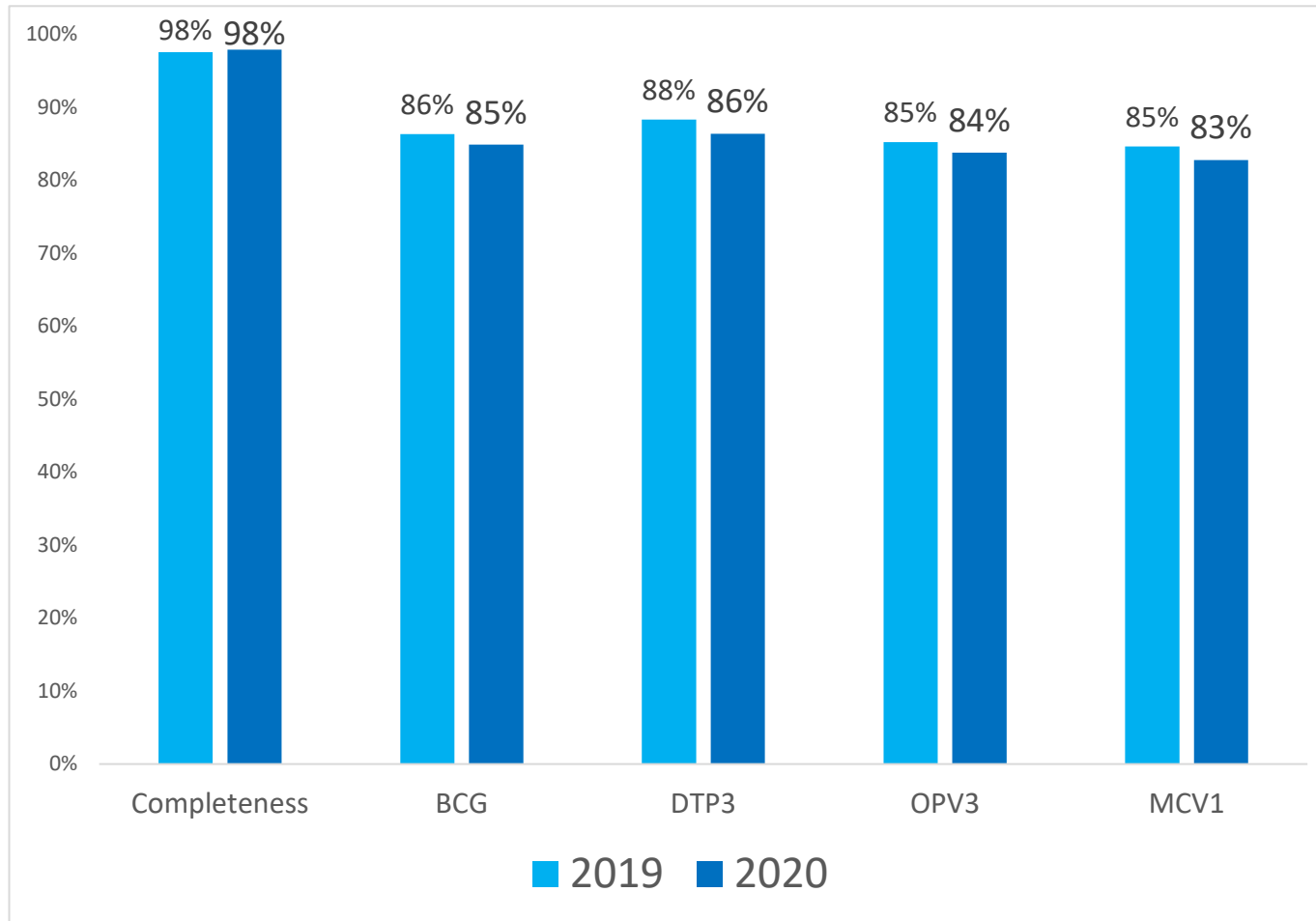
MCV1= 69%

PCV3=70%

MCV2=33%

Source: WUENIC 2020

# Routine Immunization coverage 2020 vs 2019 (Reported data)


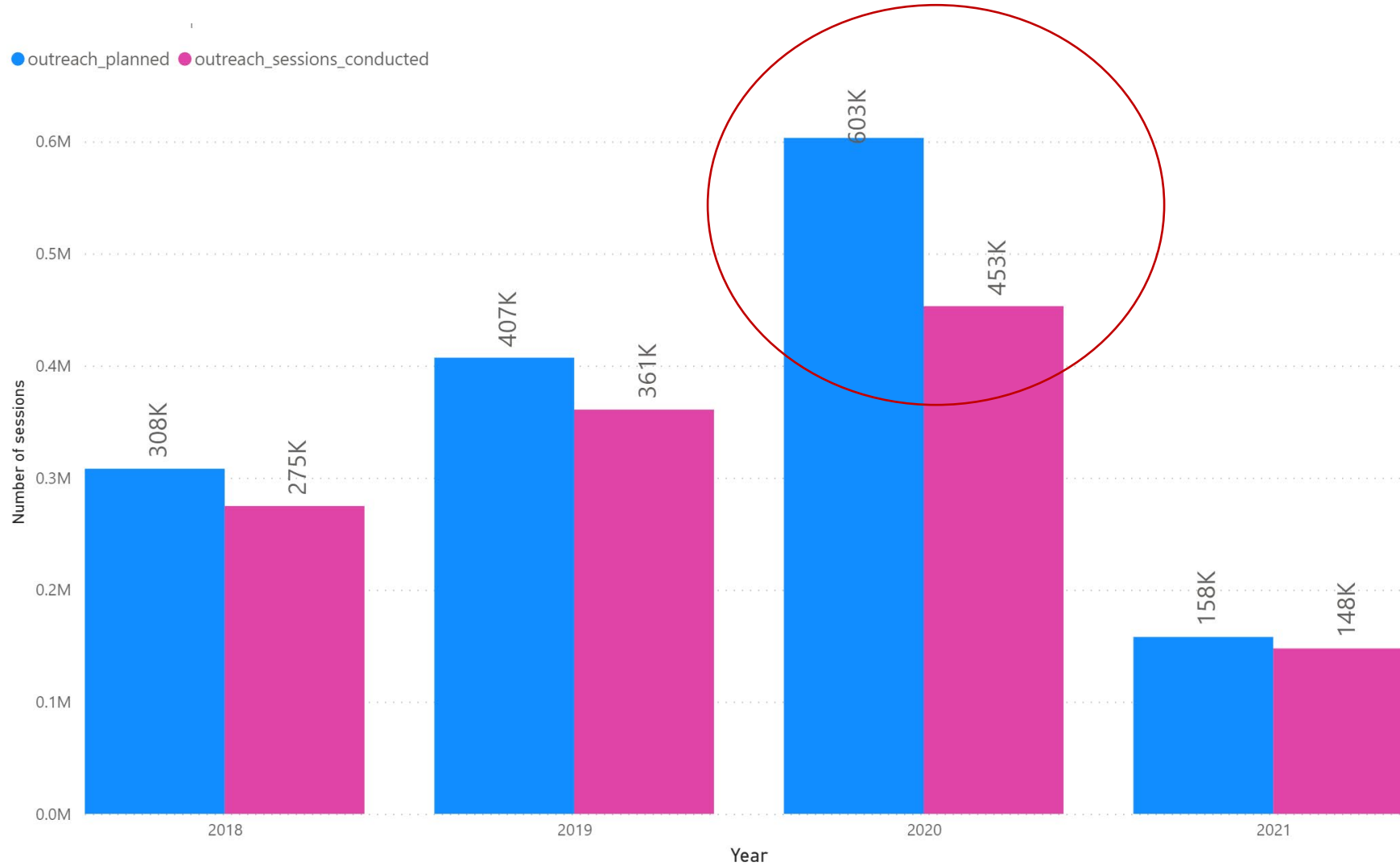


World Health  
 $\pm 2\%$  drop in  
coverage has  
been observed in  
reported data  
between 2019 and  
2020



# Monthly monitoring of Immunization session

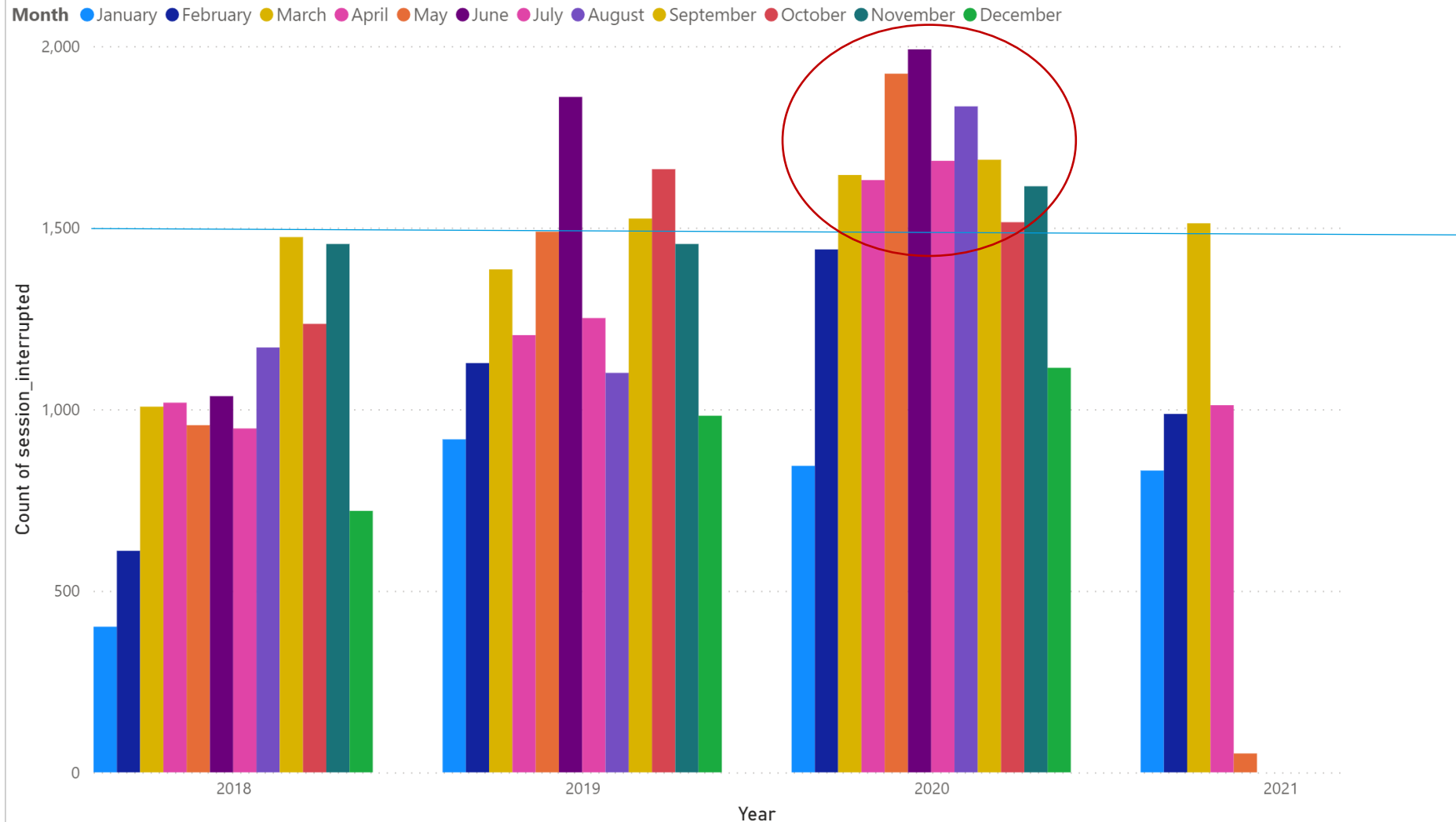
Outreach session implemented vs planned



The lowest proportion of non implemented outreach session vs planned happened in 2020

# Monthly monitoring of Immunization session

## Number of Immunization session interrupted in AFR



2020 has been most affected by immunization session interruption mainly between march and October

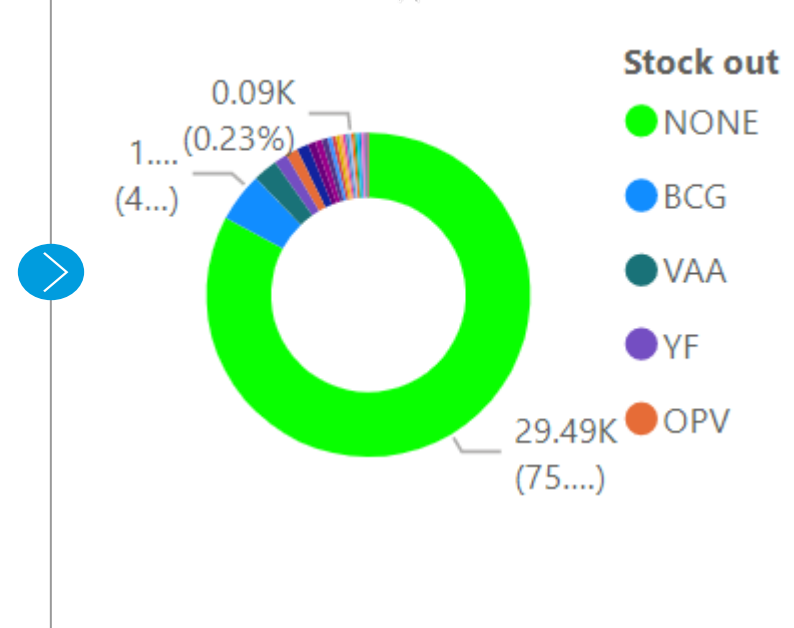
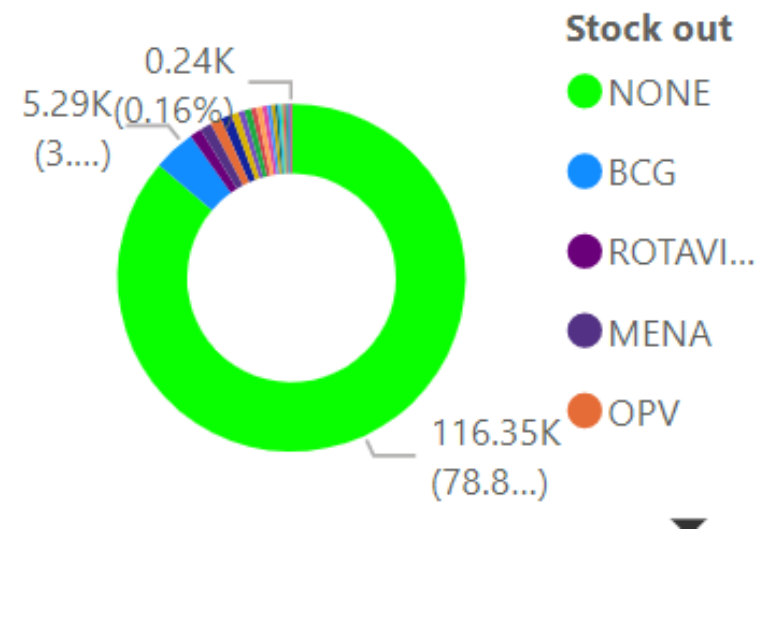
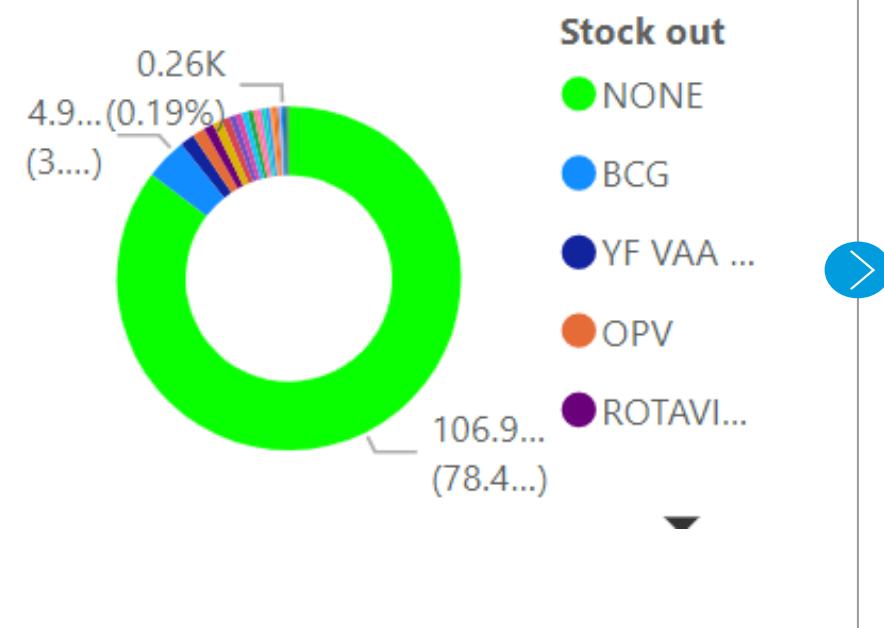


# Vaccine availability

2019

2020

2021\*



+/- 78% of visited sites were found with no vaccine stock out in 2019 and 2020 which dropped to 75% the first 5 years of 2021. BCG, YF vaccine and OPV are among vaccine found out of stock

Source: ISS  
\* January to May

# Summary

- Disruptions are still persisting, even though countries have largely opened up their economies meaning that current disruptions are not associated with lockdowns, or burden of COVID-19
- This suggests that the residual effects of the pandemic on essential services will persist probably for a long time.
- Disruptions are driven by both demand and supply side issues
- Some gains and partial rebound in service provision and utilization have been seen:
  - There are due to implementation of recommended policies and strategies for maintaining essential health services

Thank you