

MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #26 | Week 30 (ending 28 July) 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

150

stool samples shipped from Yemen to Jordan in inaugural use of new testing protocol

13

AFP cases reported in Djibouti, surpassing international indicators

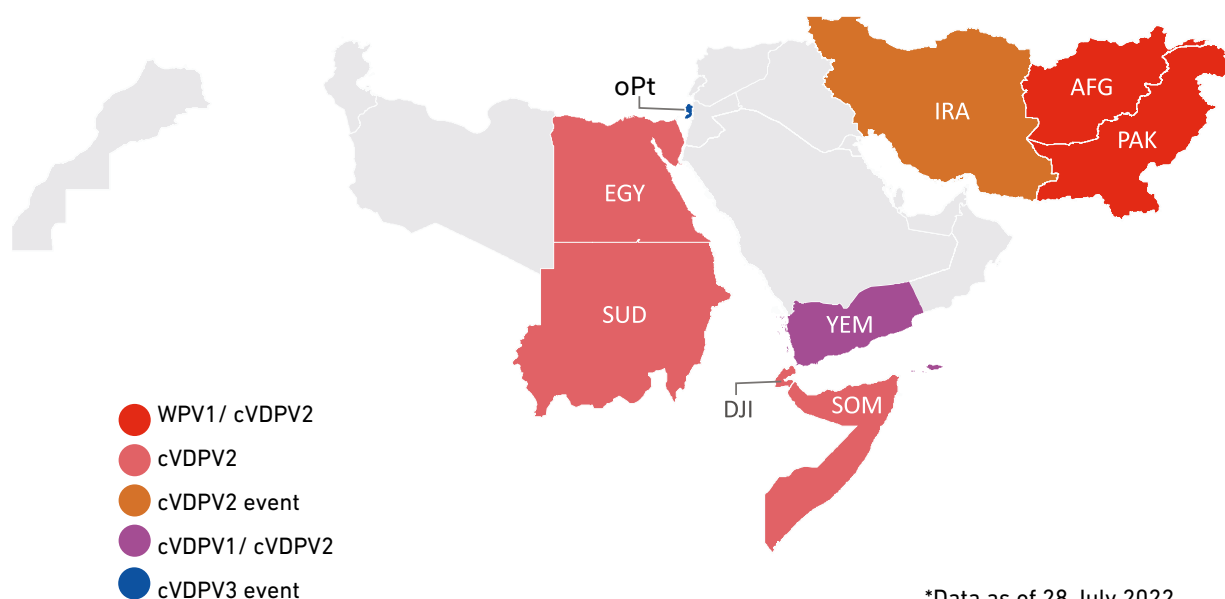
127

cVDPV2 cases confirmed in Yemen to date

SITUATION UPDATE

- Efforts to resolve **Yemen's** stool sample backlog are delivering results, with a shipment of samples sent to the lab in Jordan for the first time. The timescale between collection and notification of results has shrunk from 95 days at the end of 2021, to 65 days.
- Following breakthrough transmission in **Djibouti**, two nOPV2 NIDs will be implemented in September and October 2022. The timing of the rounds is not a delay, but a deliberate effort to reach more children: during the summer, vast numbers of Djiboutians travel out of the country to escape the heat.

POLIOVIRUS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION - 2022*





EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI:



- In 2022 to date, 13 AFP cases have been reported, surpassing the emergency surveillance indicator of NPAFP threshold of 3/100.000 (expected 12 cases/year). Stool adequacy still needs to be improved.
- A risk assessment has been developed following the breakthrough isolation identified through environmental surveillance, and two additional NID rounds have been approved, using nOPV2.

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.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (oPt):



- Budget for AFP surveillance strengthening has been approved by OPRG, and the MoH is finalizing the bOPV campaign budget in order to implement the surveillance plan.
- The Sabin2 with two nucleotide changes isolated in October 2021 at Wadi Alnar ES site in Bethlehem, **occupied Palestinian territory**, (which drains from both sides of the green line) and continuously isolated there since then, has mutated to VDPV2 and was isolated in July 2022 in a case in Rockland County, New York, **United States**.

SOMALIA:



- To date, 4 cVDPV2 isolates have been identified (2 AFP, 2 ES):
 - Date of onset of most recent cVDPV2: 18 February 2022
 - Collection date of most recent cVDPV2: 20 April 2022
- Seven sequencing results are pending for PV2 isolated from:
 - Three AFP cases, all from inaccessible areas:
 - SOM/MJB/JBE/22/003, date of onset 14 May 2022
 - SOM-SNG-ERI-22-002, date of onset 25 May 2022
 - SOM-SNG-BDN-22-003 – Date of onset 26/05/2022
 - Four ES isolates:
 - ES/SOM/BAN/HMW/KAW/22/009 and ES/SOM/BAN/WBR/TOO/22/009, both collected on 19 May 2022
 - ENV-SOM-BAN-HMW-KAW-22-011, collected on 12 June 2022
 - ENV-SOM-WGB-HAR-HGH-22-006, collected on 13 June 2022

SUDAN:



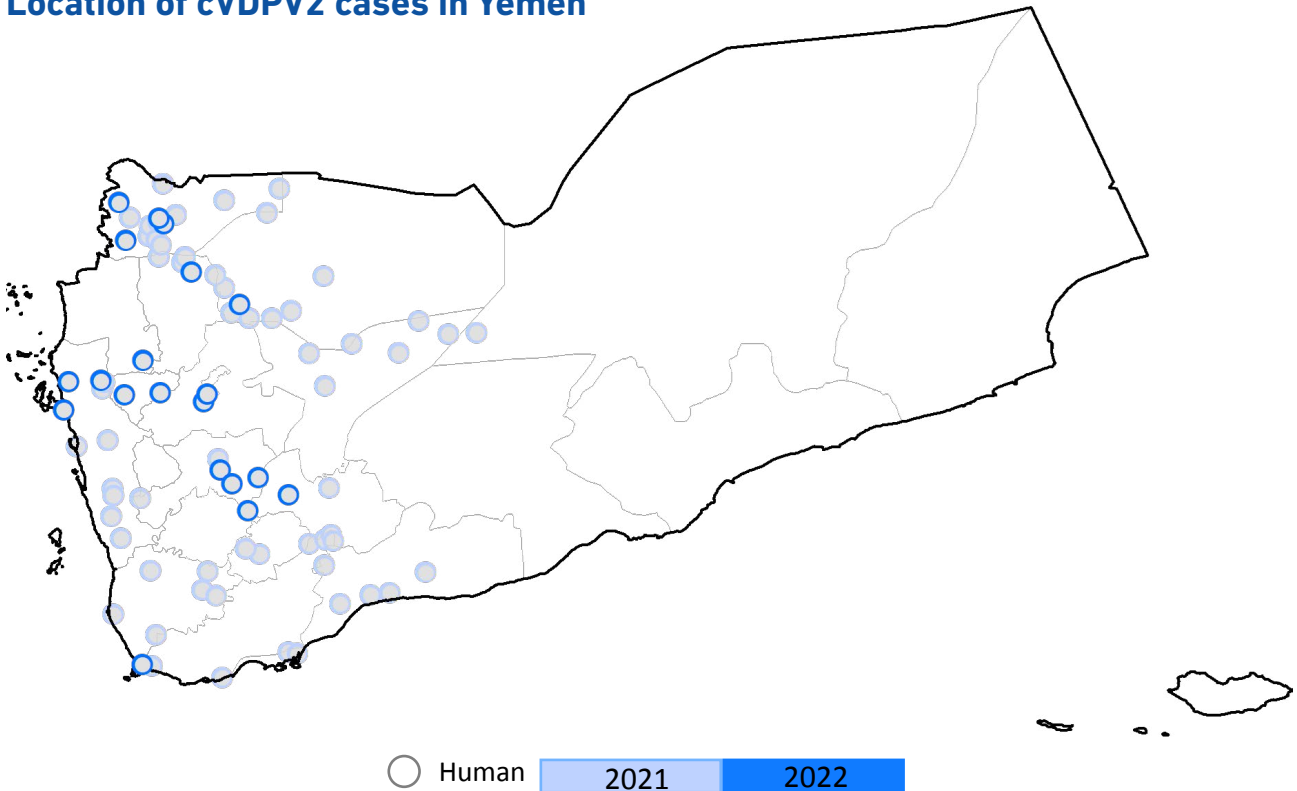
- Sudan has not reported a cVDPV2 case for more than one year: the most recent case had onset of paralysis on 18 December 2020. The last positive environmental sample was collected on 9 November 2020.
- An Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was held between 25 July and 1 August 2022. The OBRA team, including 10 members from WHO, UNICEF and CDC, is assessing the quality of the response to the cVDPV2 outbreak in Sudan with particular focus on surveillance sensitivity and preparedness for future poliovirus outbreaks, and determining the possibility of outbreak closure.

YEMEN:



- Until 26 July 2022, a total number of 127 cVDPV2 cases were reported. Samples from 327 AFP cases are pending testing.
- The circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 1(cVDPV1) case count remains 35 cases in two governorates.
- The first stool shipment from Yemen to the lab in Jordan was completed on 13 July 2022, and 150 samples were shipped to the lab in Oman in the week preceding this sitrep.
- AFP surveillance refresher training was conducted for AFP surveillance focal points over 5-7 July in 12 southern governorates.

Location of cVDPV2 cases in Yemen





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI

- Following breakthrough transmission, two nOPV2 NIDs will be implemented in September and October 2022. The timing of the rounds is not a delay, but a deliberate effort to reach more children: during the summer, vast numbers of Djiboutians travel out of the country to escape the heat.
- Campaign preparation is ongoing but hampered by the ongoing measles outbreak.

EGYPT

- Preparations are ongoing for the SNID in Cairo and Giza, in response to the importation of cVDPV2 from **Nigeria** and **Yemen**; the campaign is planned to start on 7 August 2022.
- nOPV2 for the campaign was received on 19 July 2022 and is undergoing testing by the national body.
- Social mobilization activities to reach high-risk non-Egyptian populations have started in Giza and Cairo for upcoming SNID. This includes community meetings with community leaders to support the upcoming campaign and engaging 100 volunteers from the non-Egyptian communities to create awareness around the polio campaign among refugee and asylum-seeking families.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT):

- On 25 July 2022, the Ministry of Health conducted a short campaign closure event, summarizing surveillance findings and campaign results.
- The next phase of outbreak response, precluding any epi changes, is a robust effort to strengthen AFP surveillance across oPt.

SOMALIA:

- The South Central SNID for under-10s has been delayed for a combination of administrative reasons and under-preparedness, and will be conducted in August 2022.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the vaccine of choice for transit point vaccination, as currently there is a missed opportunity to provide type 2 vaccine to children on the move, including children moving to and from inaccessible areas.
- The second round of NID for under-fives in Somaliland is still under negotiation. In Puntland, the campaign will be conducted after completion of the measles campaign, likely early August 2022.

SUDAN:

- Sudan's final OBRA was held between 25 July and 1 August 2022, following an initial OBRA 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.
- Sudan completed disposal of the remaining mOPV2 vaccine vials in June from the outbreak response campaigns.

YEMEN:

- Polio vaccination campaign (R3) was conducted from 27 to 29 June 2022 in southern governorates. A total of 1,237,713 children under age five were vaccinated, and post-campaign assessment by an independent monitor revealed coverage of 88%.
- A mop-up campaign is being planned for 12 districts that failed LQAS; date to be confirmed by MoPHP.
- A campaign review covering polio and RI is planned for early August in Aden, and will include MoPHP, WHO and UNICEF. One significant focus is on risk communication and social mobilization activities through new and different channels, focusing on routine immunization, to increase vaccine demand.
- Advocacy continues to implement a quality polio vaccination campaign in the northern governorates.
- The third of a planned three rounds of integrated outreach activities (bOPV, IPV, and other antigens) and nutrition support was conducted in 12 southern governorates from 27-29 July 2022.



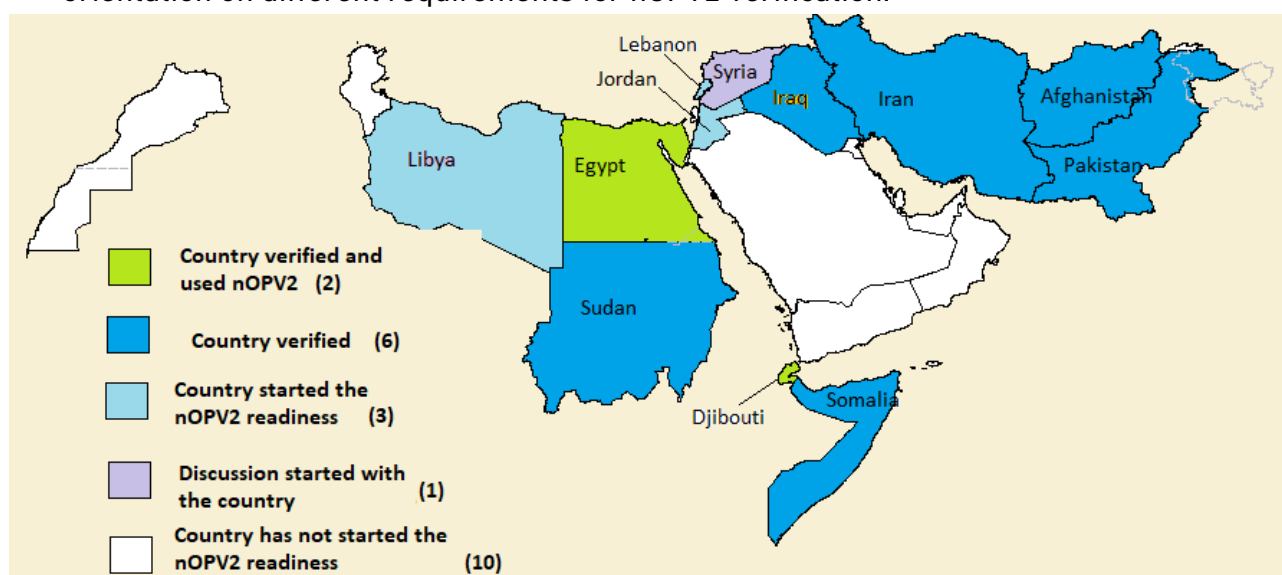
REGIONAL COORDINATION

- With an aim to share epidemiological updates and planned activities which might impact the neighboring countries and on cross-border activities, Horn of Africa bi-monthly meetings have resumed and are divided in two blocs:
 - Bloc 1: Uganda, Eritrea, Kenya and Ethiopia Somalia, Djibouti, and Yemen
 - Bloc 2: Chad, Central Africa Republic, Sudan and South Sudan



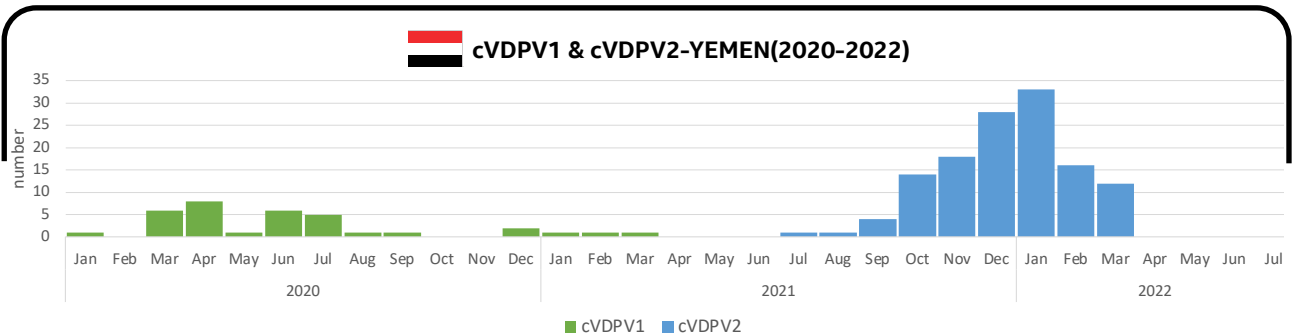
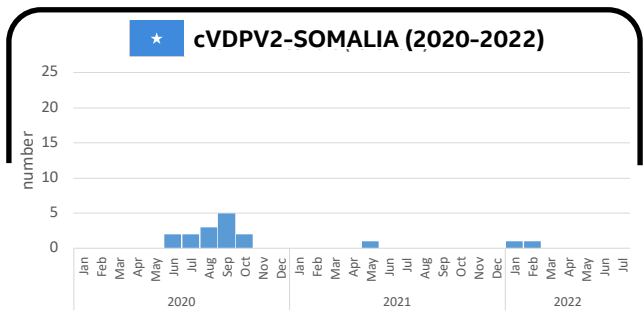
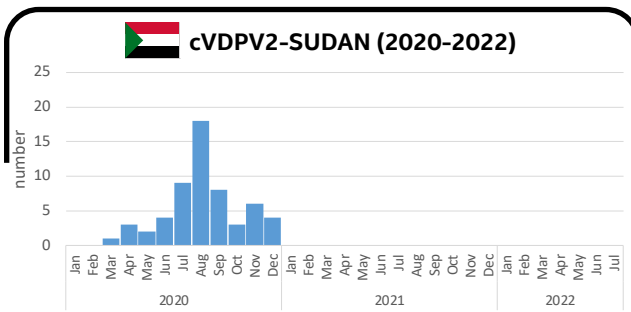
nOPV2 UPDATE

- UNICEF (RO and HQ) conducted a workshop for Ministry of Health, Iraq, for nOPV2 preparedness specific to advocacy, social behavior change, and crisis communication plans (G1, G2, and G3 plans). The three-day workshop was conducted from 19-21 July 2022 with the attendance of 66 participants from the Ministry of Health from different governorates.
- Jordan, Libya and Lebanon have started preparation for nOPV2 readiness. UNICEF and WHO regional offices have held several consultations with these countries and provided orientation on different requirements for nOPV2 verification.

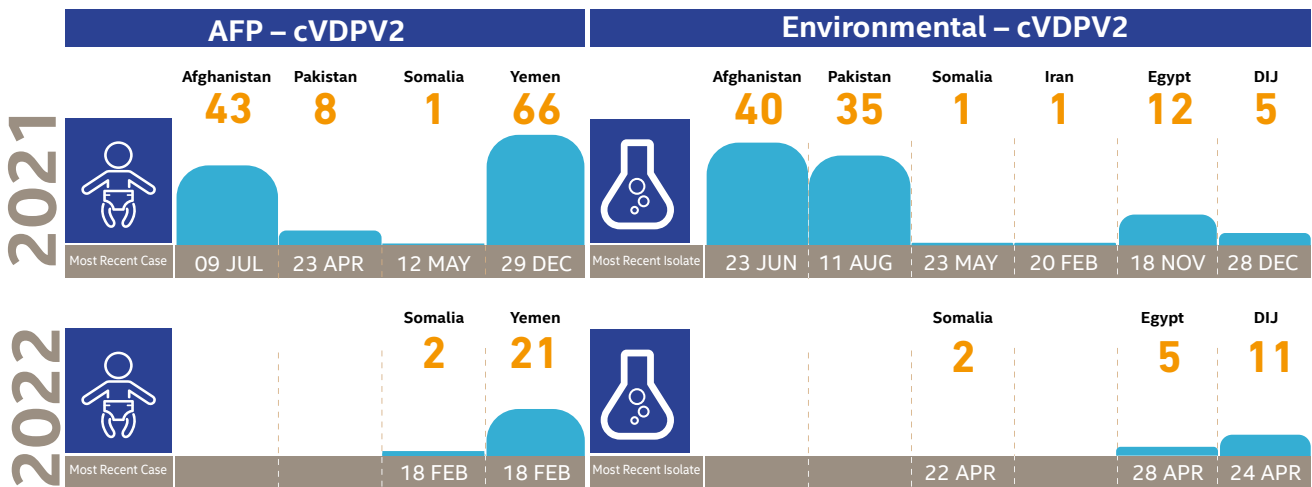




OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



OTHER cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR



Send questions to:

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UNICEF:

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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](#)