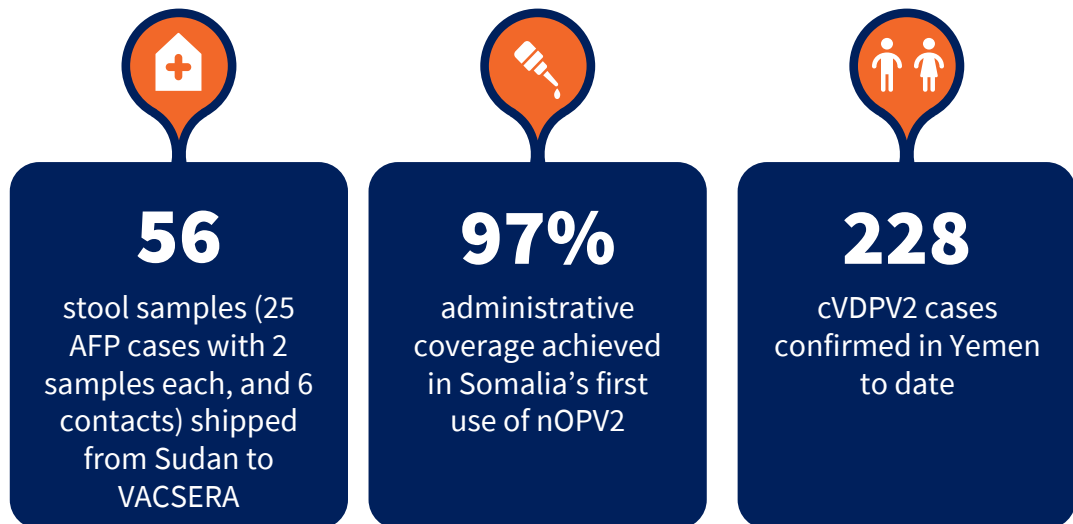
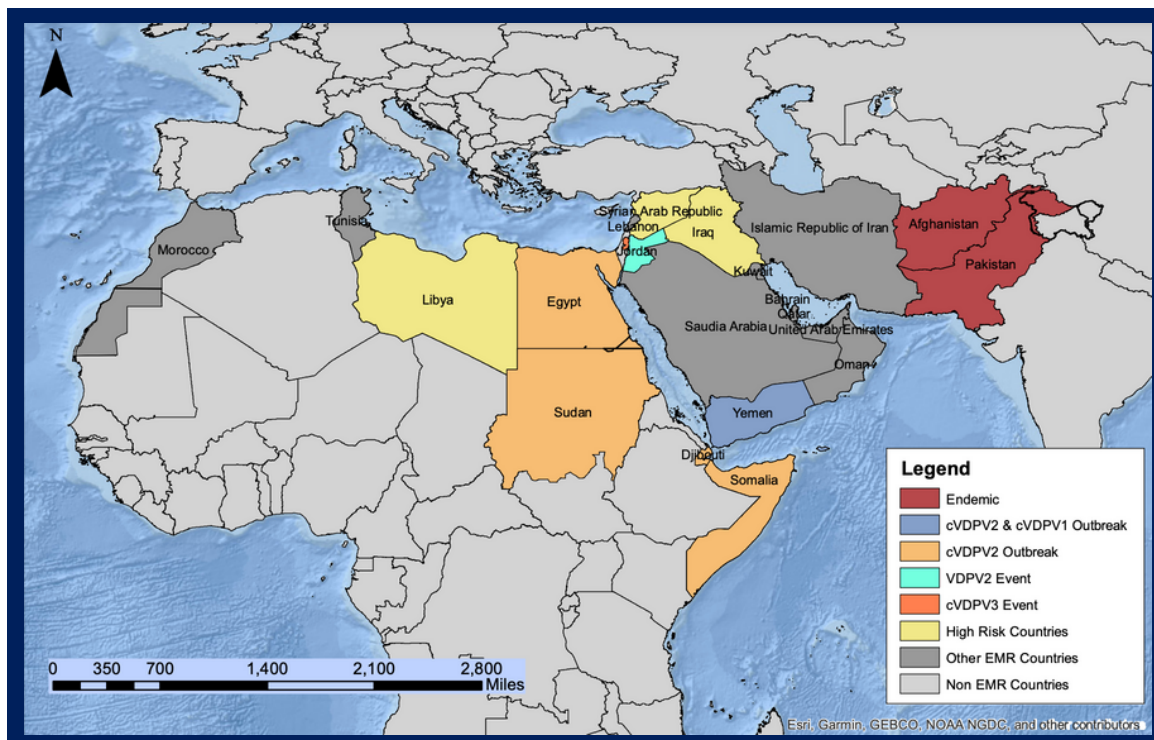


BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- The conflict in **Sudan** continues to severely impact the delivery of healthcare and the function of health infrastructure throughout the country, particularly in Khartoum and the Darfur states. The risk of outbreaks of water- and vector-borne, and vaccine-preventable diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, cholera, other diarrheal diseases, measles and polio has increased substantially, and agencies are appealing for funding given the massive increase in needs.
- In **Yemen**, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, with support from WHO and UNICEF, is working on the destruction and disposal of around 8.8 million doses of trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) that expired on 30 June 2023. Assessment of incineration sites in Sana'a is complete and a disposal committee has been set up to ensure safe disposal of the 7.3m doses there; the same arrangement is underway to safely dispose of the 1.5m doses in Aden.
- **Somalia** has used nOPV2 for the first time, in a sub-national campaign targeting 2,546,474 children in the southern and central parts of the country. Notably, just one out of 81 districts was not accessible for vaccination.



Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) isolates:

	2022		2023	
	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
DJIBOUTI	0	12	0	0
EGYPT	0	6	0	0
SOMALIA	5	6	2	3
SUDAN	1	1	0	0
YEMEN	162	25	0	0



SUDAN IN FOCUS

- With the National Polio Lab in Khartoum inaccessible, extensive coordination, logistics, and risk mitigation efforts led to a first batch of 56 stool samples to be shipped by road from eight states to VACSERA polio laboratory in Giza, **Egypt**.
- The road route of samples required meticulous planning and temperature control, passing through southern and eastern states and along a series of collection points, then to Argeen crossing, then on a 14-hour drive across Aswan governorate to VACSERA. Prior to the conflict onset when there were frequent commercial flights from Khartoum to Cairo.
- All results have been received: of the 25 AFP cases, 22 are negative one is non-polio enterovirus (NPEV) and two are SL2; of the six contacts, three are negative, one is NPEV and two are SL2.



SUDAN IN FOCUS (continued)

- AFP cases continue to be notified, followed by investigations and stool sample collection where it is possible to do so.
- A shipment of samples from the Darfur region via **Chad** onward to a laboratory in the GPLN was planned but had to be cancelled due to insecurity and movement restrictions.
- The next batch shipment of samples from a majority of states through Madani in Gezira state to VACSERA is planned for late July, following the first batch of samples transported this way.



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI



- The most recent cVDPV2 isolate was collected on 22 May 2022.
- An OBRA is planned to start on 10 September 2023.

EGYPT



- The most recent cVDPV2 isolate was collected on 29 August 2022.
- An OBRA has been scheduled for 29 July through 7 August 2023.

SOMALIA



- There are no new cases in this reporting period. The last case had a date of onset of 2 March 2023.
- Three environmental samples from this reporting period were positive for cVDPV2:
 - Sample from the Egyptian Hospital in Banadir, collected on 25 May 2023
 - Sample from Twenty-one October site in Banadir, collected on 25 May 2023
 - Sample from the Awes Mayow public toilet in Bay, collected on 7 May 2023

SUDAN



- Despite the ongoing conflict, AFP surveillance remains active. Notification is happening country-wide and samples are being collected, but where security conditions affect movement, those samples are sitting in storage.
- Environmental surveillance is soon to restart in Gezira, Red Sea and White Nile states, which are all hosting large numbers of IDPs.
- Cross-border collaboration with neighboring countries continues. The WHO **Chad** team notified WHO Sudan of 8 AFP case among Sudanese refugee children currently residing in Chad and results of these samples will also eventually be shared. Coordination with Egypt for sample transport continues, as does surveillance enhancement of neighboring countries and frequent communications.

YEMEN

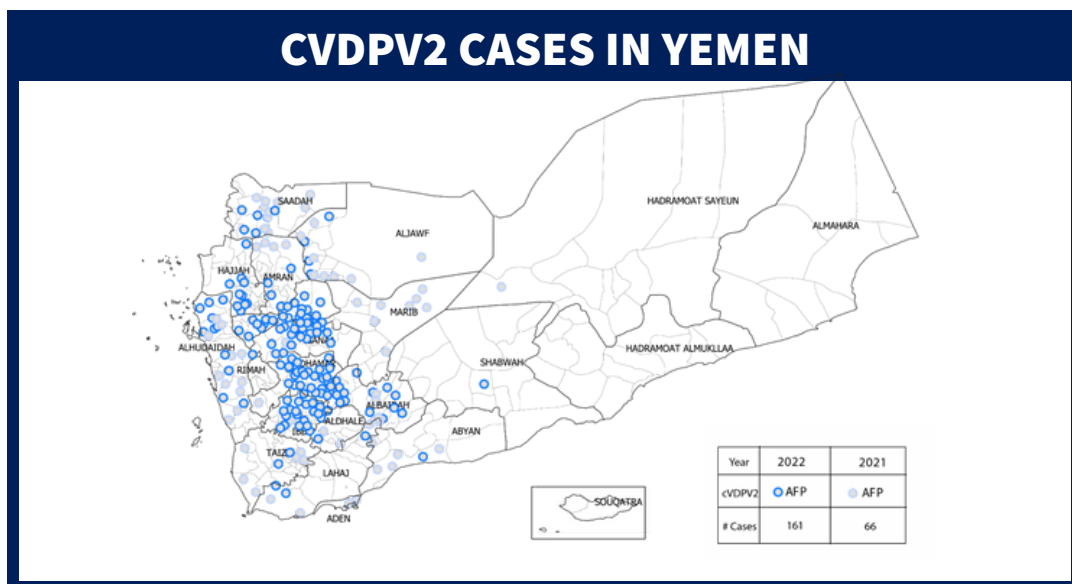


- A total of 228 cVDPV2 cases (86 girls and 142 boys) have been reported; 80 AFP samples from April and May are at the Oman lab, and 70 AFP samples from the same time frame are in Aden and Sana'a. All samples from March 2023 and earlier have been tested. Yemen's last cVDPV2 isolate was in child with onset of paralysis on 14 December 2022.

YEMEN (CONTINUED)



- An external surveillance review is planned to determine how well the surveillance system is working and identify any gaps, with an overall objective of ensuring no cases are being missed.
- The shipment frequency of AFP samples is to increase in order to minimize time between notification and results: will be weekly from Sana'a to Muscat and fortnightly from Aden to Muscat.
- Separately, environmental surveillance is being expanded with three new collection sites (two in the southern governorates and one in the northern governorates) and a new testing protocol that sees samples travel to **Pakistan** via **Djibouti** for testing.
- In 2023 to date, 16 environmental samples have been collected from three sites, and 12 have travelled to the laboratory in Pakistan (results pending) and four samples are pending shipping.





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

SOMALIA

- Somalia's first use of nOPV2, round 2 of the sub-national campaign in the southern and central areas of the country, concluded on 31 May 2023. A total of 80 accessible districts conducted the campaign out of 81 districts (Rungoid district did not), with a total target of 2,546,474 children under age five. Administrative coverage was 97%.
- R3 is expected to take place on 22-25 July 2023 in 81 districts across the southern and central parts of the country, targeting the same number of under-fives with the same antigen.
- Somaliland's polio SNID was conducted over 22-25 June 2023 using nOPV2 in 15 of 19 districts with a target population of 915,474 children under age five; the four districts (Las Anod, Buhodle, Hudun, Talem) not covered were inaccessible due to conflict.
- The implementation of the Somalia Emergency Action Plan 2 (SEAP 2) is ongoing and is being tracked by the national programme as well as the Somalia Support Unit.

SUDAN

- All immunization activity in Sudan was disrupted due to the armed conflict. In 12 relatively stable states, routine and essential vaccination activities have continued through fixed and outreach strategies despite severe challenges to import and distribute vaccines once in the country. UNICEF has made special arrangements to bring in vaccines to replenish depleted stock levels using chartered flights.
- The planned R2 using nOPV2 has been paused until further notice, and the condition of the 3.29m doses in-country already is precarious due to fuel shortages and the unpredictability of the conflict. The nOPV2 doses are in the national cold store and will be moved when feasible.
- Destruction of unopened remaining vials of mOPV2 took place according to guidelines in most states; 12 states have submitted all disposal verification documentation whereas five are still under process.
- The FMOH, with support from WHO and UNICEF COs, completed a revised risk assessment which yielded the following findings:
 - Considering the high estimated population immunity and low epidemiological risks of continued transmission or the emergence of new cVDPV2, the planned second national vaccination campaign using nOPV2 can be deferred until the security situation improves to enable a quality nationwide campaign.
 - The programme will urgently take steps to restore the surveillance system, including environmental surveillance.
 - Coordination with **Egypt, Chad** and **South Sudan** are to be prioritized to ensure the inclusion of the refugee population in the surveillance system and vaccination activities.

YEMEN

- Access to vaccinate children through the outreach modality continues to elude the programme. Robust, multi-channel advocacy efforts continue, with a growing focus on tackling the state-sponsored vaccine disinformation campaign that has badly impacted access in the northern governorates and threatens to impact demand in the southern governorates.
- Following an official request from the MoPHP, both UN agencies are working to support Ministry colleagues to complete and verify nOPV2 documentation to facilitate use this antigen in upcoming outbreak response in the southern governorates. More than 50% of key documents are verified, 25% have been submitted for review and the remaining 25% are on the verge of completion. nOPV2 is planned for use in the second round of outbreak response in the southern governorates, tentatively scheduled for early September 2023.
- An integrated MR (measles, rubella) campaign is planned in the southern governorates for August 2023. Advocacy is ongoing with the authorities in the northern governorates to determine campaign timing and modality there.

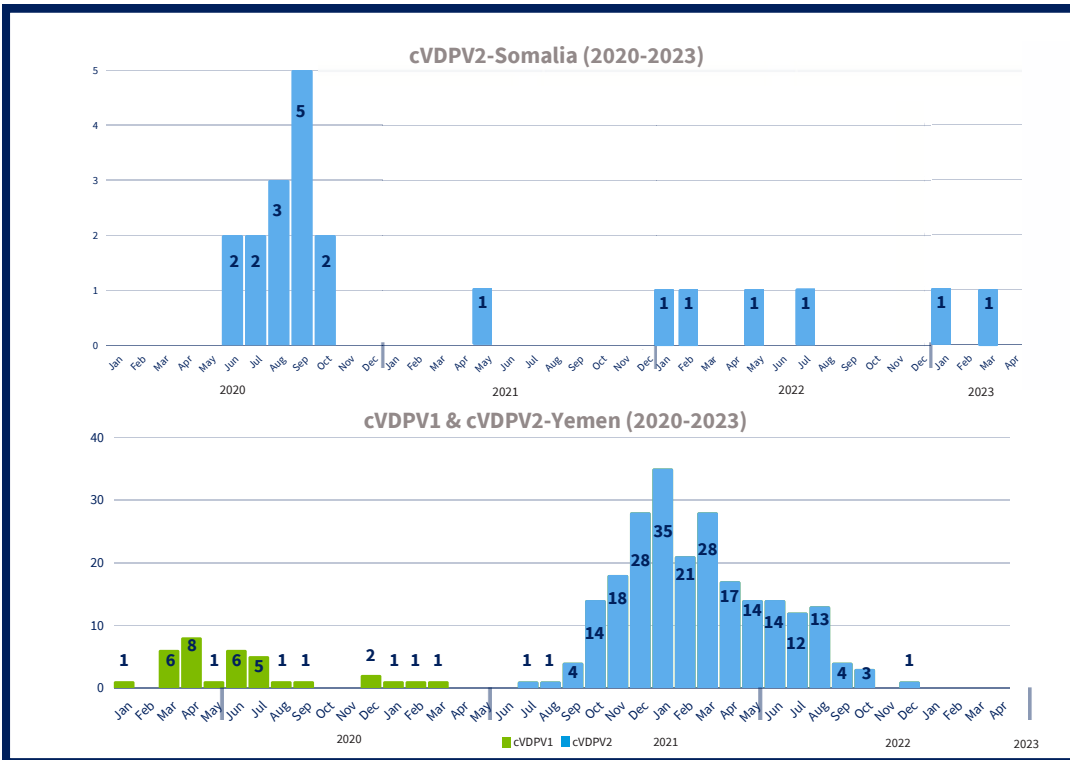


REGIONAL COORDINATION

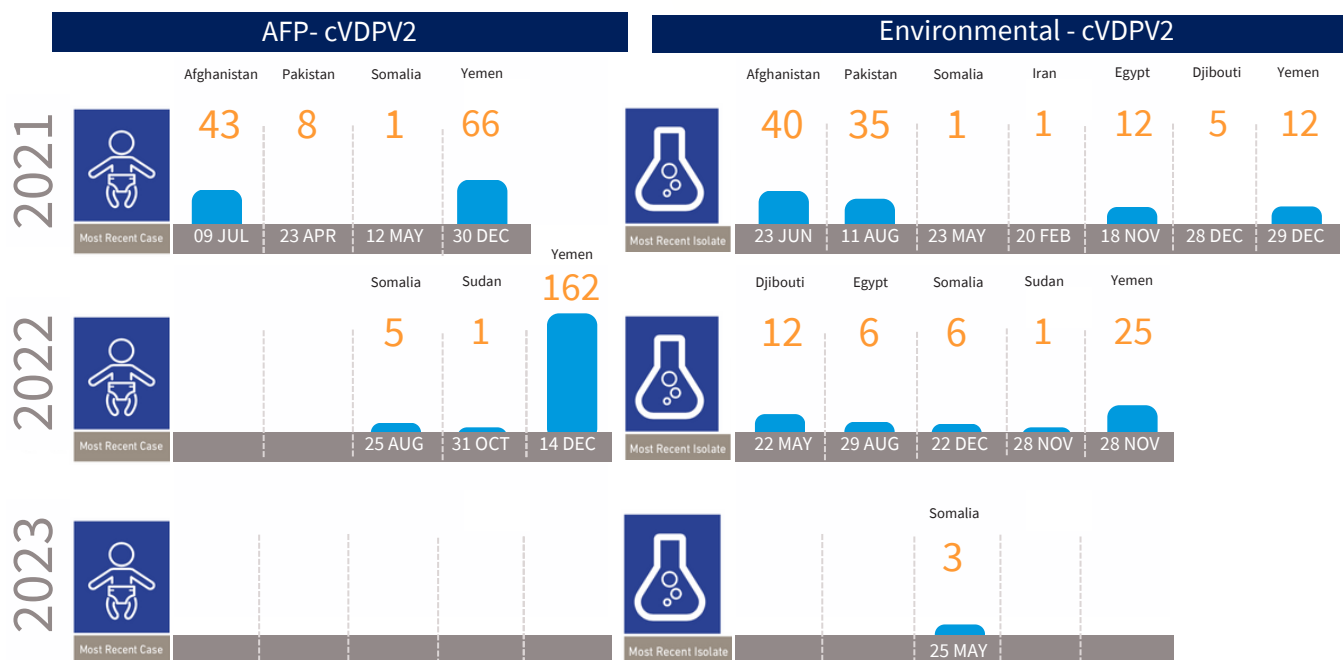
- Regular coordination continues with weekly Incident Management Support Team (IMST) and Outbreak Response Preparedness Group (ORPG) meetings, and the Regional Incident Managers (RIMs) continue to lead coordination between country and regional levels.
- Following the 3 July 2023 announcement of the cVDPV2 outbreak in **Kenya**, which is linked to circulation in **Somalia**, a call was held on 6 July 2023 between AFRO, ESARO, HQ and EMRO, CDC and other partners with an aim to boosting cross-region and cross-border coordination. Synchronization of vaccination activities is a priority.
- Regular coordination between countries neighboring **Sudan** is occurring through several mechanism. Horn of Africa epidemiological block 2 meetings occur monthly and most recently in June where **Central African Republic, Chad, South Sudan**, and **Sudan** share epidemiological and response updates and including enhanced surveillance for Sudanese refer groups. Additional bilateral coordination is occurring with other countries such as **Egypt** and **Ethiopia**.



OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR



Send questions to:

WHO:

Regional Outbreaks Coordinator: shuklah@who.int
Regional Outbreak Communications: williamssa@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator: atsega@unicef.org
Regional Chief of Communications: aamar@unicef.org

Relevant links:

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#)
- [Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026](#)
- [Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation](#)

