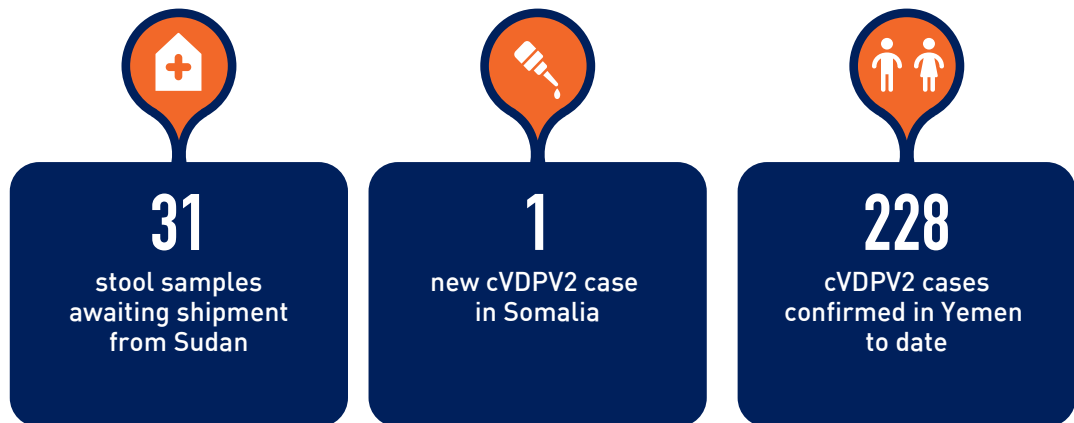


EMR-MENA CVDPV OUTBREAKS

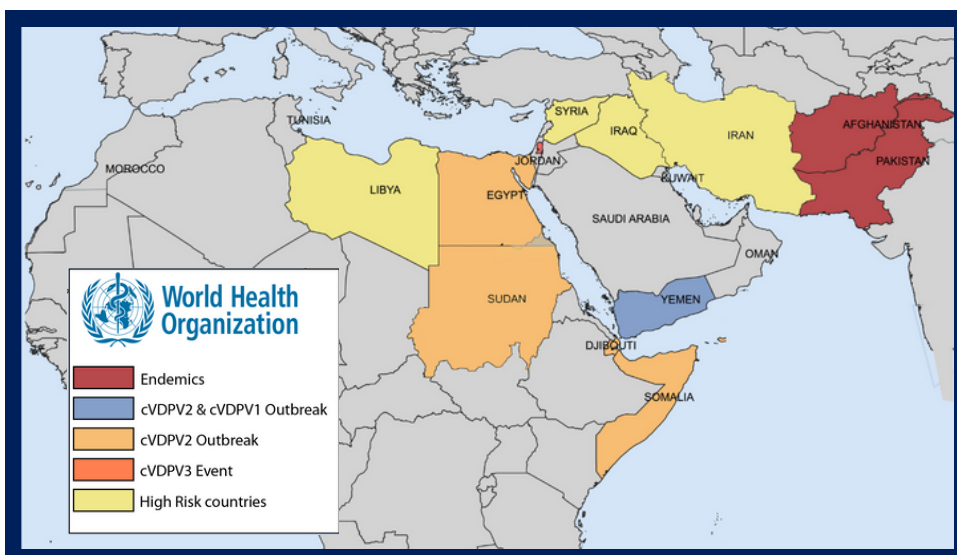
Issue #32 | Week 22 (ending 1 June 2023)

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 Darfur states. R2 of the cVDPV2 outbreak response campaign has been paused until further notice.
- An Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) is pending in each of [Djibouti](#) and [Egypt](#).
- Around 8.8m doses of trivalent OPV currently in [Yemen](#) (1.5m in Aden and 7.3m in Sana'a) is expiring on 30 June 2023 and as per current WHO Standard Operating Procedures, will be safely disposed of with the cooperation of both agencies and the Ministry of Public Health and Population.



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	0
SUDAN	1	1	0	0
YEMEN	162	25	0	0



SUDAN IN FOCUS

- The security situation is fragile, with high levels of violence and injury; a shaky ceasefire was extended for an additional five days on 29 May 2023.
- The National Polio Lab in Khartoum remains inaccessible, and the extent of damage is unknown.
- A total of 31 samples (AFP cases and contacts, from before and just after the start of the conflict) are frozen and stored at the state or locality level. Of these, four AFP cases were notified in week 21 and three in week 20.
- No samples have been shipped out of Sudan since 15 April 2023, but the programme is working on a new mechanism to get samples to labs outside the country.
- In conflict-affected areas, EPI infrastructure and supplies have been destroyed and looted. Photographs show serious fire damage, and stock counts confirm widespread theft of furniture, medical supplies and vehicles.
- Development of an Emergency Action Plan for polio is underway.

1.04 M

IDPs since 15 April
(IOM)

333K

People have crossed
the border since 15
April (UNHCR)

24.7 M

People are in
need of
assistance in
2023 (OCHA)



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI



- The most recent cVDPV2 isolate was collected on 22 May 2022.
- An OBRA is being planned in order to review the outbreak response and assess if the outbreak can be closed.

EGYPT



- The most recent cVDPV2 isolate was collected on 29 August 2022.
- The MoPHP has determined that an OBRA will take place between 25 July and 15 August 2023 order to review the outbreak response and assess if the outbreak can be closed.

SOMALIA



- The newest cVDPV2 case, the second of 2023, was confirmed in a 24-month-old boy from Burhakaba district of Bay region, with a date of onset of 2 March 2023.
- The most recent cVDPV2-positive ES sample was collected on 22 December 2022.

SUDAN



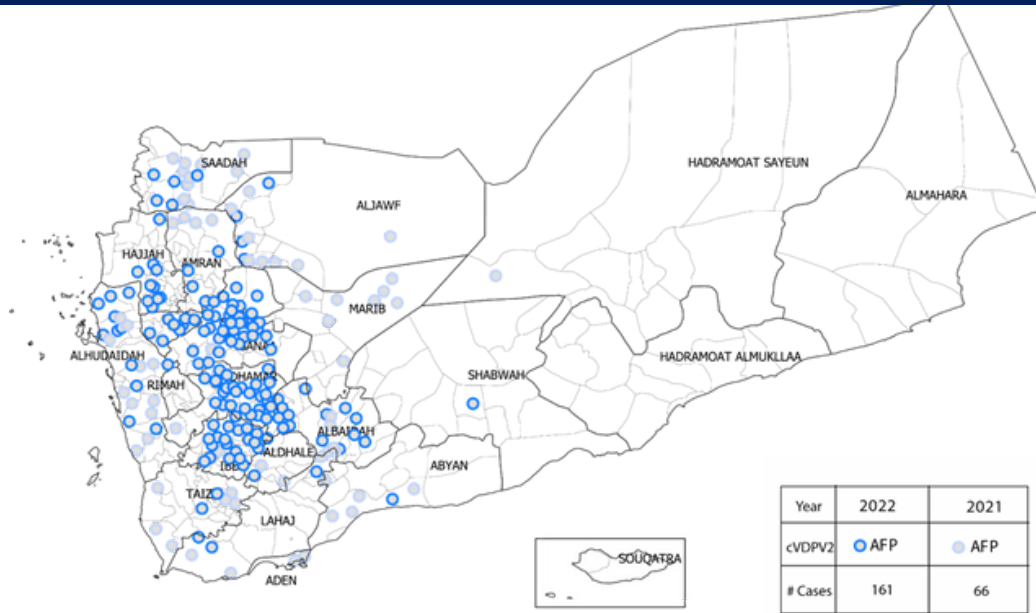
- Despite the ongoing conflict, AFP surveillance remains active and mitigation measures around sample collection and storage are being taken.
- With the National Polio Lab inaccessible, an assessment of other potential lab locations was carried out in Port Sudan, but no plan has yet been formalized.
- VACSERA in Cairo has confirmed it has capacity to receive Sudan samples for testing; coordination is ongoing for in-country transport options while ensuring safety of staff and personnel transporting the samples by road

YEMEN

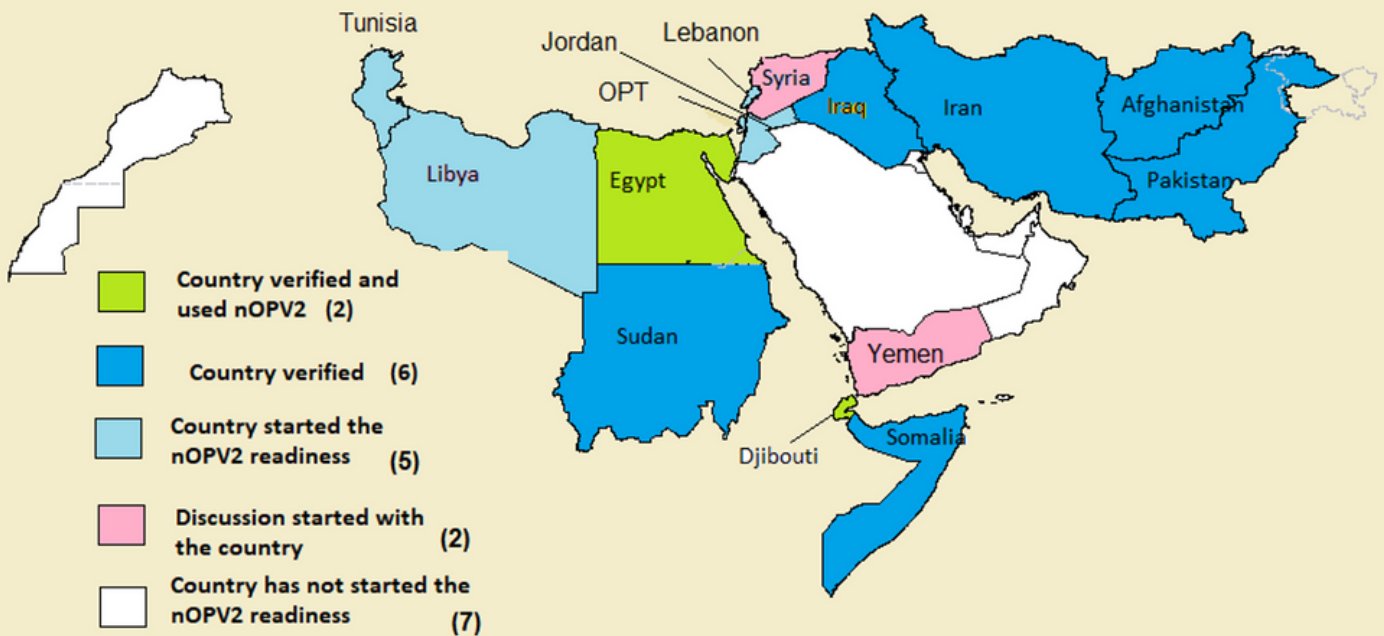


- A total of 228 cVDPV2 cases (86 girls and 142 boys) have been reported; 80 AFP samples from April and May are at the Oman lab, and 70 AFP samples from the same time frame are in Aden and Sana'a. All samples from March 2023 and earlier have been tested.
- An external surveillance review is planned to determine how well the surveillance system is working and identify any gaps, with an overall objective of ensuring no cases are being missed.

CVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN



STATUS OF NOPV2 ROLLOUT IN EMR 2023





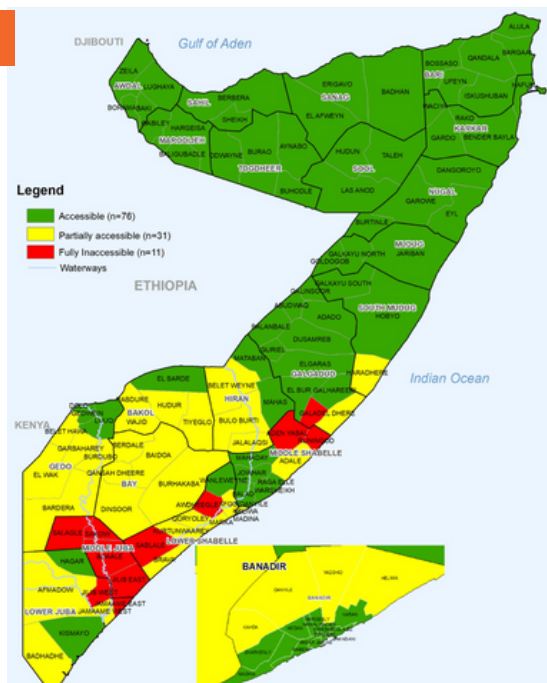
OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

SOMALIA

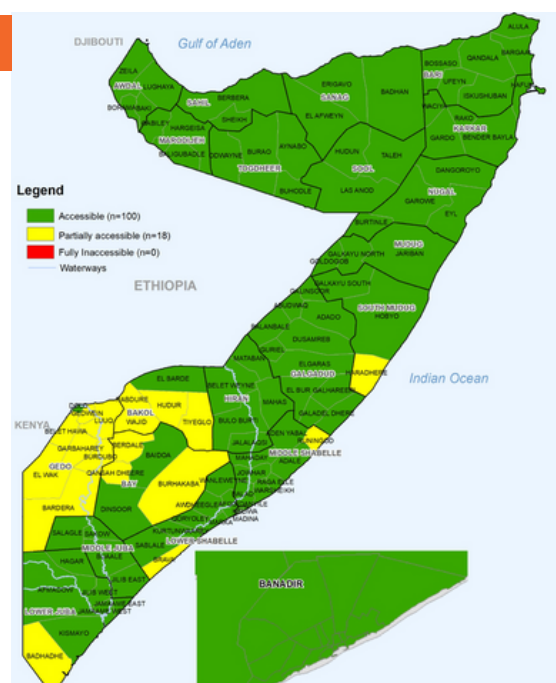
- The first use of nOPV2 in Somalia started on 28 May 2023 in 81 districts of South and Central Somalia targeting about 2.5 million children under age five.
- Somaliland has agreed to conduct a polio SIA in early June 2023 after a pause of more than 10 months.
- Implementation of the Somalia Emergency Action Plan (SEAP 2) has started and is being tracked by the national programme as well as the Somalia Support Unit (SSU).
- The Somalia Support Unit is finalizing the Somalia Accountability Framework.

SOMALIA ACCESSIBILITY MAPS

2021



2023



SUDAN

- All immunization activity in Sudan was disrupted by the conflict. Routine immunization is re-starting in less affected states, but the availability of vaccines and stock replenishment has been severely impacted. Routine vaccines have since been distributed to the states and a chartered flight has delivered vaccines to Port Sudan with UNICEF support from suppliers.
- The planned R2 using nOPV2 has been paused until further notice, and the condition of the 3.3m doses in-country already is precarious due to fuel shortages and the unpredictability of the conflict. The 3.3m nOPV2 doses are being kept in the national cold store and will be moved when feasible.

SUDAN CONTINUED

- Destruction of unopened remaining vials of mOPV2 took place according to guidelines in all states except West Darfur state, where the EPI office and cold room were burned during the conflict. It has not yet been safe enough to verify the condition of vaccines there.

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 has begun 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 in order for the country to use this antigen in upcoming outbreak response.
- A sub-national integrated MR (measles and rubella) campaign is planned in the southern governorates for July 2023.

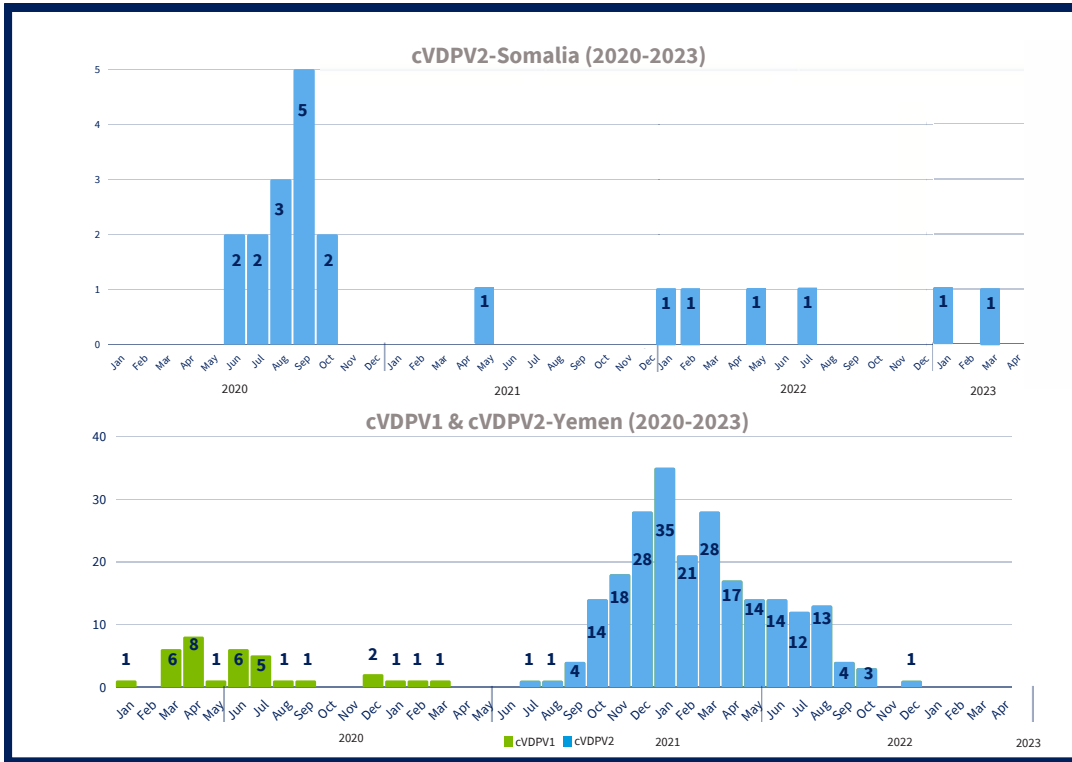


REGIONAL COORDINATION

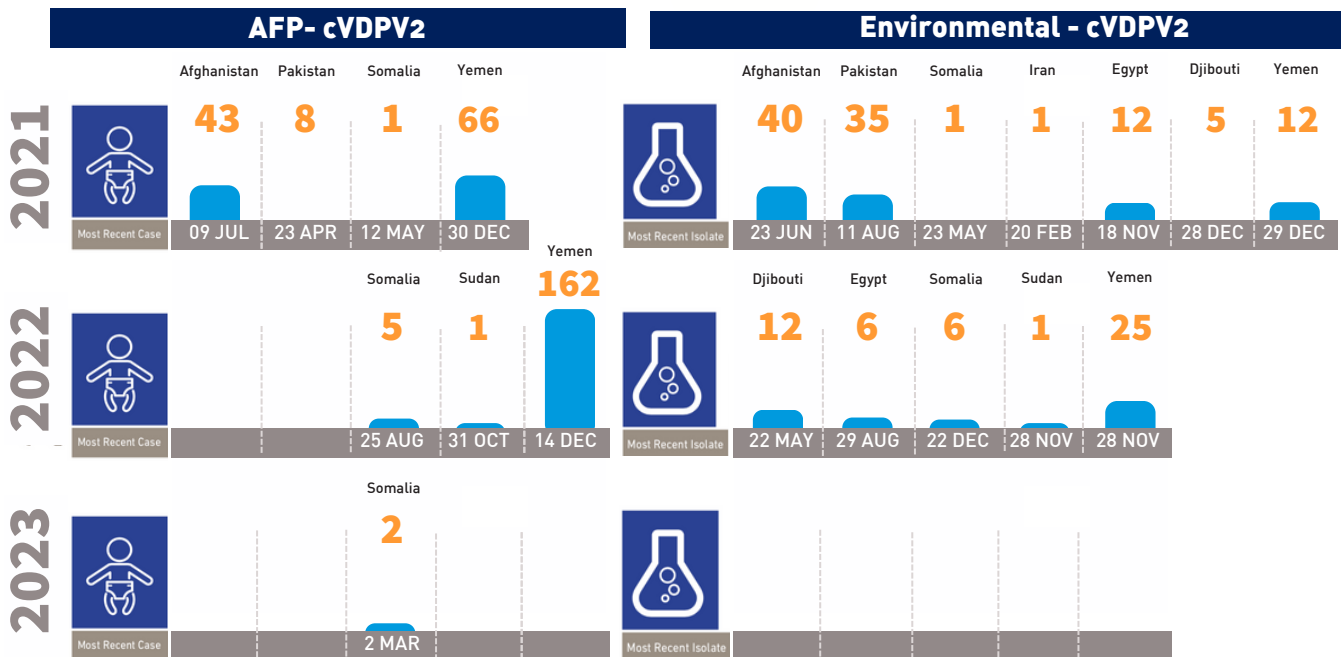
- Regular coordination continues with weekly Incident Management Support Team (IMST) and Outbreak Response Preparedness Group (ORPG) meetings, and the Regional Incident Managers (RIMs) continue to lead coordination between country and regional levels.
- Over 7-9 May 2023, colleagues from across the EMR and key global programme leaders took part in the eighth inter-country meeting of WHO EMR polio staff in Amman, Jordan. The meeting covered regional progress and risks, strategic updates and troubleshooting both by country and by programmatic area in order to place the programme in the best possible position to interrupt transmission by the end of 2023.
- Efforts continue to build regional capacity, particularly in gender and outbreak response:
 - A training on Gender Responsive Poliovirus Outbreak Response and Preparedness for seven Eastern Mediterranean countries at a higher risk of outbreak – [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Libya](#), [occupied Palestinian territory](#) and [Syria](#) – took place in Amman over 15-17 May 2023.
 - The WHO focal point for [Libya](#) supported the country's national center for disease control through a Polio Outbreak Simulation Exercise (POSE) in late May 2023, in the context of increased regional risk (outbreaks in [Sudan](#), [Chad](#) and [Algeria](#)).



OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR



Send questions to:

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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](#)

