

MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #27 | Week 38 (ending 22 September 2022)



SITUATION UPDATE

- **Egypt has detected a second cVDPV2 importation of the Chad variant** through environmental surveillance (ES) in Ayn al Shams; the first importation, also through ES, was detected in Giza on 28 April 2022. Population movement is a significant risk factor in this case: nearly 2,000 people from Chad travel to and/or from Egypt each month.
- **Following a close review of the polio surveillance system in Iran** and data presented by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education Iran and the National Poliovirus Laboratory on 23 August 2022, the high-risk circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) event in Iran was closed.
- **The Outbreak Response Assessment team present in Sudan** over 25 July-1 August 2022 have concluded that transmission of cVDPV2 has been successfully interrupted.
- **Somalia has reported one new cVDPV2 case**, from Middle Juba, Jilib East district (SOM/MJB/JBE/22/003) with a date of onset 14 May 2022, and one new cVDPV2-positive ES isolate, collected on 19 May 2022 in Banadir (ES/SOM/BAN/HMW/KAW/22/009).
- **On 16 August 2022, Djibouti confirmed isolation of cVDPV2** in an environmental sample collected on 22 May 2022 from Douda site in Arta district. This is the second cVDPV2-positive isolate showing breakthrough transmission, following one collected on 24 April 2022 at the same location.



184,000

Previously inaccessible children vaccinated in Somalia's August NIDs



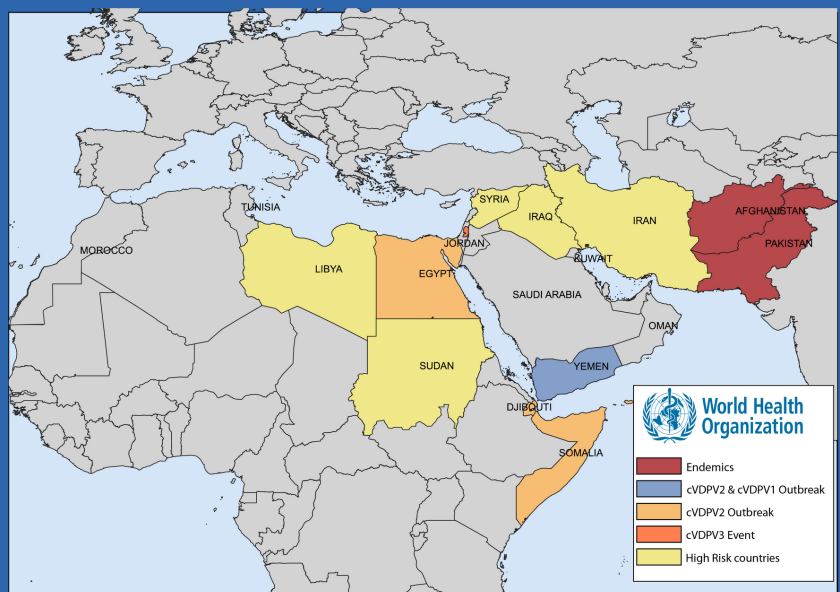
200

cVDPV2 cases confirmed in Yemen to date



2

New cVDPV2 strains detected in Somalia



World Health Organization

- Endemics
- cVDPV2 & cVDPV1 Outbreak
- cVDPV2 Outbreak
- cVDPV3 Event
- High Risk countries



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI



- The cVDPV2-positive ES isolate collected on 22 May 2022 (ENV-DJI-ART-DOU-22-009) has 19 nucleotide differences (nt diff) from Sabin 2 and is genetically linked to the cVDPV2 sequence for ENV-DJI-ART-DOU-21-013 (nt diff=5) and belongs to the emergence group YEM-TAI-1. Since the first isolation in October 2021, 17 cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed in Djibouti, all through ES.
- In 2022 to date, 14 AFP cases have been reported, surpassing the NPAFP emergency surveillance benchmark of 3/100,000. Stool adequacy is low as most cases were found during active case search, but this indicator is expected to improve as the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (FELTP) is rolled out and trained staff posted throughout the country.

EGYPT



- The cVDPV2-positive isolate detected in Ayn Al Shams, notified on 21 September 2022, marks the second importation of the **Chad (Nigeria cluster)**, and comes four months after the first, underscoring the need for an immediate vaccination response.
- There has been no detected of the **Yemen** cVDPV2 cluster since 30 March 2022, though the risk of repeated importation remains high, given both the completely uncontrolled nature of the Yemen outbreak, and the regular movement of people between Egypt and Yemen.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT)



- An AFP surveillance strengthening plan is being implemented across oPt.

SOMALIA



- On 16 August 2022, the lab confirmed two epidemiologically significant cVDPV2 isolations:
 - An AFP case from Middle Juba, Jilib East district (SOM/MJB/JBE/22/003) with date of onset 14 May 2022, has 77 nucleotide differences (nt diff) from Sabin 2 and is genetically linked to the cVDPV2 sequence for SOM-BAN-DRK-20-002 (nt diff=30); it belongs to the emergence group SOM-BAN-1 and is classified as an orphan.
 - An environmental sample from Banadir (ES/SOM/BAN/HMW/KAW/22/009) collected on 19 May 2022, has 13 nt diff from Sabin 2 and is genetically linked to the cVDPV2 sequence for YEM/LHJ/2021/706/21 (nt diff=5).

SOMALIA



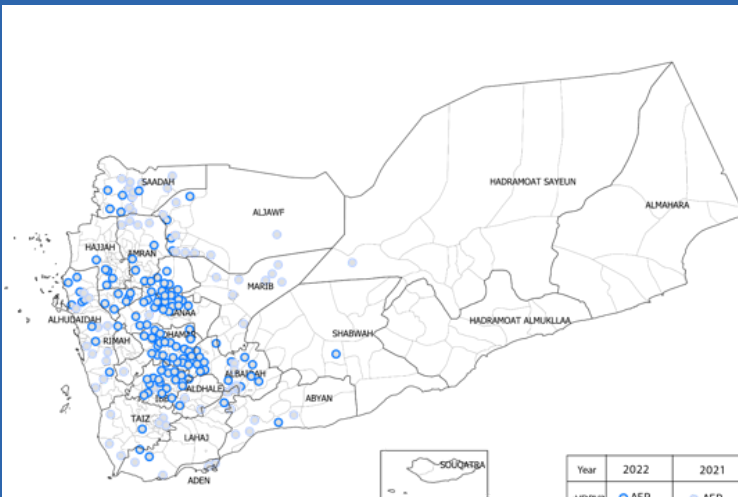
- It belongs to the emergence group YEM-TAI-1, marking Somalia's first occurrence of the YEM/TAI/1 emergence, which has been found in **Yemen, Djibouti and Egypt** and is currently active in Yemen and Djibouti.
- In 2022 to date, six cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed (three AFP cases, three ES samples):
 - Date of onset of most recent cVDPV2 case: 14 May 2022.
 - Collection date of most recent cVDPV2-positive ES sample: 19 May 2022.
- Four sequencing results are pending for PV2 isolated from:
 - Two AFP cases and one contact, all from accessible areas:
 - SOM/SNG/BDN/22/003, date of onset 26 May 2022.
 - SOM/BAN/DYN/22/003, date of onset 16 July 2022.

YEMEN



- A total of 200 cVDPV2 cases have been reported through 15 September 2022; samples from 166 AFP cases are pending testing.
- The circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1(cVDPV1) case count remains 35 cases in two governorates; the last case had onset of paralysis on 27 March 2021.
- The second shipment of 100 stool samples from Yemen to the lab in **Jordan** was completed on 20 August 2022, and 51 samples were shipped to the lab in **Oman**.
- A review for AFP surveillance focal points in the southern governorates was conducted over 16-17 August 2022 in Aden.

CVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN



PROVINCE	2021	2022	TOTAL
ABYAN	5	1	6
ADEN	2		2
ALBAIDAH	1	15	16
ALDHALE	2		2
ALHUDAIDAH	11	7	18
ALJAWF	8	4	12
ALMAHAWEET		6	6
AMRAN	4	9	13
DHAMAR	2	25	27
HADRAMOAT SAYEUN	1		1
HADRAMOAT ALMUKLLAA		6	6
HAIJAH		16	16
IBB		3	3
LAHAJ	6	1	7
MARIB	7	1	8
SAADAH	11	7	18
SANAA		20	20
SANAA CITY		12	12
SHABWAH		1	1
TAIZ	6	1	7
YEMEN	66	134	200

Year	2022	2021
cVDPV2	134	66
# Cases	134	66



OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI

- Following breakthrough transmission, two NIDs were approved by the OPV2 Advisory Group on 6 July 2022. Campaign preparations are under way, though R1 has been delayed to 10 October 2022 due to a measles outbreak response campaign targeting 45,000 children aged 6-59 months in four regions.
- nOPV2 for the two planned NIDs is in country, ready to be dispatched as per logistics plan in advance of the 10 October 2022 start date.
- The remaining expired nOPV2 vaccines (769 vials) from the March 2022 campaign have been destroyed as per protocol.

EGYPT

- Preparations are ongoing for the SNID in Cairo and Giza, in response to the second importation of cVDPV2 from **Chad (Nigeria cluster)** and the separate importation from **Yemen**; the campaign is planned to start on 23 October 2022.
- nOPV2 for the campaign was received on 19 July 2022, cleared by the NRA and is currently stored in the national cold room in VACSERA.
- A ToT was conducted for Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) on social mobilization and community engagement; ERC trainers will train community leaders from non-Egyptian communities in Giza and Cairo for upcoming SNID.
- Following four months without detection of cVDPV2, the MoHP with support from WHO conducted an internal surveillance review in seven high-priority governorates over 4-15 September 2022 to identify gaps and provide recommendations for strengthening polio surveillance. Notably, the second detection of the **Chad** variant occurred just afterwards.

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

- Over 20-25 August 2022, R1 of the South Central SNID for under-10s was conducted in 79 districts, including five newly accessible districts in the Middle Juba and Lower Shabelle regions (Sakow, Salagle, Bu'ale, Marka, and Qoryoley):
 - More than 4.36 million children vaccinated.
 - 92% administrative coverage achieved.
 - 1,381 refusals reported, 1,255 of which were resolved; remaining cases are being followed up by the District Social Mobilization Coordinator or National Islamic Advisory Group members.

YEMEN

- Following completion of R3 of tOPV campaigning in the southern governorates, a three-day campaign review meeting covering polio, integrated outreach activities and COVID-19 vaccination was conducted from 5-7 August 2022.
- Advocacy continues to implement a quality polio vaccination campaign in the northern governorates.
- The fourth round of integrated outreach activities (bOPV, IPV, and other antigens) and nutrition support was conducted in 12 southern governorates from 27-31 August 2022.
- Discussion is ongoing with MoPHP and WHO for possible inclusion of tOPV validation in the checklist for independent monitors during the planned COVID-19 vaccination campaign, to be sure no vial of tOPV was left at health facilities following the polio outbreak response campaigns in the southern governorates.
- Social mobilization activities through different channels are focusing on routine immunization to increase vaccine demand and coverage.



CLOSURE OF POLIO OUTBREAKS AND EVENTS

- Following the formal closure of the cVDPV2 event in **Iran**, the country remains at high risk of importation from neighbouring endemic countries and of cVDPV2 from other infected countries in the Region. Efforts to maintain a highly sensitive surveillance system – with specific focus on Sistan & Balochistan province – and to expand environmental surveillance are necessary to mitigate this risk.
- Following **Sudan's** Outbreak Response Assessment and recommendation to close the outbreak, a number of recommendations have been made, with a focus on enhancing surveillance for timely detection of low-level transmission, and raising population immunity, specifically by reaching and vaccinating unreached children in order to avoid outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

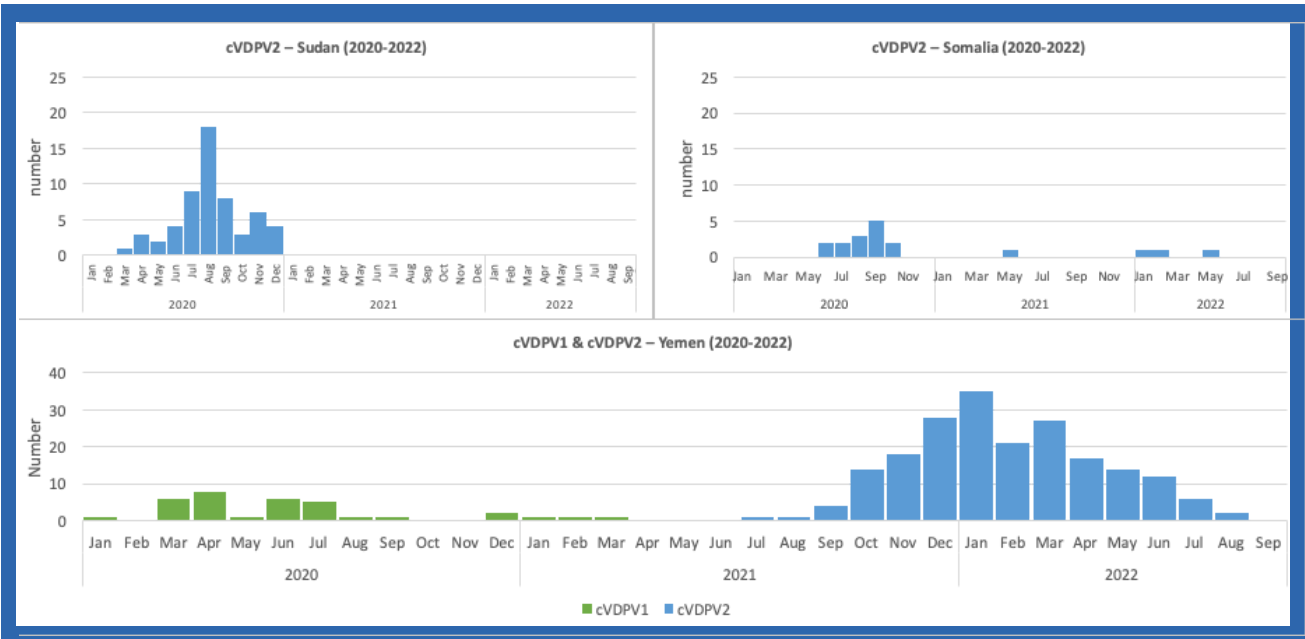


REGIONAL COORDINATION

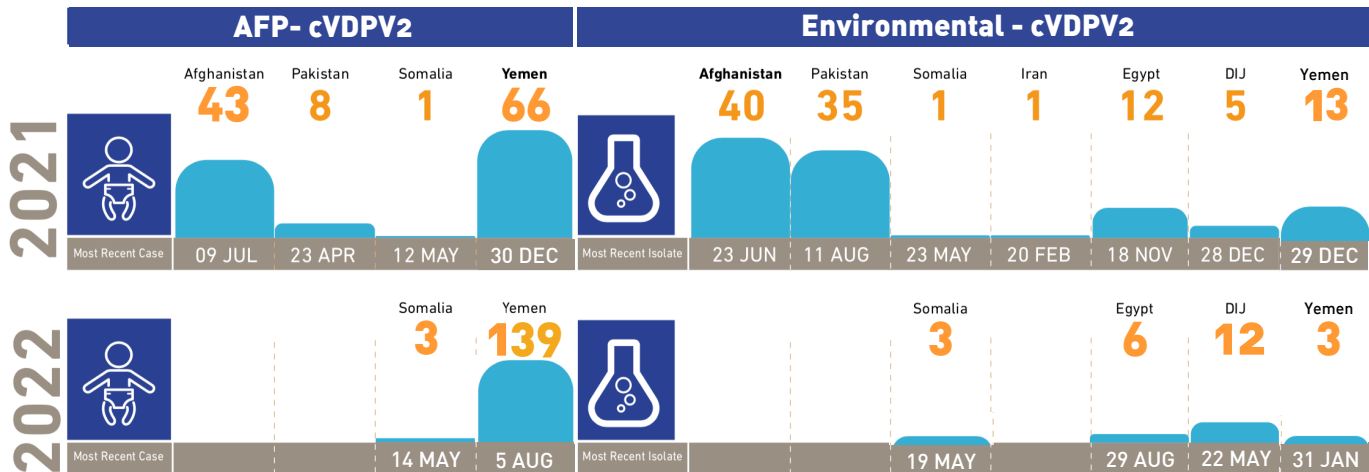
- A face-to-face IMST meeting was conducted in Amman, **Jordan**, on 22 September 2022 and included a review of action points from ORPG/IMST meetings, and Q4 priorities for outbreak, event and high-risk countries.
- Over 26-29 September 2022, UNICEF MENARO will lead a regional health network meeting featuring sessions on immunization and polio; country health teams from around the region will take part.
- A WHO regional workshop will be held over 28-29 September 2022 to determine how to operationalize the GPEI gender strategy at the EMRO level; this will be a group consultation exercise that follows individual consultations on **Somalia** (completed) and **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** (ongoing) – the three priority countries for gender strategy implementation.



OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



OTHER 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: jtouma@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](#)



World Health Organization

