



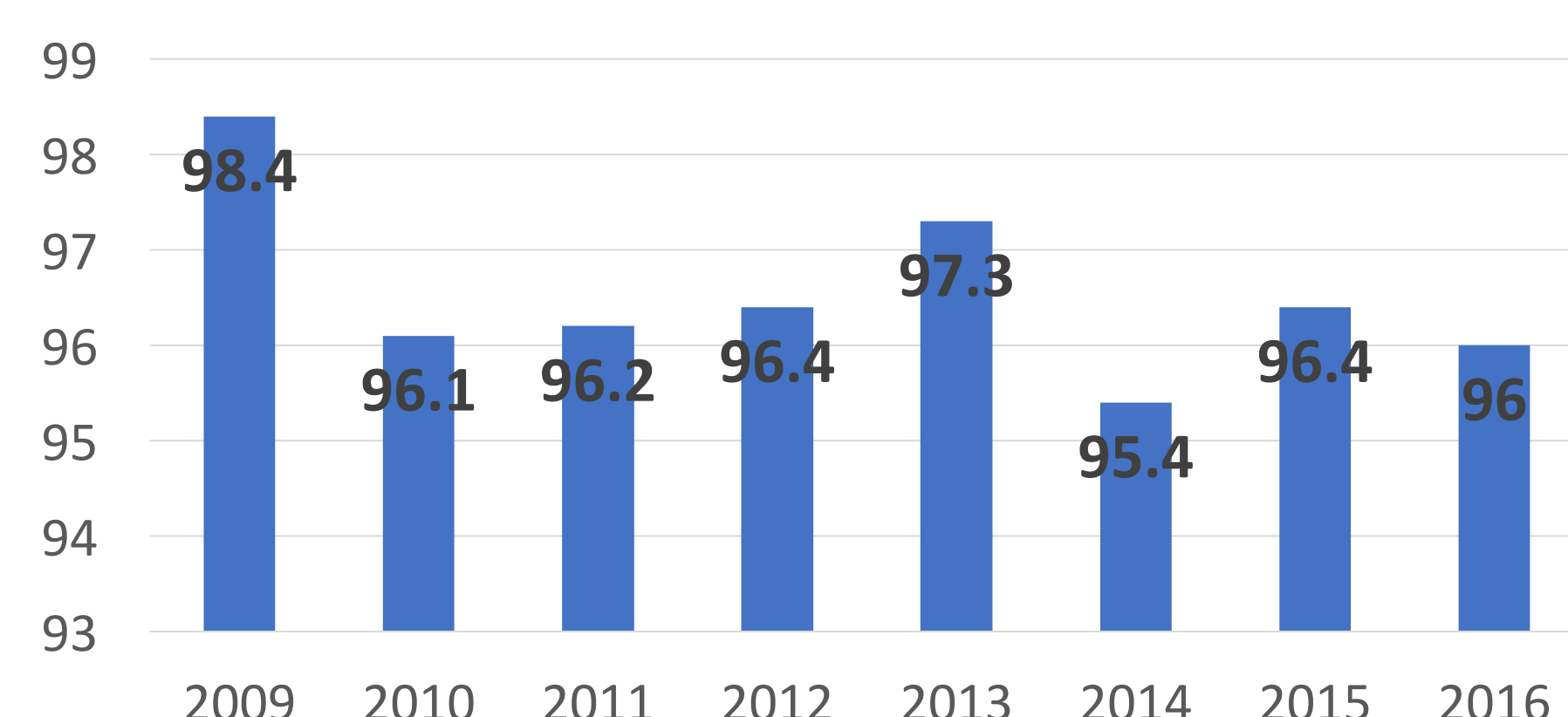
São Tomé e Príncipe

Managing the Transition from Gavi Assistance

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1. Background Information

Figure 1. Coverage of 3rd dose pentavalent, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2009-2016.



The National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was established in 1977. The following vaccines have been introduced between 2003 and 2016 with Gavi support:

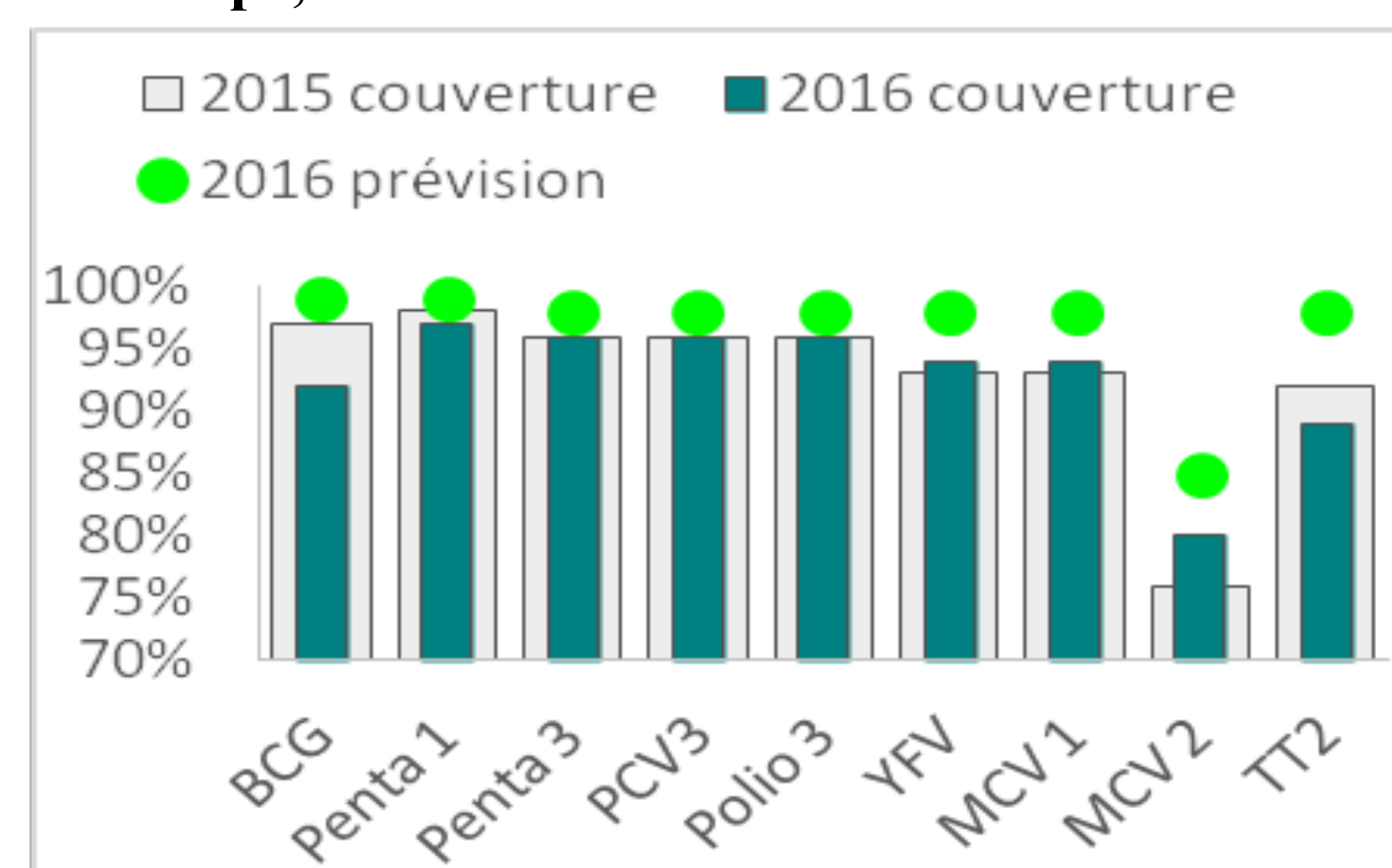
- Hepatitis B
- Yellow Fever
- Pentavalent (DPT-HepB-Hib)
- PCV-13
- 2nd dose measles;

In 2016-2017 the following vaccines were introduced:

- Switch from MMR → MR (measles-rubella)
- IPV
- Rotavirus
- HPV

No plans for introduction of additional vaccines in 2018-2020.

Figure 2. Coverage of selected vaccines, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2015-2016.



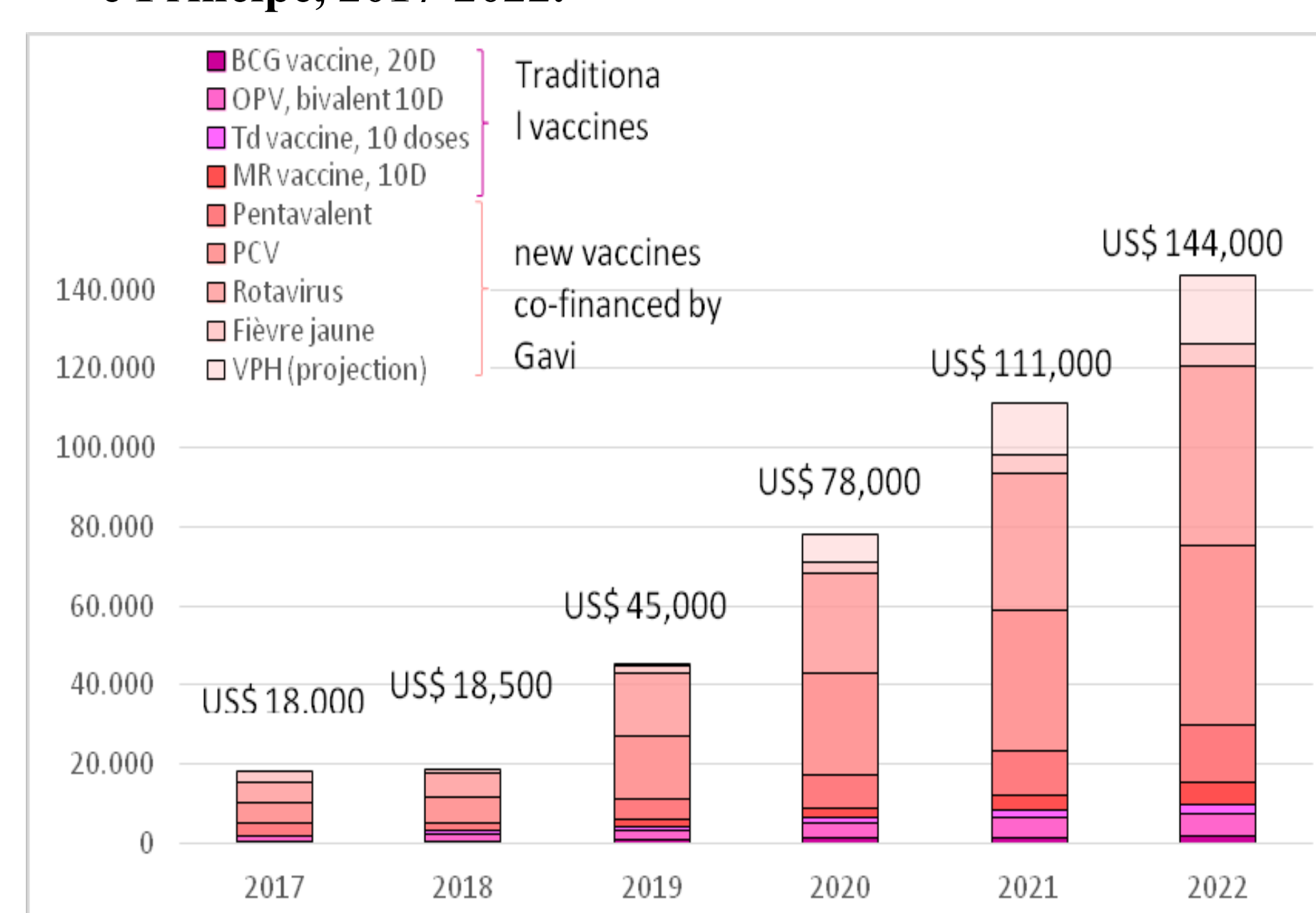
2. Financing

- São Tomé is heavily dependent on external support for purchase of vaccines
- Traditional vaccines are fully funded by the São Tomé Government at 30,000USD/year
- Remaining vaccines are funded by Gavi. Currently no Gavi co-financing debts

Financing cont'd

- 5 years of co-financing, with progressive reduction of external funding from 2018-2022
- By 2023 the EPI program and all its vaccines will be fully financed by the National Government

Figure 3. Projections of vaccine costs, by vaccine considering traditional and new vaccines, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2017-2022.



Health System Strengthening (HSS) Financing

- Initiated in 2017 for a period of 5 years -- USD 457,000
 - By August 2017 → 39% execution
 - 69% expected to be executed by Dec 2017

3. Procurement

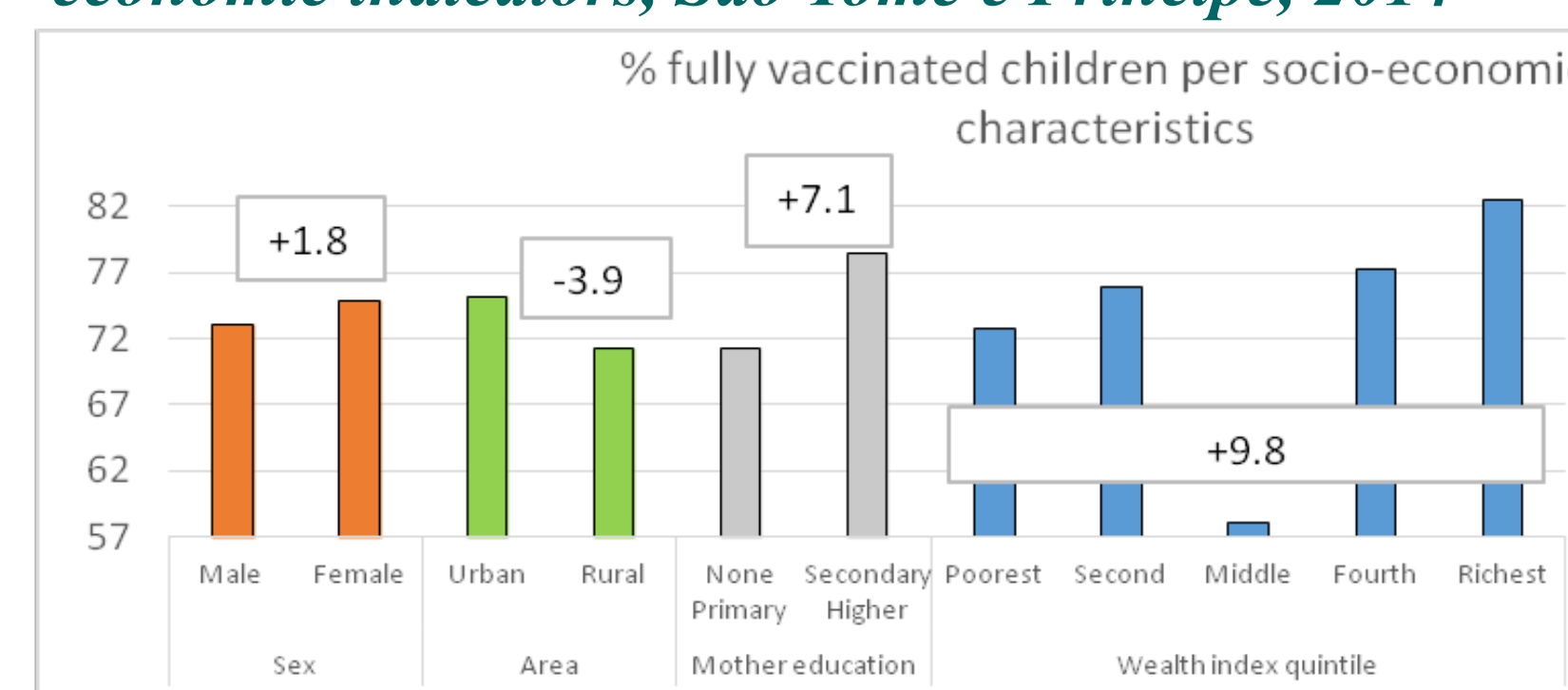
- Since 2016, all vaccines have been procured through UNICEF Supply Division.
- Delay in payment to UNICEF due to lack of funds in 2017
- Country currently working on subscription to the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII).
 - Formal request sent by the Ministry of Health to UNICEF
 - Plan being elaborated

4. NITAG

- Establishment of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Committee (NITAG) planned for 2018
- Currently Immunization Inter Agency Committee (IIAC) meets periodically to discuss and advise on immunization issues

5. Coverage and Equity

Fig. Coverage of fully vaccinated children by socio-economic indicators, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2014



Fully vaccinated children include those vaccinated with BCG, Polio3, Penta3, PCV3, Measles (MMR1) and YF

- Mobile teams, home to home vaccination and other specific strategies to reach target groups

6. Transition Plan

Transition phase will be initiated in 2018. The Transition Plan was prepared in 2017 and validated with the Immunization Interagency Coordinating Committee in December, 2017.

Centered in 4 objectives:

- Governance and Coordination of Health Sector;
- Vaccine financing
- Vaccine supply and availability
- Health Information System, Surveillance and Monitoring and Evaluation;

Expectations:

- Better engagement and political support
- Enhance capacity building on Needs Assessment and Planning and other key areas
- Increase funding for vaccine acquisition

7. Graduation Grant

Gavi graduation grant

- USD 3,542,674

Fiduciary Agency for Fund Management (*Agencia fiduciaria para gestão - AFAP*) is the institution responsible for receiving and managing the grants until the Ministry of Health has its own management structure established.

One of the main challenges, in regards to management of funds for immunization, is to build capacity the Department of Finance (DAF) at the Ministry of Health.

8. Main challenges

- Delays in availability of budget for vaccine purchase is a challenge for adequate budget execution
- High dependency on external support for immunization funding

9. Key Lessons

- Need for more in country political engagement
- Improve capacity of EPI team for better planning of immunization activities and vaccine forecasting
- Need for capacity building in selected key areas



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