

MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #24 | Week 20 (ending 19 May) 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

4 days of bOPV campaign completed in oPt over May 2022

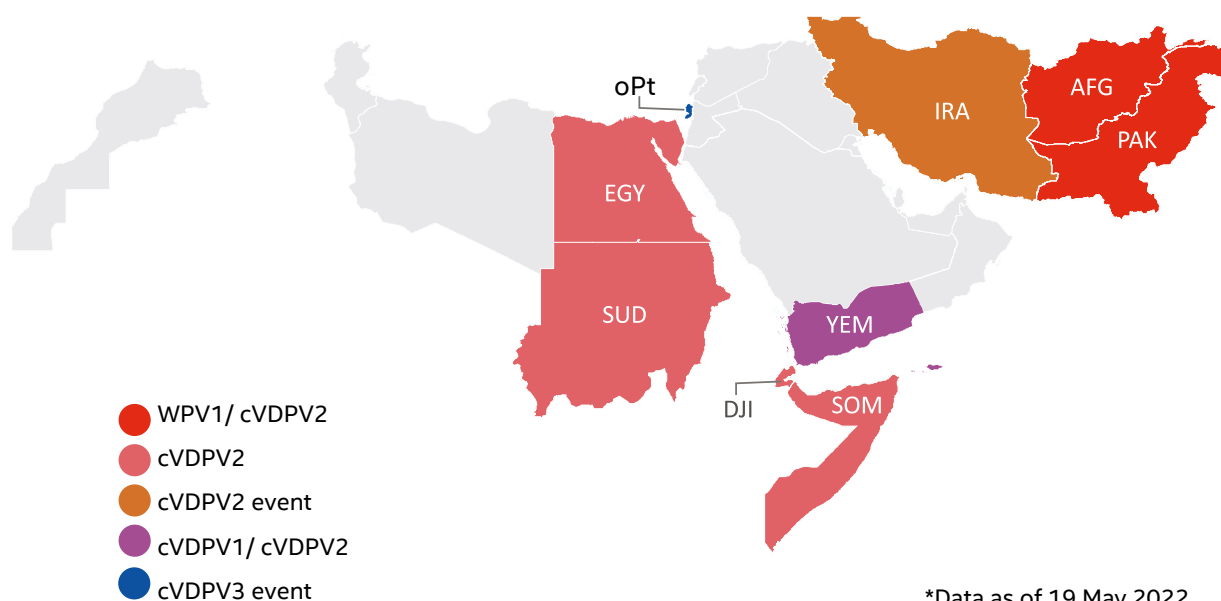
81 cases of cVDPV2 confirmed in Yemen

256 AFP samples pending testing in Yemen

SITUATION UPDATE

- The cVDPV2 outbreak in **Yemen** continues to grow, with 81 cases confirmed, 11 of them in the last week alone. Advocacy efforts continue, including at the World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- A health facility-based bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) campaign was carried out over 16-19 May 2022 in Jerusalem and Bethlehem governates, **occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)** in response to cVDPV3 outbreak in **Israel** and the detection of cVDPV3 at sites in oPt that drain from both sides of the green line.

POLIOVIRUS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION - 2022*





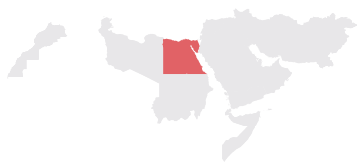
EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI:



- To date, no cVDVP2 cases have been reported; the last isolation of cVDVP2 in the environment was in a sample collected from Doua wastewater treatment site on 13 March 2022.
- Seven samples collected since 13 March 2022 and one AFP contact (DJI-DJI-TAD-22-003-C2, collected 14 April 2022) are pending sequencing results.

EGYPT:



- The country has three cVDVP2 clusters:
 - A new emergence, last detected in Qena in February 2022
 - Yemen importation detected at three Giza ES sites: 18 November 2021 (15 nt changes; Al-Wasla site), 29 March 2022 (21 nt changes; Al-Moheet site), and 30 March 2022 (16 nt changes; Al-Haram site)
 - Importation (CHA-NDJ-01), last detected in June 2021
- The continued explosive cVDVP2 outbreak in Yemen, low vaccination rates there and the recent restarting of flights to and from Sana'a airport, including to Egypt, underscore the risk of expansion of the Yemen importation cluster.

IRAN:



- An independent internal surveillance review is ongoing and after completing the assessment, the country will share results with EMR POL to facilitate closure of the event.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (oPt)



- Circulation of VDPV3 in Israel continues, with one AFP case (a 45-month-old girl in Jerusalem) and eight positive contacts (two more since last sitrep), which is genetically linked to VDPV3 isolated from environmental surveillance sites in Jerusalem, Israel, and Bethlehem, occupied Palestinian territory, between September 2021 and January 2022.

SOMALIA:



- No new cVDVP2 cases since the last sitrep: date of onset of paralysis of the most recent cVDVP2 case is 18 February 2022.
- To date, 25 children (not 26 as reported last week due to data error) have been paralysed in the cVDVP2 outbreak since 2017.

- Sequencing results pending for PV2 isolated from:
 - One AFP case in Lower Shabelle, Afgoi district (SOM-LSH-AFG-22-002)
 - One contact from an AFP case and its contact in Galgadug, Abudwaq district (SOM-GDD-ABD-22-001)
 - Two ES isolates from Lower Jubba and Mudug

SUDAN:



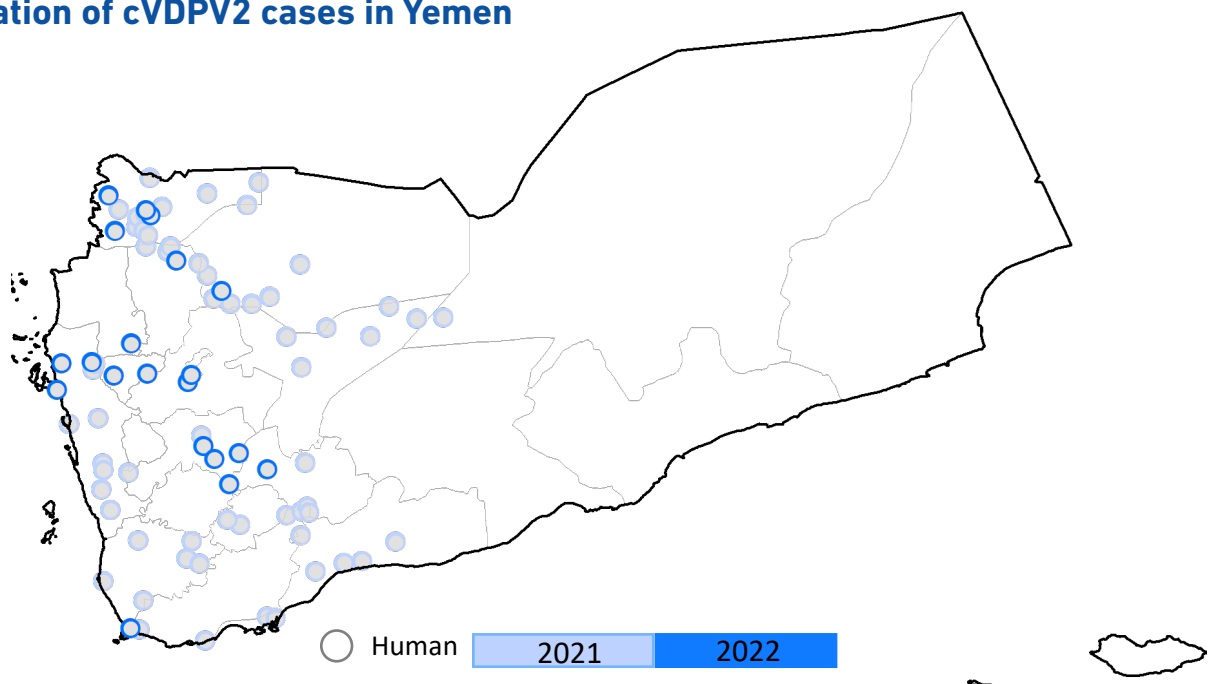
- Sudan has not reported a cVDPV2 case for more than one year: the most recent case had onset of paralysis on 18 December 2020. The last positive environmental sample was collected on 9 November 2020.
- Enhanced surveillance activities continue.

YEMEN:



- The cVDPV2 outbreak continues to spread throughout Yemen due to low type 2 immunity, particularly in northern governorates where access remains an issue. The case count is 81, with samples from 256 AFP cases pending testing.
- Following efforts to speed the flow of AFP and environmental samples to regional laboratories, the average number of days between sample collection and final results has dropped from 94 in 2021 to 65 today, with the goal of 35 days or less by end 2022.
- Laboratory status summary:
 - ES samples are sent to Nairobi on a monthly basis
 - The Muscat lab accepts 100 samples / two weeks, though exceptions can be made
 - Pilot programme under way to ship the first 100 samples to Amman, Jordan, this week
 - Efforts are ongoing to establish a system of direct detection in Yemen

Location of cVDPV2 cases in Yemen





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT

- R1 of an SNID in Luxor and Qena took place over 8-11 May 2022, achieving 95%+ coverage; R2 is planned for 12 June 2022, after which WHO plans to implement an independent assessment.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT):



Nurse Khawla Abu Khdeir (rear left) hands a mother a campaign information pamphlet at El-Azariyeh Ministry of Health clinic in Jerusalem governorate on 16 May 2022.

- oPt held the first of two rounds of bOPV sub-national immunization days in in two districts (Bethlehem and East Jerusalem) targeting children under age five. Using a fixed and mobile site strategy, the MOH opted to extend the three-day campaign (16-18 May) for an additional two days to give five-days for caregivers to bring their children for vaccination in the two districts.
- A review of R1 is ongoing to identify areas that worked well and improvements. R2 will start on Saturday 18 June 2022.

SOMALIA:

- Somalia's first mOPV NID was incomplete pending campaigning in Somaliland, which has now taken place, with results still undergoing analysis.
- The second mOPV2 NID for under-fives is scheduled for 29-31 May 2022 with Somaliland planned mid-June.
- The Somalia Emergency Action Plan 2022 has been finalized and shared with all the partners.
- Following OPV secretariat approval of risk assessment and vaccine request, the two South Central SNIDs for under-10s planned in June and July will be conducted with tOPV. Therefore, the preventive bOPV campaigns planned in October and November are cancelled.

SUDAN:

- The Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was conducted in the last quarter of 2021. The Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF have closed or are implementing OBRA recommendations from the assessment conducted in 2021.
- Providing no significant changes, the final OBRA is being planned, which will likely take place in June 2022.

YEMEN:

- Two tOPV SIAs were conducted in 120 districts of 12 southern governorates (February and March 2022), with R3 planned for 6-8 June 2022, though an ongoing issue around 1.5 million stranded tOPV doses may delay this further.
- Almost two-thirds of the areas reporting the bulk of cVDPV2 cases have not implemented any type 2-containing polio vaccination campaign, underscoring the risk both to local children and to neighbouring countries.

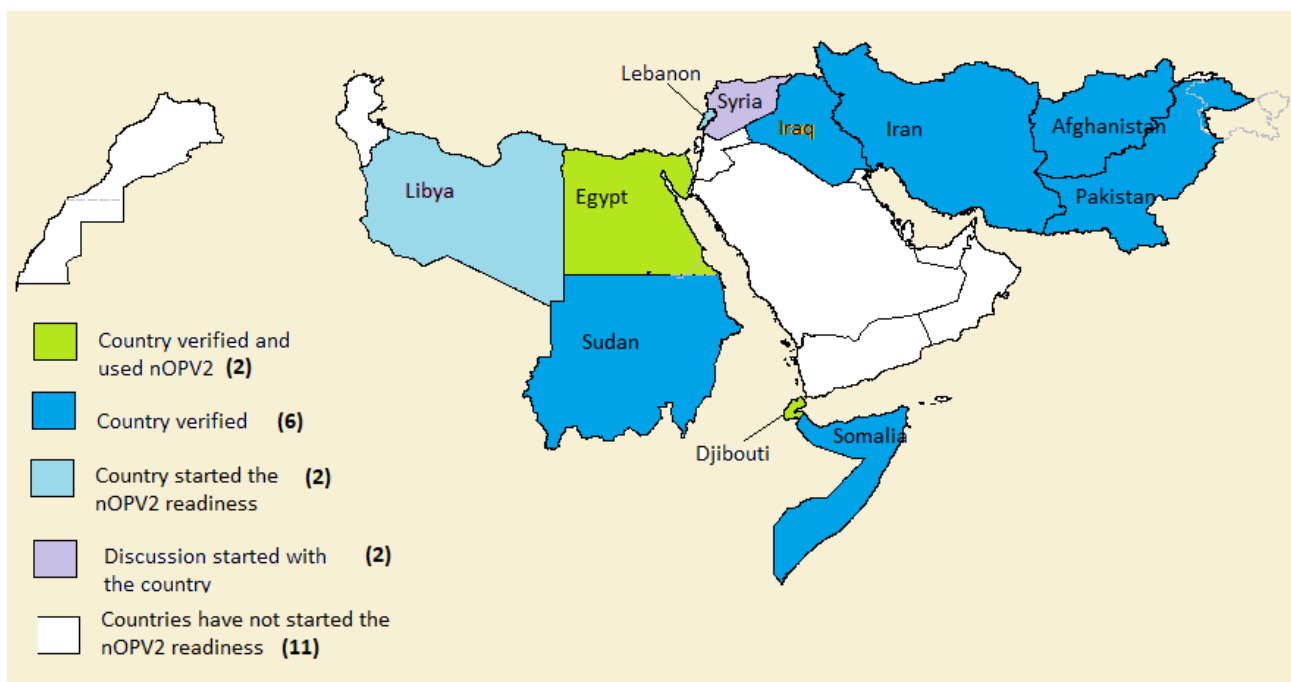


REGIONAL COORDINATION

- The seventy-fifth [World Health Assembly](#) is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, over 22-28 May 2022. A side meeting on cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR took place on Monday 23 May 2022.
- EMR POL's new website is live: <http://www.emro.who.int/polio-eradication/index.html>



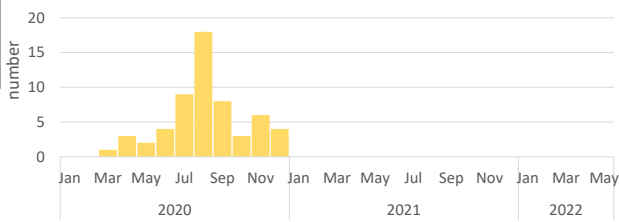
nOPV2 UPDATE



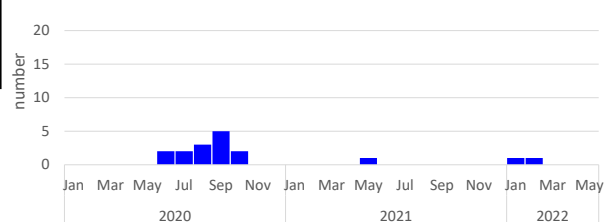


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

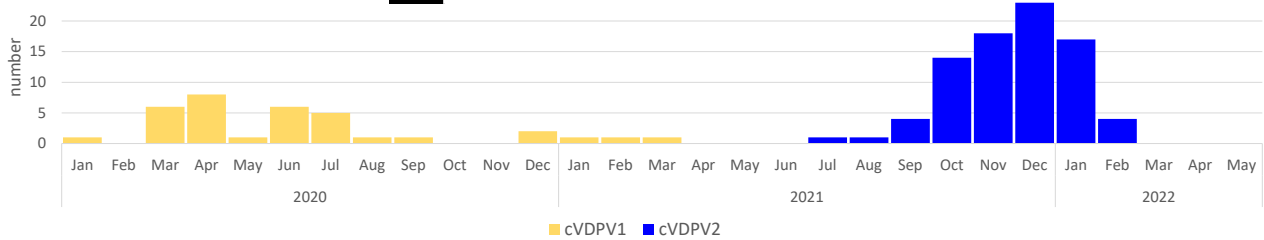
cVDPV2-SUDAN (2020-2022)



cVDPV2-SOMALIA (2020-2022)



cVDPV1 & cVDPV2-YEMEN(2020-2022)



OTHER cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR

AFP – cVDPV2

Afghanistan 43
Pakistan 8
Somalia 1
Yemen 61



Environmental – cVDPV2

Afghanistan 40
Pakistan 35
Somalia 1
Iran 1
Egypt 12
DIJ 5



2021

Most Recent Case

09 JUL

23 APR

12 MAY

29 DEC

Most Recent Isolate

23 JUN

11 AUG

23 MAY

20 FEB

18 NOV

28 DEC

2022

Most Recent Case

18 FEB

18 FEB

Most Recent Isolate

10 MAR

30 MAR

13 MAR

Send questions to:

WHO:

Regional Outbreaks Coordinator: shuklah@who.int

Regional Outbreak Communications: williamssa@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator (a.i): dngemera@unicef.org

Regional Chief of Communications: jtouma@unicef.org

Relevant links:

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