

# Reflections on HPV vaccination during COVID-19 adaptations in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia

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# Routinized introductions with Gavi supported

- November 2019 in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia
- Nine year old cohort with second dose after six months
- Routinized (due to perceived cost) with schools anchored to health facilities, supplemented by community outreach
- Supported by Gavi, WHO and a variety of partners (incl Girl Effect)

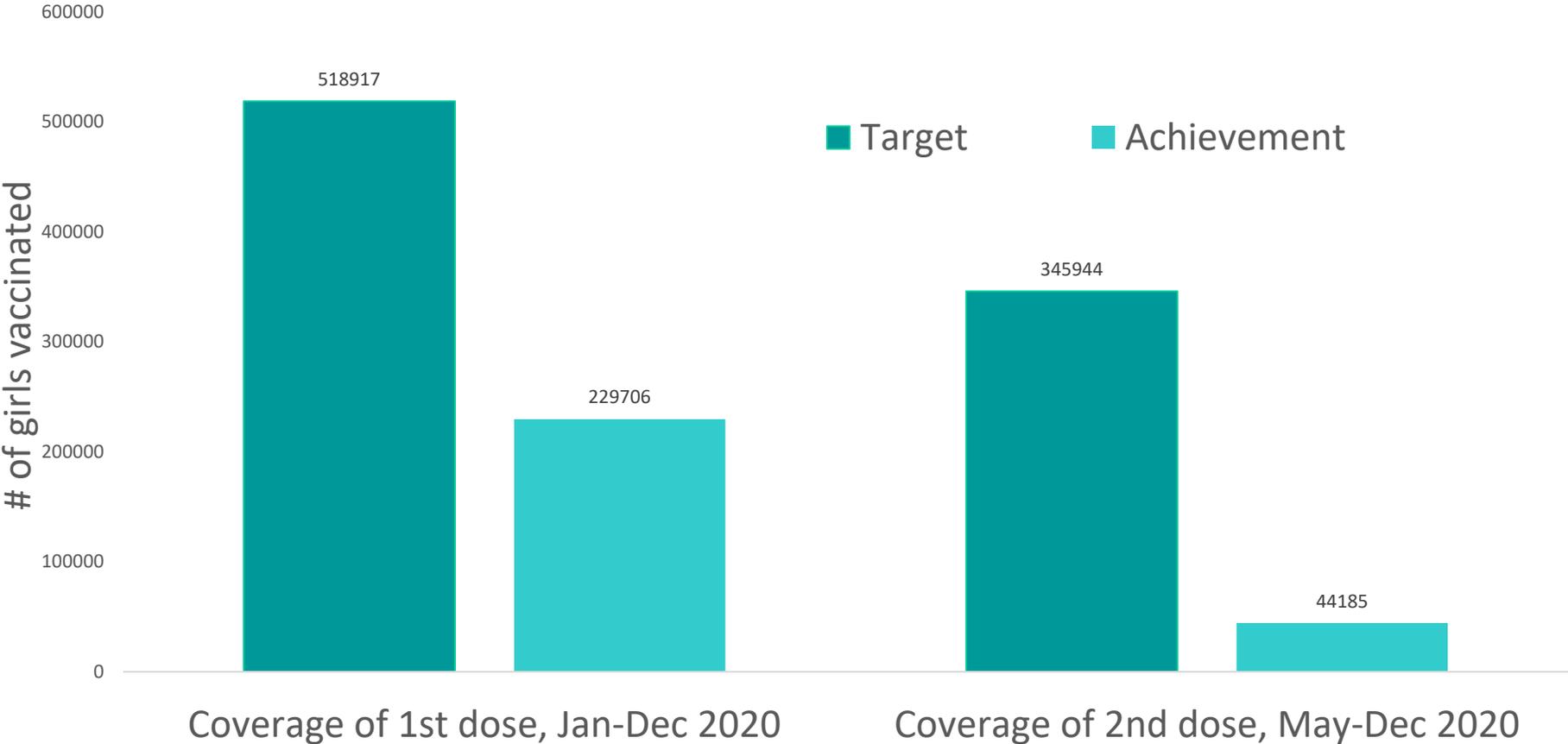


# COVID-19 impacts were severe, and complicated by other outbreaks - Côte d'Ivoire

- Program completed first dose coverage and supervision in January/February, then first COVID-19 case in March 2020
- School closures and other travel restrictions
- Loss of confidence in facilities
- Rumors and misinformation
  - › that targeted HPV, including sterility misinformation
  - › sometimes conflated HPV vaccine with COVID-19 vaccines
- Vaccine-derived polio-virus outbreaks
  - › Deployment of novel monovalent OPV2



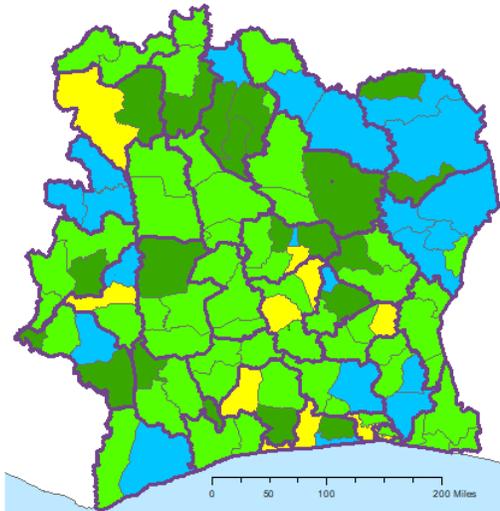
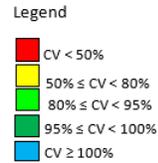
# Cote d'Ivoire cumulative vaccination to December 2020



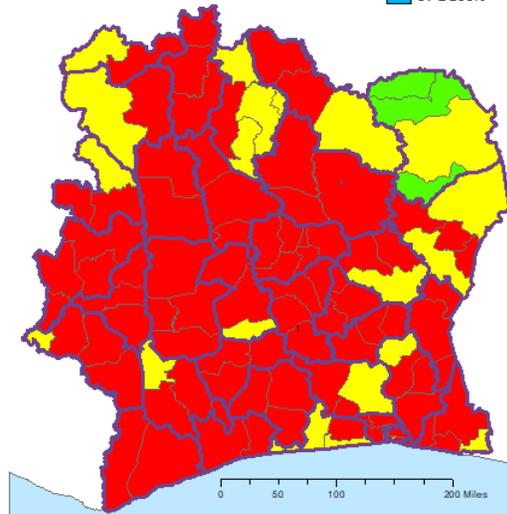
# HPV vaccination was affected more than infant vaccines in CDI

## District mapping of coverage for Pentavalent 3 and HPV 1

Note: does not include HPV vaccine intensification in December 2020

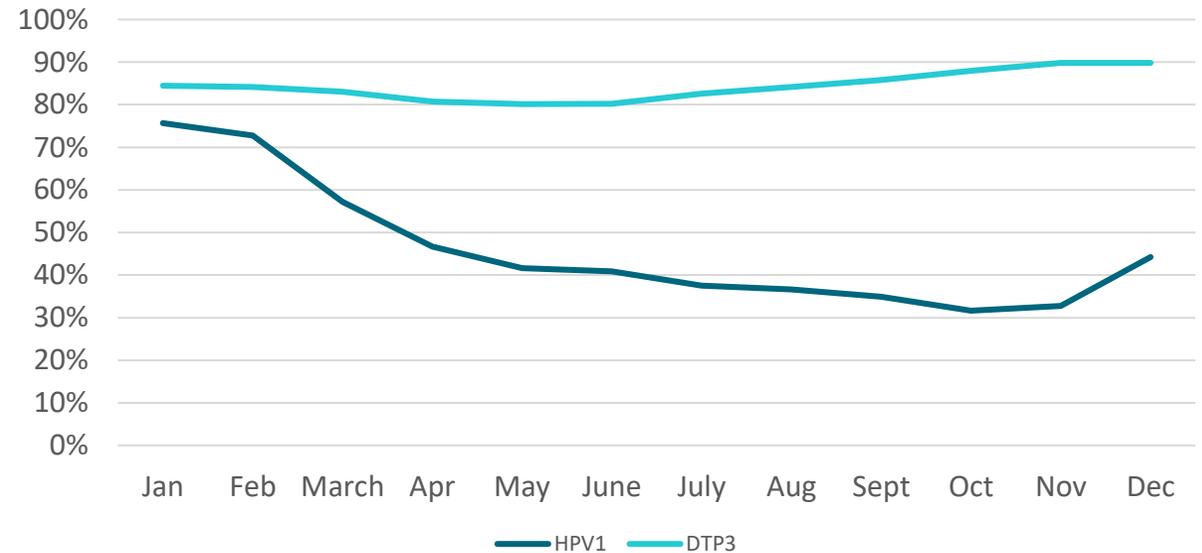


Pentavalent 3<sup>rd</sup> dose coverage at November 2020



HPV 1<sup>st</sup> dose coverage at November 2020

## Comparison of monthly vaccination performance in 2020, HPV1 and DTP3, Côte d'Ivoire (% of doses given / target)



# Responses to the pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire

- Communication from the EPI Director to continue with all routine immunization
- Periodic intensification of vaccination against HPV
  - › in 15 health districts with high populations, and which had suffered restrictions on movement
  - › Organization of sensitization meetings:
    - » vaccinators, community and religious leaders, teaching staff
  - › Coordination of activities with teaching staff
    - » planning, vaccination, response to hesitancy
  - › Community-based catch-up for girls not in school
    - » Community (15%) and schools (40%)



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## Responses to the pandemic in Côte d'Ivoire, *continued*

- Many girls missed vaccination in 2020 and are needing catch-up in 2021
- Good planning needed to follow-up those newly eligible and to systematically provide catch-up for unvaccinated girls in 2021
- Continue periodic intensification of immunization activities to complement the continuing routine services

# Vaccine service records in Liberia show some apparent recovery with an integrated PIRI

## HPV 1 & 2 Vaccines Fixed and Outreach, 2019-2020

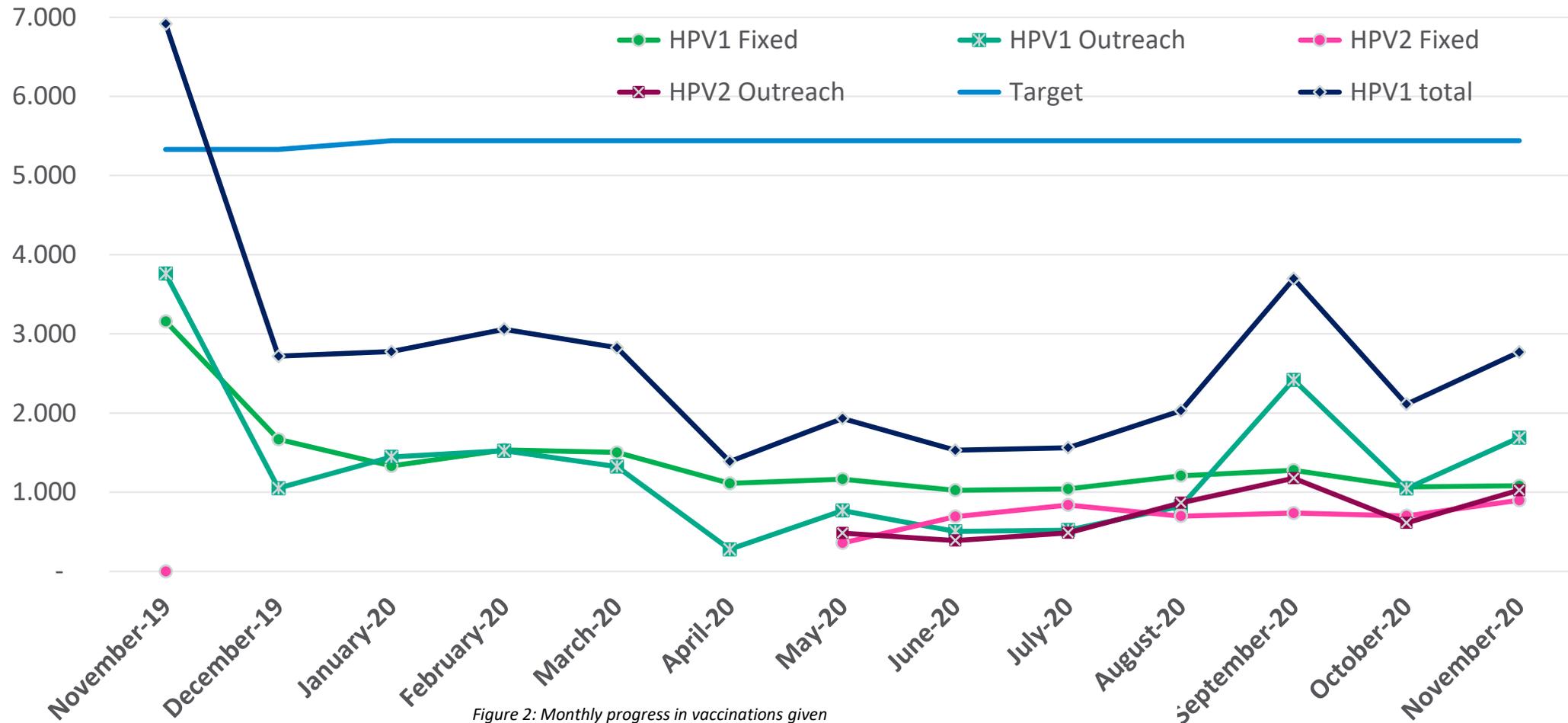


Figure 2: Monthly progress in vaccinations given

# Overall lessons: introducing HPV during COVID-19

- Planning and coordination
  - › Video conferencing, chat groups etc are difficult stop-gaps
  - › Emergency intensification can throw up new partners
  - › New tracking needed to catch-up those missed in 2020
- Implementation
  - › School-based periodic intensification can work,
  - › PIRI, either school or integrated, may prove a longer-term complement to routine HPV
- Communications
  - › Specific adaptations needed in both countries to encourage attendance at facilities
  - › Adaptations also needed to respond to specific misinformation





**Thank you!**

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