

The Long-Term Impact of Rotavirus Vaccines in AFRO - East and Southern Africa

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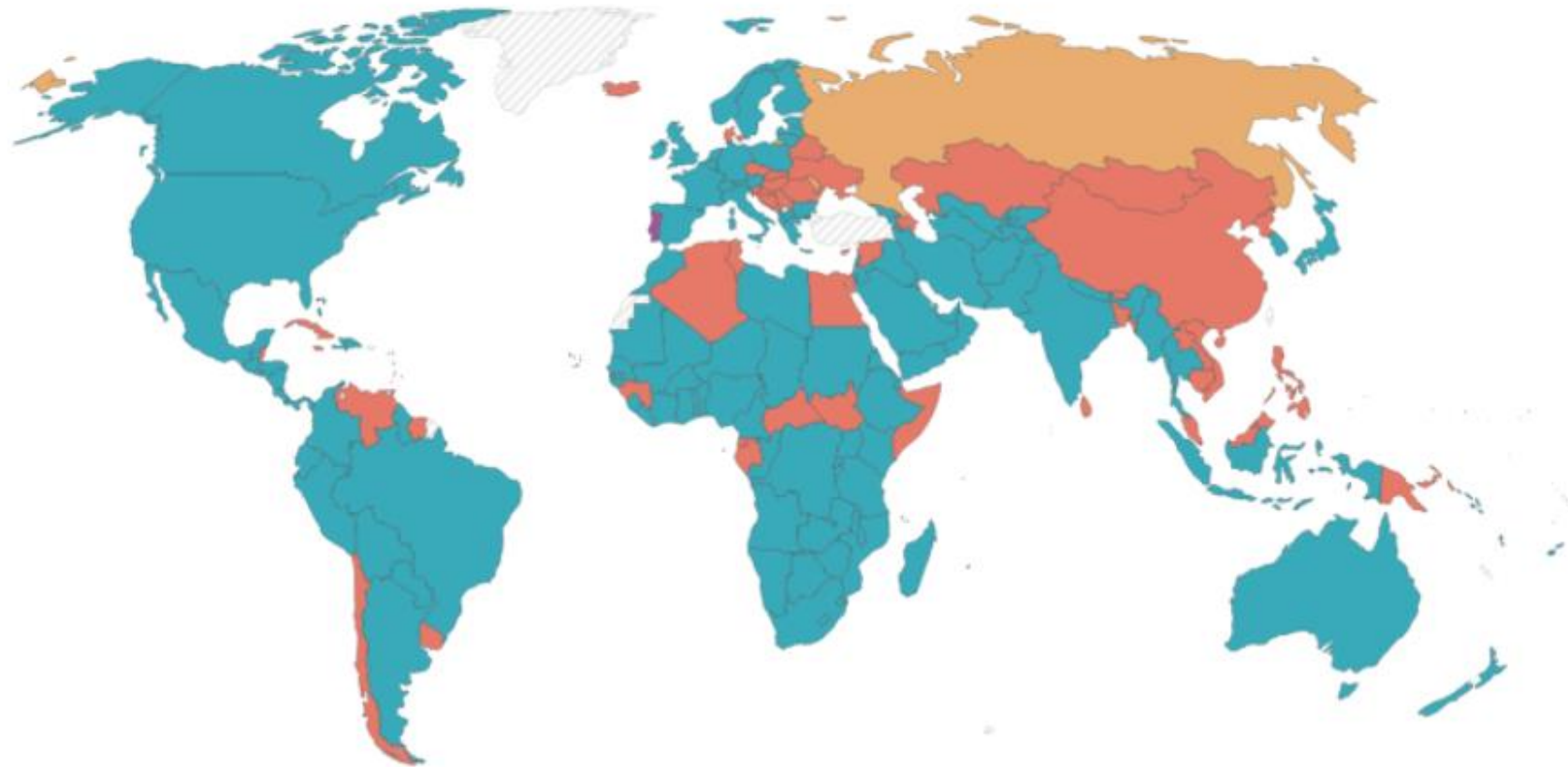
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Presentation outline

- RV introduction: Global and IST ESA countries
- Trends in Diarrhea hospitalizations and rotavirus positives
- Timing of impact of vaccine introduction and its impact
- Impacts of rotavirus vaccine coverage on rotavirus diarrhea
- Conclusion
- Recommendations
- Acknowledgment

Rotavirus vaccines in ESA, 19/20 countries introduced RV

This shows which countries provide and recommend rotavirus vaccines through routine services. People may still be able to receive the vaccine if it's not in the routine schedule – it might be optional or available commercially.

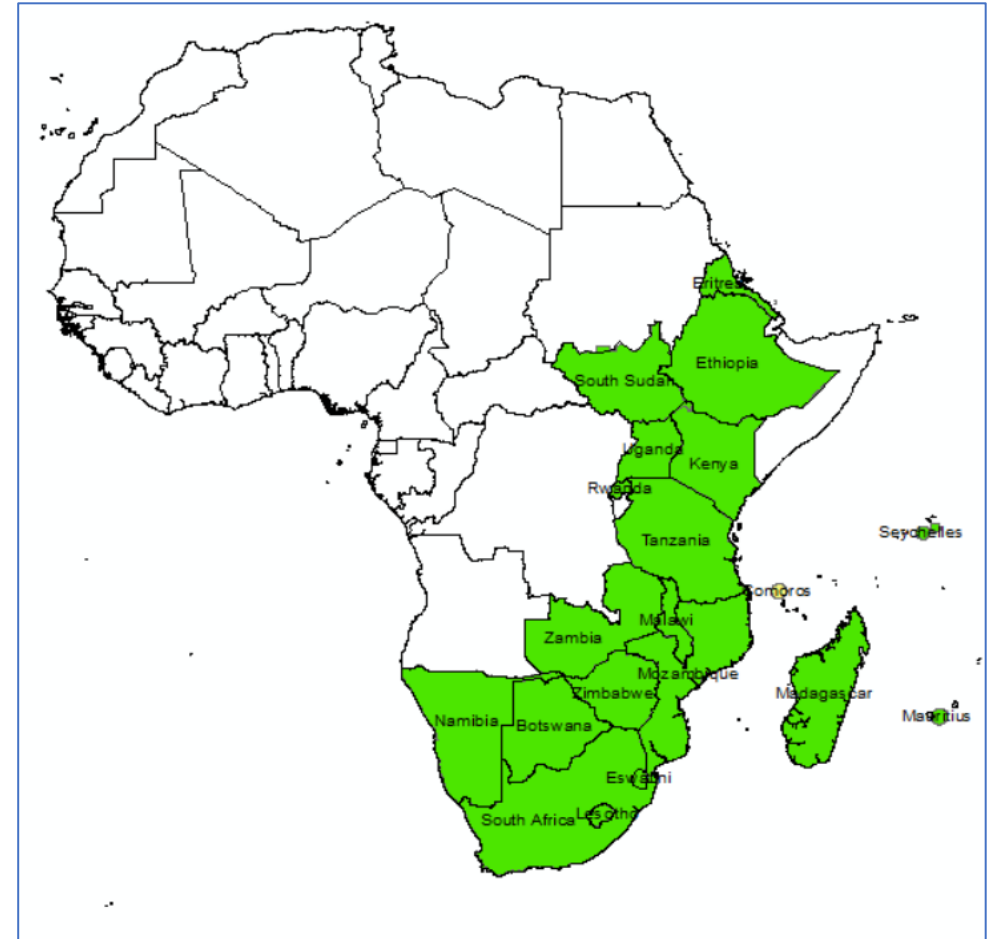


■ Entire country ■ Not routinely administered ■ Regions of the country ■ Specific risk groups ■ No data

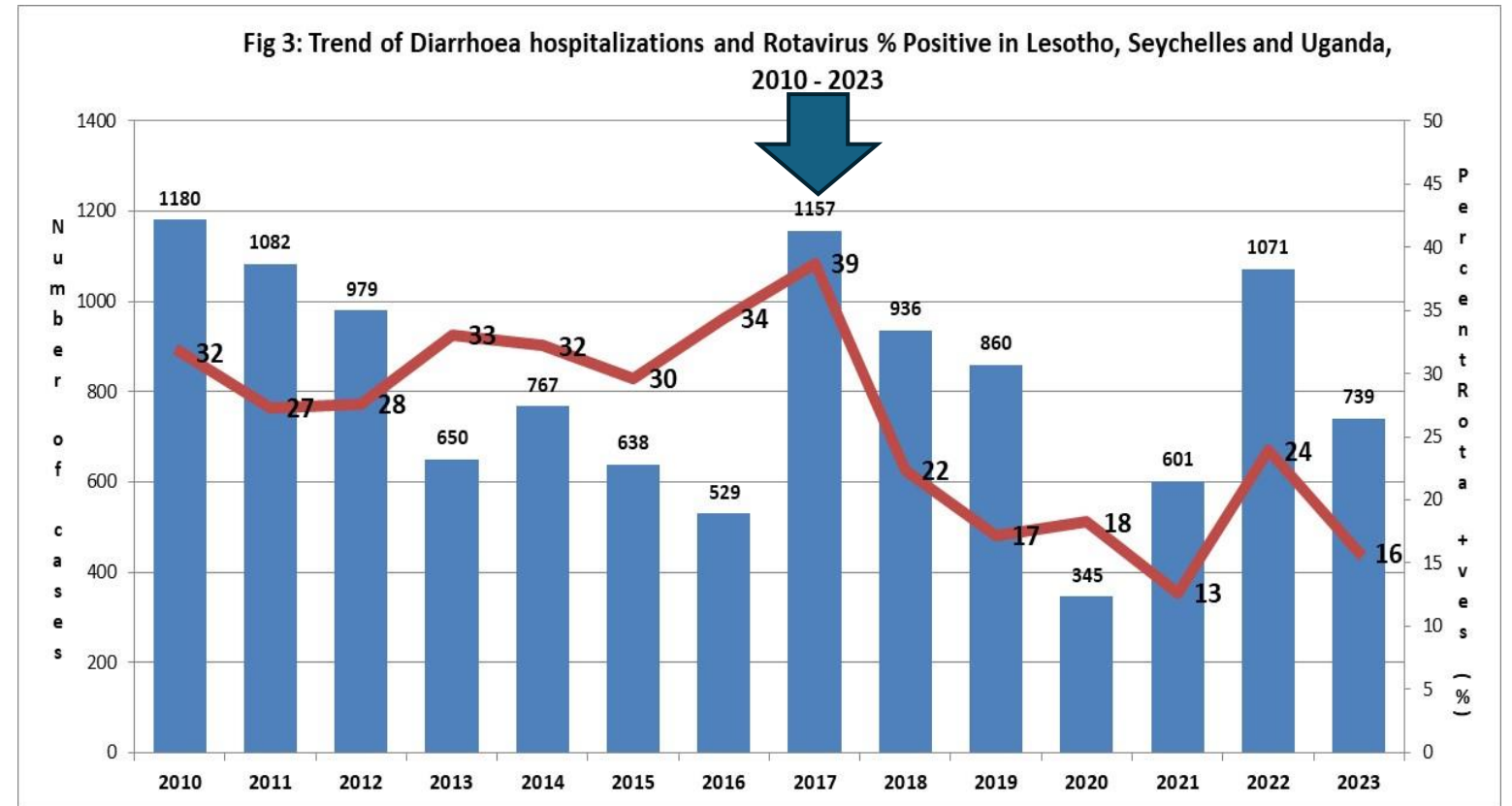
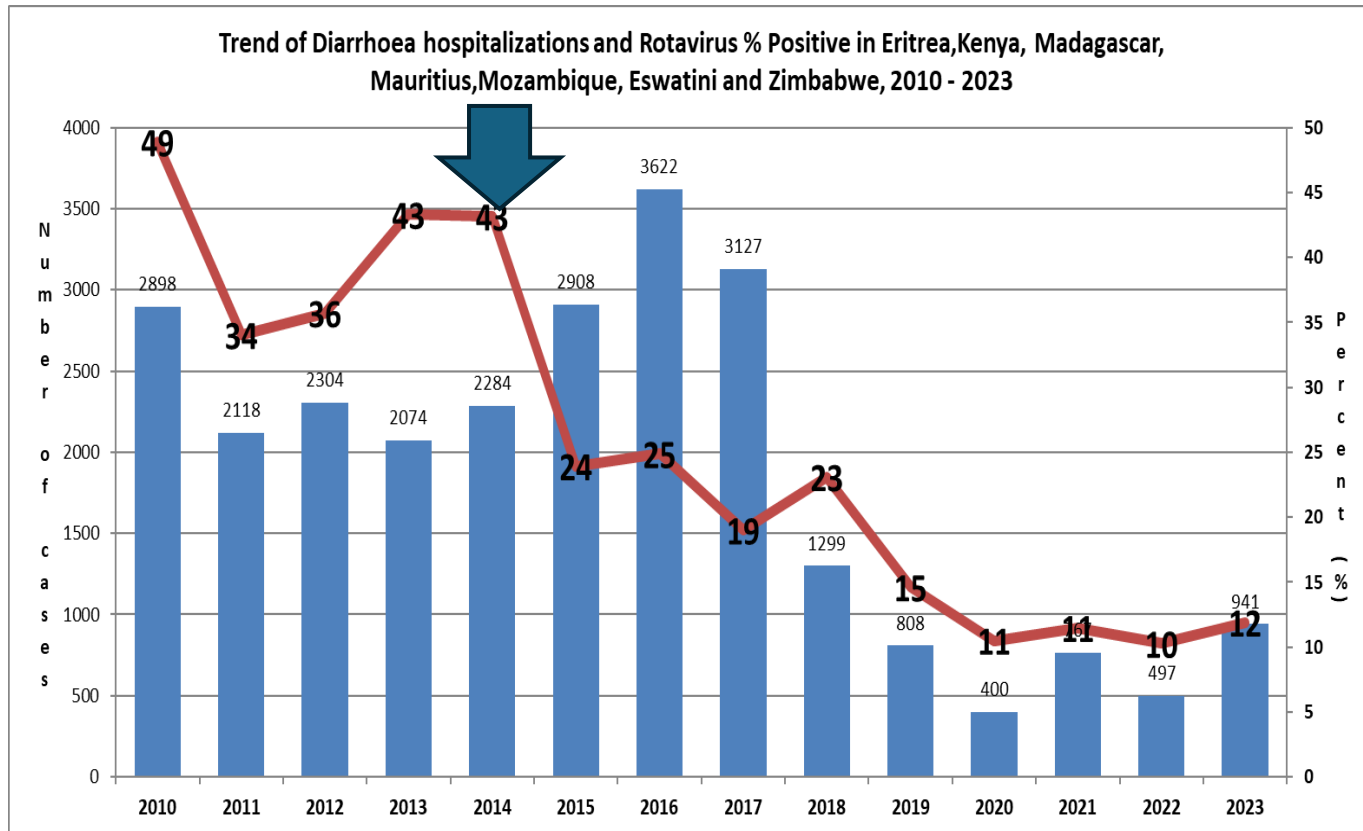
Data source: World Health Organization (2025)

Note: Rotavirus vaccines became available for the first time in 2006.

OurWorldinData.org/vaccination | CC BY



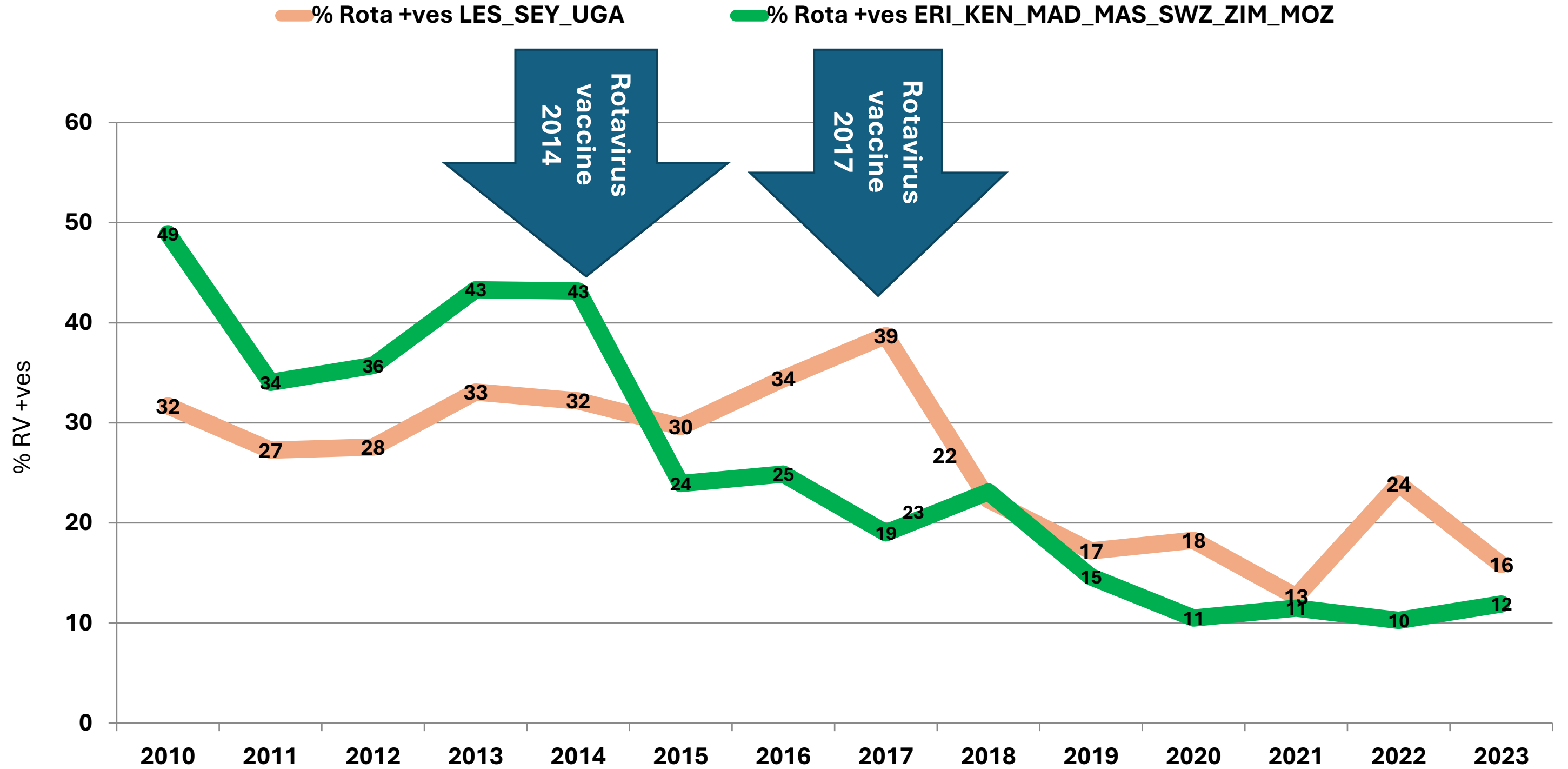
Trends in the number of diarrhea hospitalizations and rotavirus positives in groups of countries in East and Southern Africa, 2010 - 2023



Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique: These seven countries introduced rotavirus vaccines in 2014. Before the introduction of the rotavirus vaccines, the rotavirus positives were on average **40.5%**. Following the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine, the average rotavirus positives became **16.6%**. **This represents a 59% reduction in rotavirus positives following the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine.**

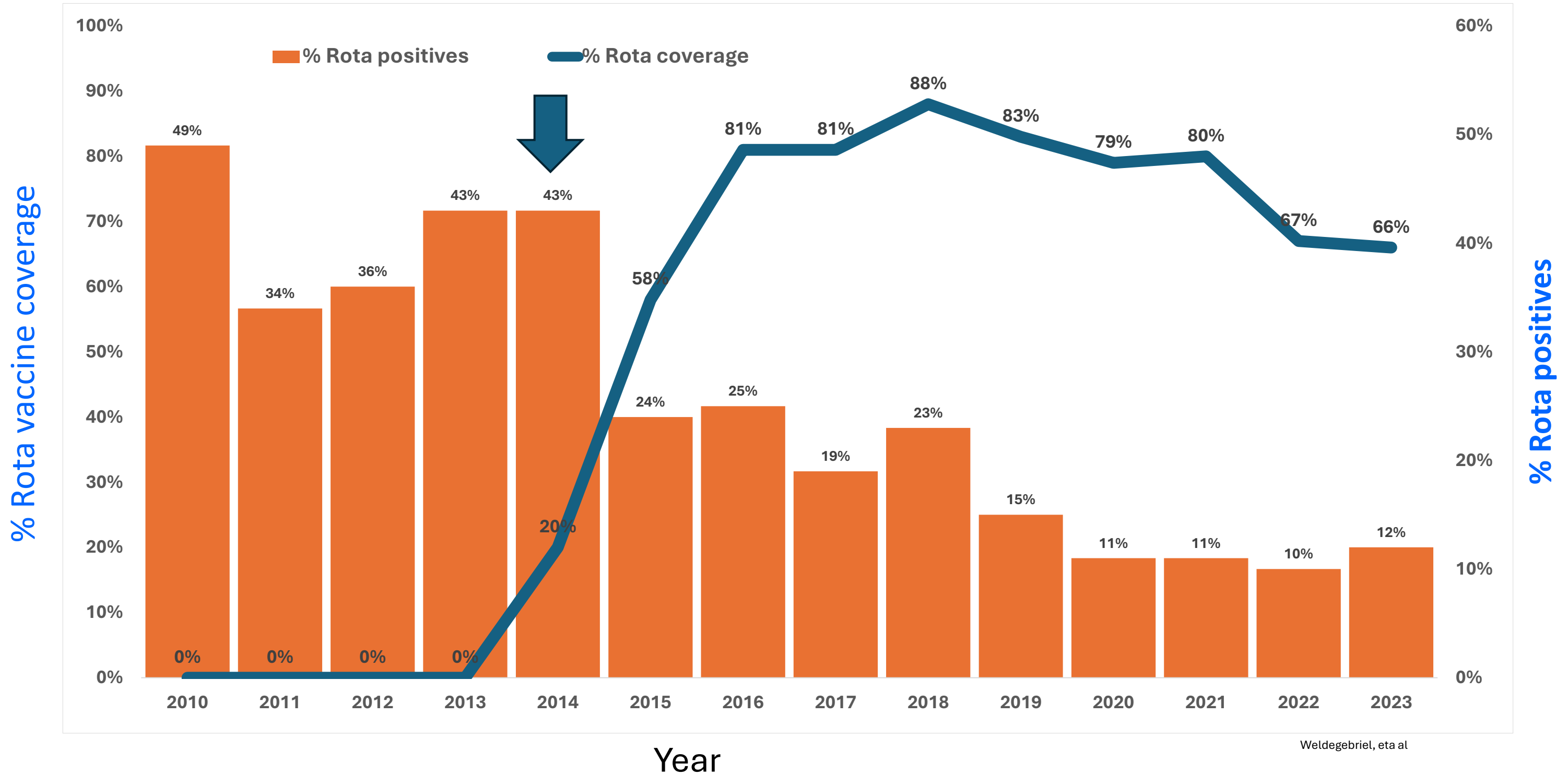
Lesotho, Seychelles and Uganda introduced rotavirus vaccines in 2017. In the 7 years before rotavirus vaccine use, the rotavirus positives were on average **43%**. After vaccine introduction, rotavirus positivity reduced to an average of **18.3%** per year. **This is a 57% reduction in rotavirus positives after vaccine use.**

Trends in % rotavirus positives in East and Southern Africa, 2010 - 2023

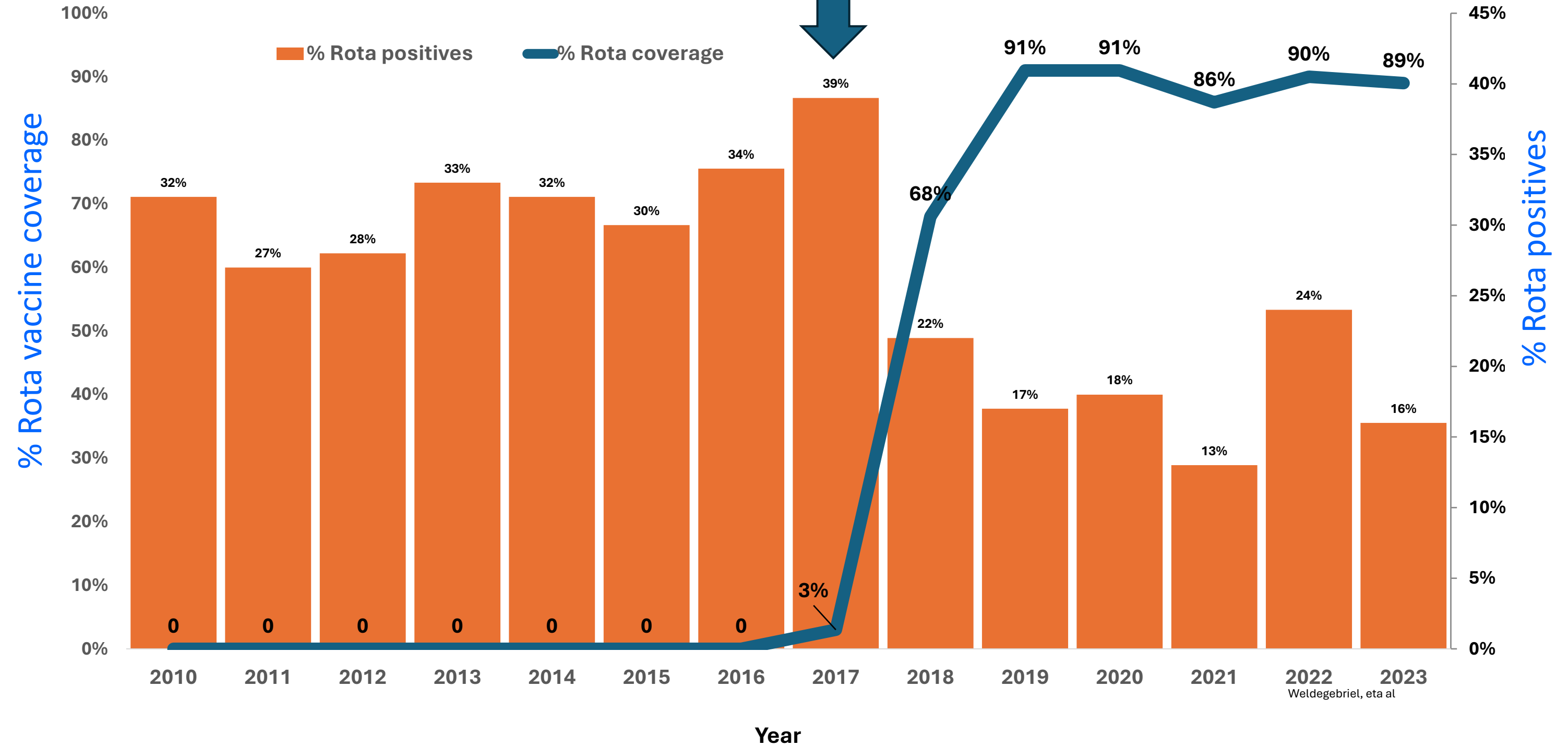


**Did rotavirus vaccine coverage
pick up quickly to
impact rotavirus diarrhea?**

Rota vaccination coverage versus rotavirus positives in Eritrea, Eswatini, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and Zimbabwe 2010 - 2023

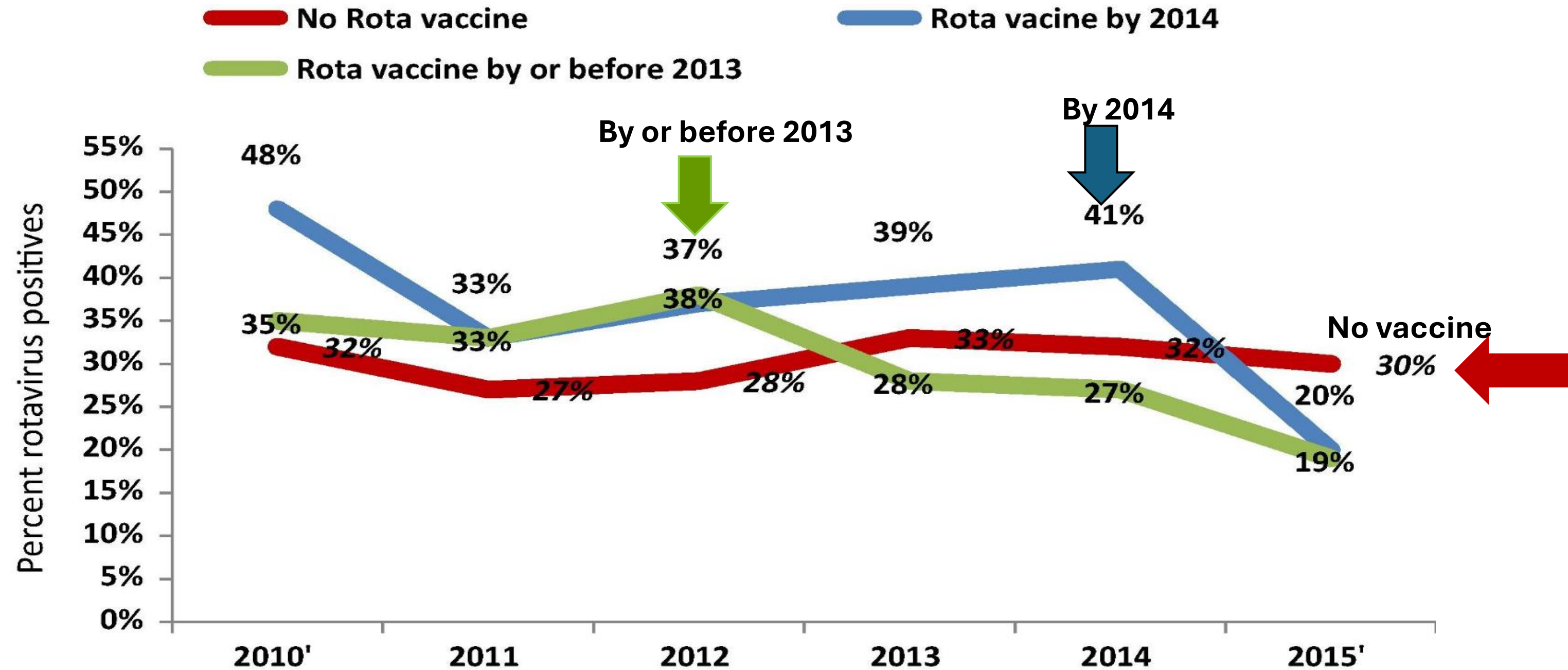


Rota vaccination coverage versus rotavirus positives in Lesotho, Seychelles and Uganda , 2010 - 2023



**Rotavirus diarrhea in countries that
didn't introduce rotavirus vaccine
remains high at $\geq 30\%$**

Rotavirus positivity by timing of rotavirus vaccine introduction East and Southern African Countries



Conclusion

- Rotavirus vaccines have resulted in **sustained reduction of rotavirus diarrhea hospitalizations in African countries**
 - The rotavirus vaccine's decade-long impact is a strong boost for immunization and public health.
- The impacts of the vaccines were seen within one year of introduction.
 - Coverage rose rapidly, showing **good preparations for the introduction** and strong health systems in those countries
- Countries with no rotavirus vaccine continue to experience high burden of rotavirus diarrhea

Next steps

- **Support** sentinel surveillance, to continue gathering useful data
- **Publish** long-term impact of RV vaccines (any changes in RV genotypes) and results from GPDS surveillance
- Detailed investigation of **rotavirus outbreaks** (in post-vaccine era) with whole genome analysis
- When required, **ensure an uninterrupted supply and smooth switch** of rotavirus vaccines
- **Countries to improve Rota vaccine coverage** to maximize its impact

Acknowledgment

- Member states that are participating in the RV Surveillance
- Sentinel site members (clinical, Lab and data teams)
- WHO (HQ, AFRO / ISTs, Country offices)
- Regional Reference Laboratories
- US CDC and CDC Foundation
- The Gates Foundation
- GAVI

Disclaimer:

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the World Health Organization