

MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #25 | Week 25 (ending 23 June) 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

6

days of bOPV campaign completed in oPt over 18-23 June 2022

2

cVDPV2 isolates identified in Djibouti, confirming breakthrough transmission

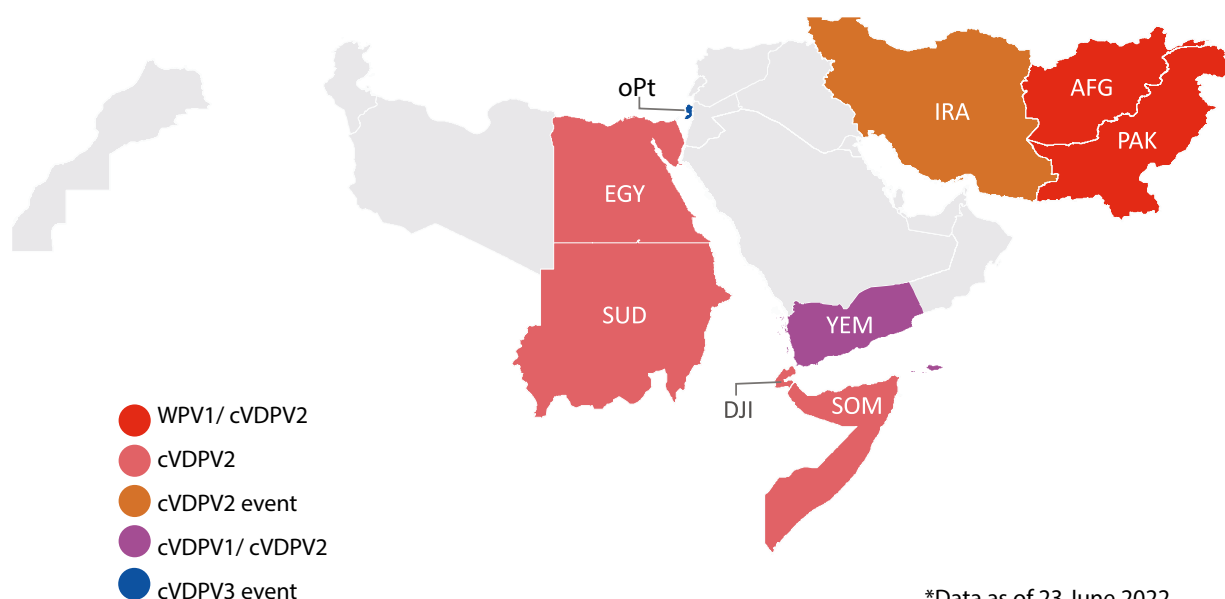
111

cVDPV2 cases confirmed in Yemen to date

SITUATION UPDATE

- A risk assessment is under way for **Djibouti** following isolation of cVDPV2 in two environmental samples, confirming breakthrough cVDPV2 transmission since R2 of the nOPV2 NID in April 2022.
- R2 of a health facility-based bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) campaign was carried out over 18-23 June 2022 in Jerusalem and Bethlehem governorates, **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.
- R3 of tOPV campaigning in **Yemen's** southern governorates kicked off on Monday 27 June 2022; despite ongoing efforts, Yemen's northern governorates remain inaccessible for vaccination.

POLIOVIRUS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION - 2022*



*Data as of 23 June 2022



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI:



- On 23 June 2022, two cVDPV2 isolates were identified in samples collected on 10 and 24 April 2022 in Arta district (Douada site). A further sample from Douada collected on week 22 has been sent for sequencing and results are pending.
- As 27 March 2022 was the first day of the last round of vaccination, the samples are categorized as breakthrough isolation and in line with SOPs, a response plan will be formulated following the completion of a risk assessment.
- Since August 2021, when environmental surveillance was first implemented in Djibouti, a total of 16 samples have been found positive.

EGYPT:



- No significant changes in epi since the isolation of cVDPV2 imported from Yemen on 30 March 2022, and from Chad on 28 April 2022.
- Funding has been allocated to support an internal review and to boost community-based surveillance; this funding has not yet reached the MoH.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (oPt)



- Although there are no new AFP cases or positive contacts since the last sitrep, sampling indicates that circulation of VDPV3 in Israel continues, 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:



- One cVDPV2 isolate has been identified since the last sitrep. The isolate, from Banadir district, site Twenty-one October (ENV-SOM-BAN-WBR-TOO-22-007), was collected on 21 April 2022, with 64 nucleotide differences.
- In 2022, a total of two cVDPV2 isolates in the environment have been identified. All cVDPV2 isolation (AFP cases or ES) belong to the same emergence, SOM-BAN-1.
- Sequencing results pending for PV2 isolated from:
 - One contact from an AFP case (SOM-AWL-BKI-22-004-C1)
 - One isolate from environmental samples from Banadir (TOO)

SUDAN:



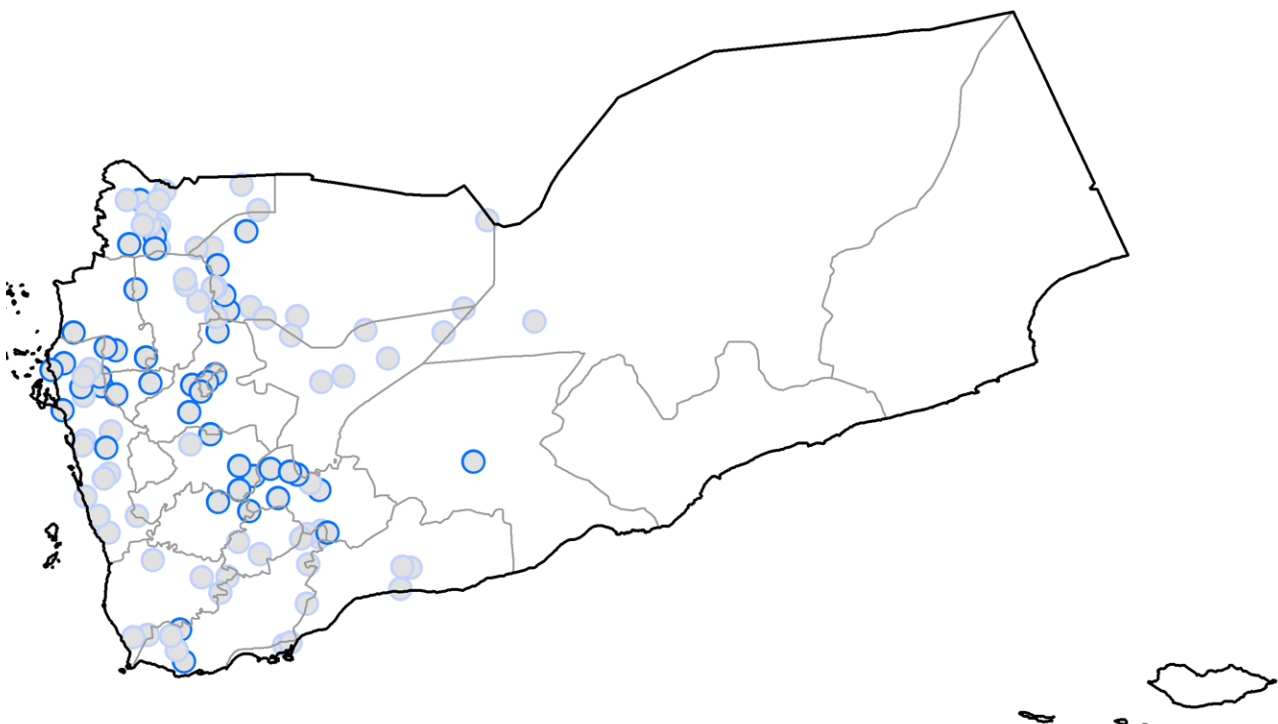
- Sudan has not reported a cVDPV2 case for more than one year: the most recent case had onset of paralysis on 18 December 2020. The last positive environmental sample was collected on 9 November 2020.
- Each of the 18 states have developed polio outbreak preparedness and response plans, and enhanced surveillance activities continue.
- An Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) will take place from 17 to 26 July 2022. The OBRA team, comprised of global and regional polio eradication experts from GPEI partner organizations, and led by EMRO, will work to the following objectives:
 - To assess the quality of the response to the poliovirus cVDPV2 outbreak in Sudan with particular focus on surveillance sensitivity and preparedness for future poliovirus outbreaks
 - To determine the possibility of outbreak closure

YEMEN:



- The number of cVDPV2 cases continues to increase; 111 cases so far have been reported, spread across 62 districts of 20 governorates. Samples from 352 AFP cases are still pending laboratory testing.
- The circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 1(cVDPV1) outbreak case count remains at 35 cases in two governorates.
- Stool and ES samples continue to be sent to Oman and KEMRO lab, respectively.
- AFP surveillance refresher training was conducted for AFP surveillance focal points over 5-16 June 2022 in some governorates.

Location of cVDPV2 cases in Yemen





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI

- About 369 vials (18,450 doses) of nOPV2 have been retrieved from the regions of Djibouti following R2 in late March 2022; ORPG advised the Government of Djibouti to store the vaccine at its central store for use before the expiry date (August 2022).

EGYPT

- Two SNIDs have been completed in Luxor and Qena, and another two response SIAs are planned.
- The upcoming campaign will have a robust strategy around identifying migrants, the most at-risk group, and ensuring that areas populated by migrants are reflected in the microplan and are appropriately targeted.
- UNICEF RO/IMST is working with the UNICEF country office to support the Government of Egypt in developing strategies to reach migrant populations during the next two rounds of SNIDs.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT):

- R2 of two planned rounds of health-facility-based bOPV vaccination for children under five in Bethlehem and Jerusalem governorates commenced on Saturday 18 June 2022. Following lower than expected turnout, the campaign was extended a further three days, concluding on Thursday, 23 June 2022.
- Both rounds were carried out without independent monitoring, but coverage data indicates 89% for R1 and 84% for R2. There are particular complexities around measuring coverage in East Jerusalem and more broadly in Jerusalem governorate, where the majority of children have Israeli IDs and of those, many are care-seeking through the Israeli MoH, which has a different RI schedule and campaign modality.
- The next phase of outbreak response, precluding any epi changes, is a robust effort to strengthen AFP surveillance across oPt.

SOMALIA:

- The second mOPV2 NID could only be conducted in South and Central zones, though R2 vaccines are on the ground for Puntland (32,600 vials) and Somaliland (48,885 vials). Over 5-8 June 2022 in South and Central, a total of 2,043,123 children were vaccinated reaching an administrative coverage of 97%. PCIM coverage was 99% and 90% of LQAS lots passed (57/63).
- Campaign dates for Somaliland and Puntland are still under negotiation.
- Preparations for the SNID for under-10s in South Central are ongoing, with a tentative start date of 17 July 2022. The campaign is planned for six days and is likely to cover three newly accessible areas of partially-inaccessible districts (Merca and Qoryoley and Dinsor). mOPV2 for the SNID is in Nairobi, awaiting shipping to Somalia.
- WHO Somalia has planned detailed OBR review meetings in Mogadishu in line with the SEAP: 28-30 June 2022 for Central and 2-4 July 2022 for South.

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 July 2022.
- Sudan is disposing of the remaining mOPV2 vaccine from the outbreak response campaigns.

YEMEN:

- R3 of the tOPV campaign was launched in 120 districts of 12 southern governorates on 27 June 2022, with Socatra following two days later. Both UNICEF's Regional Cold Chain and Vaccine Specialist and Regional Polio SBC Specialist went on mission to Yemen to support the campaign.
- To facilitate R3, 641,000 doses of tOPV were moved from Sana'a to Taiz, Hodeidah, Sayun, AlMukella and Shabwa governorates; the remaining southern governorates received vaccine from the central store in Aden.
- Pre-campaign training started on 19 June 2022 and social mobilization two days later. Due to the campaign being pushed back, IEC materials have been in place for some weeks, though most have the earlier campaign date on them. Radio spots and an increase in megaphone activity aim to inform communities of the correct campaign dates.
- Integrated outreach activities including RI (bOPV, IPV, and other antigens), nutrition support and health education were conducted in 12 southern governorates over 19-22 June 2022.
- No polio campaign has yet been implemented in the northern governorates, leaving many children at risk for cVDPV2. Advocacy efforts continue.

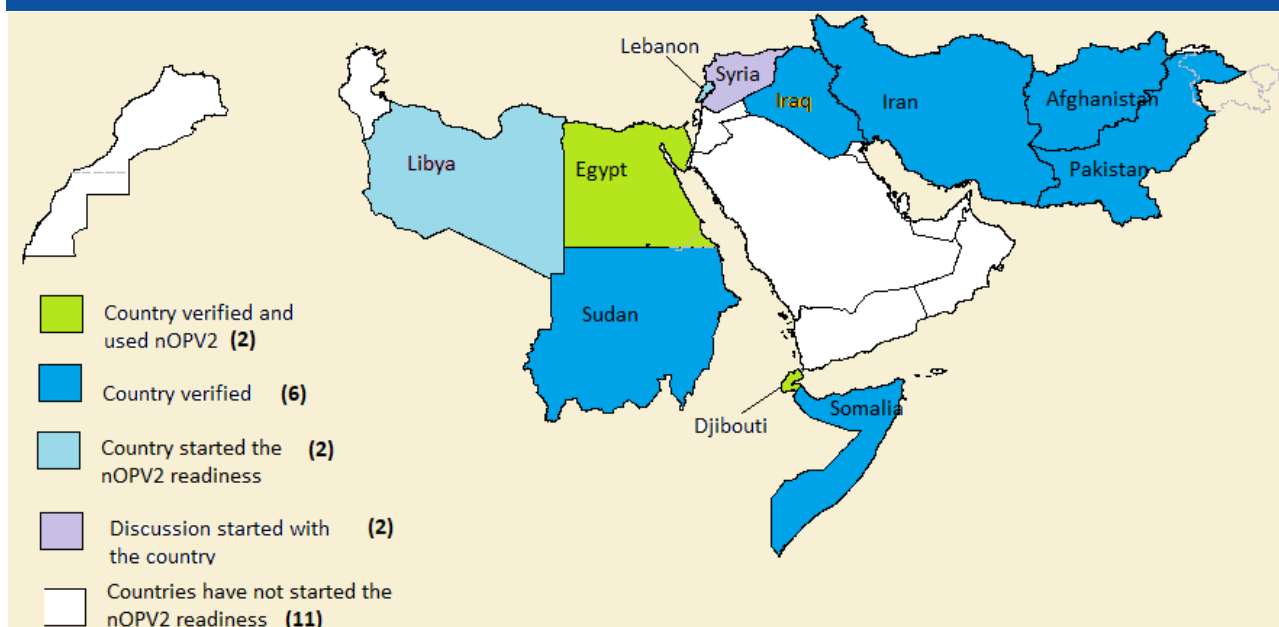


REGIONAL COORDINATION

- On 14 June 2022, the Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication and Outbreaks convened its fifth meeting and released two statements:
 - [News story on fifth meeting of the Regional Subcommittee](#)
 - [Statement on stopping wild poliovirus transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)
 - [Statement on stopping the outbreak of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 in Somalia and concurrent outbreaks of vaccine-derived poliovirus types 1 and 2 in Yemen](#)
- In **Somalia**, an GPEI coordinator has been nominated, to coordinate with MOH, WHO and UNICEF on implementation of SEAP.
- Over 29-30 June 2022 in London, members of the Outbreak Response Preparedness Group (OPRG), regional Incident Management Support Team (IMST) and Rapid Response Team (RRT) gathered for a face-to-face meeting.



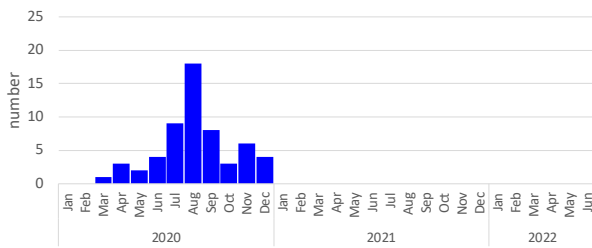
nOPV2 UPDATE



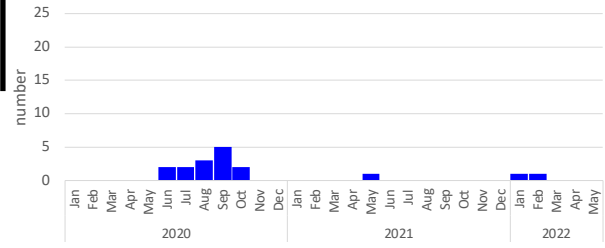


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

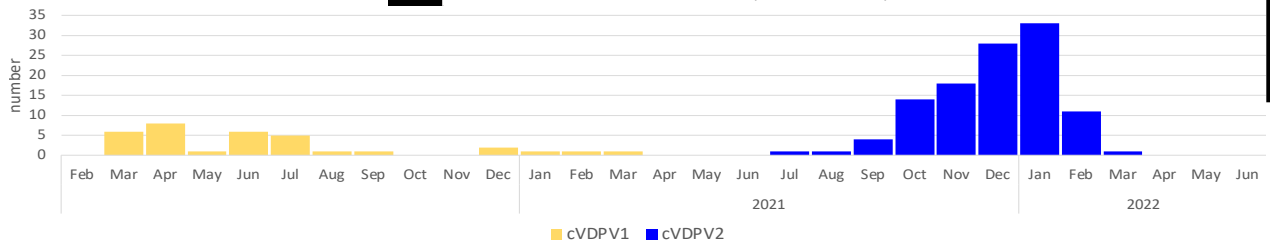
cVDPV2-SUDAN (2020-2022)



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**



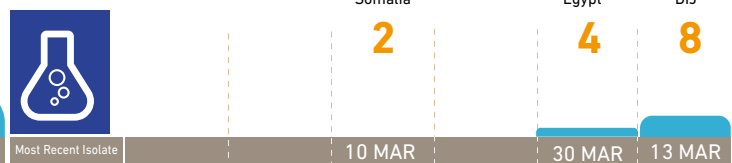
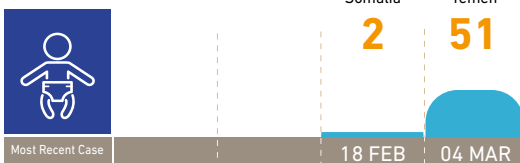
Environmental – cVDPV2

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



2021

Somalia **2** Yemen **51**



2022

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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](#)



World Health Organization

unicef