

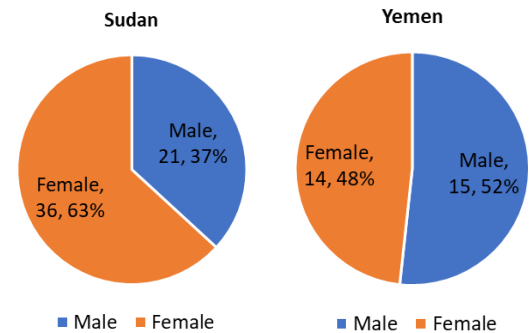


SITUATION UPDATE

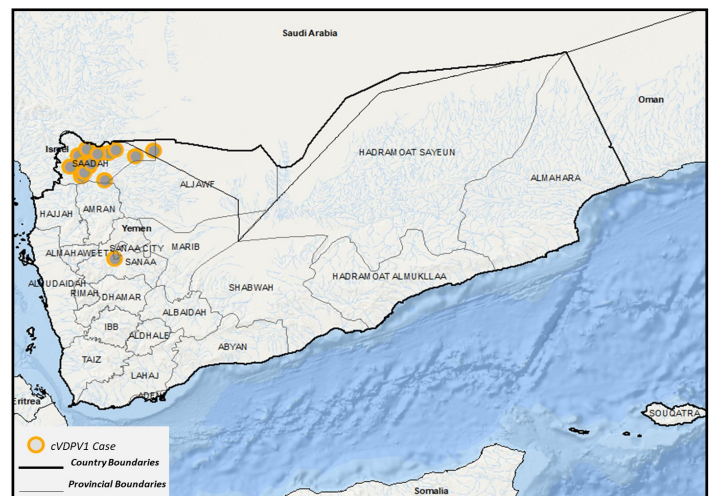
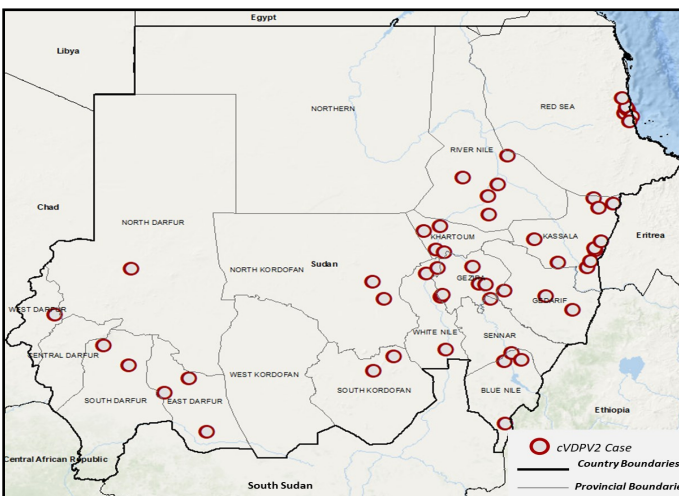
- Across the EMR (WHO) – MENA (UNICEF) regions multiple countries are responding to circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses. **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, and Iran** are responding to established outbreaks of cVDPV2. **Yemen** continues to respond to an outbreak of cVDPV1.
- The twenty-seventh meeting of the Emergency Committee of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) remains concerned about the rapid spread of cVDPVs globally. Recent international spread of cVDPV2 from Somalia (EMR) to **Kenya** (AFR) and Pakistan (EMR) to **Tajikistan** (EUR) highlight the ongoing risks.
- **Iran** has completed the first mOPV2 response campaign in limited districts of Sistan and Balochistan province. A total of 528,513 children were reported vaccinated (which totals 102.5% coverage of the target).
- In **Egypt**, in January 2021, three genetically inter-related cVDPV2 isolates were confirmed from three environmental sites in three governorates (Alexandria, Aswan, Qena), establishing local transmission. The first outbreak response campaign, using mOPV2, will commence on 28 February.
- **Yemen** continues preparation for the next integrated outreach campaign in Sa’adah governorate. One additional case from 2020 has been confirmed with onset of paralysis on 25 September, taking the total number of children paralysed in the outbreak to 29.

Details of the most recent cVDPV cases and sex distribution of cases

	Sudan: cVDVP2	Yemen: cVDPV1
Date of onset of paralysis	18 December 2020	25 September 2020
Location	South Darfur	Sa’adah governorate
Child age	31 months	84 months
Sex	Male	Male
Known immunization status	Routine (OPV): 1 SIA (OPV): 1 IPV: Unknown	Routine (OPV): 0 SIA (OPV): 0 IPV: 0



Distribution of cVDPV2 in Sudan and cVDPV1 in Yemen, 2020



Surveillance:

Sudan:

- Since the last situation report (week 5, 2021), one new cVDPV2 case was reported in Sudan, taking the total number of confirmed cVDPV2 cases to 57, across 15 states, since the outbreak started in August 2020.
- The most recent confirmed cVDPV2 case was notified with 18th of December 2020 as the date of onset.
- Five environmental samples were collected in January. Sabin-Like virus was identified in three sites, which is expected with the recent use of mOPV2. The remaining two sites' samples are under process.

Yemen:

- Sa'ada governorate remains the epicentre of the cVDPV1 outbreak in Yemen. Twenty eight of the 29 cases confirmed since the start of the outbreak are from Sa'adah.
- To date in 2020, a total of 81 AFP cases have been reported. Both the non-polio AFP (NP/AFP) and stool adequacy rates remain above global standards.
- The samples from 150 AFP cases have arrived in CPHL in Muscat, Oman, in a good condition, including all cases reported this year. Preparation is ongoing to ship newly reported cases and to have a regular shipment every two weeks.
- Field investigation is underway into an observed clustering of AFP cases in Aljawf, Amran and Albaydha governorates. These areas were covered by vaccination during the first outbreak response campaign in November. Samples of these cases are now under process at the lab.
- Supplies for Bag Mediated Filtration System (BMFS), needed to initiate environmental surveillance for poliovirus, arrived in Yemen with the support of WHO lab coordinator and partners.

Egypt:

- Between 10 and 23 January, three genetically inter-related cVDPV2 isolates were confirmed from three different environmental sites in three governorates (Alexandria, Aswan, Qena), establishing local transmission.
- Genetic sequencing has linked these isolates to cVDPV2 from July 2020 in River Nile province, Sudan, belonging to a previous emergence in Chad. A separate VDPV2 had been detected from an environmental sample collected on 9 September 2020, in Giza.

Iran:

- No new VDPV2 isolates have been detected in Iran. A total of three isolates, at least two linked to each other, from two sites were confirmed in 2020 in Sistan and Balouchistan province. There is currently no evidence of local transmission.
- Iran has responded by enhancing surveillance activities in areas bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan and initiating plans to implement two monovalent oral polio vaccine type-2 (mOPV2) campaigns.

Case Response Preparedness and Implementation update:

Sudan:

- West Darfur commenced the second round of the mOPV2 campaign on 22 February. The campaign was delayed due to security concerns.
- The second round was completed in January 2021 in all states except West Darfur targeting 8.21 million children. Post campaign assessments have recorded more than 100% coverage in those states.
- Polio teams successfully reached refugee populations from Ethiopia and Eritrea during both rounds, with 6377 refugee children recorded as receiving vaccination against polio.
- Teams are increasing cross border collaboration with Chad to develop a vaccination strategy to reach the Sudanese refugee population currently in Chad with a second dose of mOPV2 (after they received first dose in round one in December, 2020).

Yemen:

- An expanded programme on immunization (EPI) taskforce meeting was held on [DATE] to review the post-campaign assessment of the last vaccination round in Yemen's northern governorates.
- WHO and UNICEF continues to work with health authorities to fix the dates of the upcoming round that will cover northern governorates.

Iran

- On 16 February Iran completed the first of two targeted vaccination campaigns with mOPV2. Vaccines were administered to a total of 528,513 children (targeting 515,587) under age five in 30 districts.
- Vaccines were available at 1,000 fixed vaccination centers and through 3,000 house-to-house vaccination teams. Two days of catchup was implemented in eight districts.
- The country team is preparing material for the post-campaign assessment and mOPV2 validation in the field after the second round.

Egypt:

- A nationwide vaccination campaign begins 28 February, in response to the outbreak of cVDPV2, aiming to reach 16.3 million children under age five.
- Training was complete in all governorates ahead of the campaign's start, with senior MOH staff travelling to high priority governorates to advocate for a very high quality campaign.

Vaccine logistics:

Iran:

- On 23 and 24 Feb, a total of 29,566 empty and partially used mOPV2 vials were destroyed in different vaccine distribution centers using incinerators and encapsulation.

Egypt:

- The first mOPV2 vaccines were received in Egypt on 21 February. Vaccines were sent to VACSERA for a pharmaceutical check, before being received by the EPI on 25 February.

Sudan:

- All 17 states have submitted the mOPV2 disposal reports, including North Darfur despite their delay in sending back vials due to ongoing security concerns.
- Validation of mOPV2 after second round is complete, the data are currently being compiled by the Federal EPI.

Yemen:

- Vaccine and Vitamin A supplies to be distributed at central level prior to the next vaccination rounds.
- The vaccines procured for the next rounds has long shelf life, through until November 2022.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

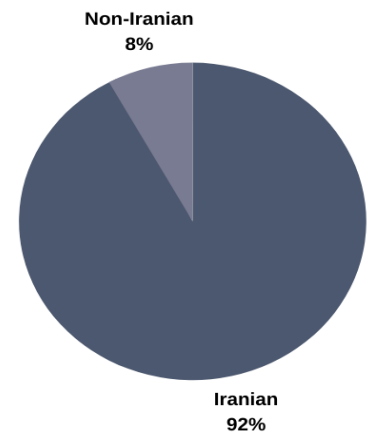
Sudan:

- West Darfur's pre-campaign social mobilization activities started two days prior to the round, which ran from 22 - 25 February 2021. Activities include training of 48 social mobilizers and health promoters; the orientation of eight social mobilization supervisors and 144 community leaders; additional orientation with 71 religious leaders and eight public announcers. Teams also provided three sound systems, 58 Banners, 1200 posters and 10 micro-phones. While 850 posters, 52 banners were distributed.

Yemen:

- The EPI and Health Education Centre (HEC) Directors will begin a study to identify the reasons behind refusals from the recent campaigns. Following this an action plan will be developed to address refusals during polio campaigns and in routine immunization services. UNICEF-C4D is providing technical support and has shared the refusal analysis per district and recommended actions put together by the Polio Consultant with the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

Children reached in round one mOPV2 in targeted districts of Iran



An Afghan child is vaccinated on day three of Iran's first targeted mOPV2 campaign in response to VDPV2 detection in two districts bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Regional Coordination

- The regional polio IMST (WHO/UNICEF) continues to convene coordination calls with the GPEI Outbreak Preparedness and Response Task Team (OPRTT) and with country counterparts from GPEI agencies and the Ministries of Health to provide technical support and guidance.
- Staff and consultants from WHO and UNICEF's regional offices spent a total of 142 days in country supporting the **Sudan** and **Yemen** outbreaks since September 2020. Significant time and resources have been channeled into supporting the country teams remotely.
- In country coordination meeting between WHO and UNICEF continues every week to review the situation in Yemen, while regional coordination meeting continues every two weeks.

REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- Given obvious risk of further spread of cVDPVs, especially type-2, mitigation strategies should include the fast-tracked establishment of environmental surveillance to complement the AFP surveillance system besides obvious improvement in EPI coverage and update the outbreak preparedness and response plans.
- Endemic countries, **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan**, continue to manage the dual challenge of transmission of wild poliovirus and expanding cVDPV2 outbreak.
- The cVDPV1 outbreak is still limited to **Yemen**, yet there is a risk of spread to countries and/or populations having persistent low routine immunization.
- **The cVDPV3 outbreak in Somalia** has been officially closed after careful review of the available epidemiological and surveillance data. The last cVDPV3 in Somalia was reported on 7 September 2018.

Health and Humanitarian context:

- In **Sudan**, ongoing active conflict in North and West Darfur and Kordofan state is causing internal displacement of populations. Shortages of fuel and cash continue. The country's currency continues to be devalued, with the official rate recently changing from 55 pounds to the US dollar, to 375 pounds to the US dollar.
- Marib province in **Yemen** has seen a military escalation following the US announcement of a new policy to end US military support to the Saudi-led coalition. Marib, the last northern stronghold of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, shelters hundreds of thousands of IDPs now at risk of further displacement. UN officials have warned of urgent humanitarian need there.
- Syria, Iraq and Djibouti remain at high risk of polio outbreak. Polio outbreak preparedness and response plans were updated in Iraq recently to mitigate risk of polio virus importation.
- Tensions in **Somalia** remain high following the postponement of national elections. At least five soldiers were killed and more than a dozen people injured in clashes in Mogadishu on 19 February.

Other cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR:

2020

Regional
cVDPV2
outbreaks
Most recent
onset of paralysis

AFGHANISTAN
 **305**
30 December 2020

PAKISTAN
 **135**
24 December 2020

SOMALIA
 **14**
25 October 2020



Environmental
Surveillance
Most recent collection

AFG: 172 PAK: 134 SOM: 26
27 December 28 December 24 October

2021

Regional
cVDPV2
outbreaks
Most recent
onset of paralysis

AFGHANISTAN
 **5**
12 January 2021

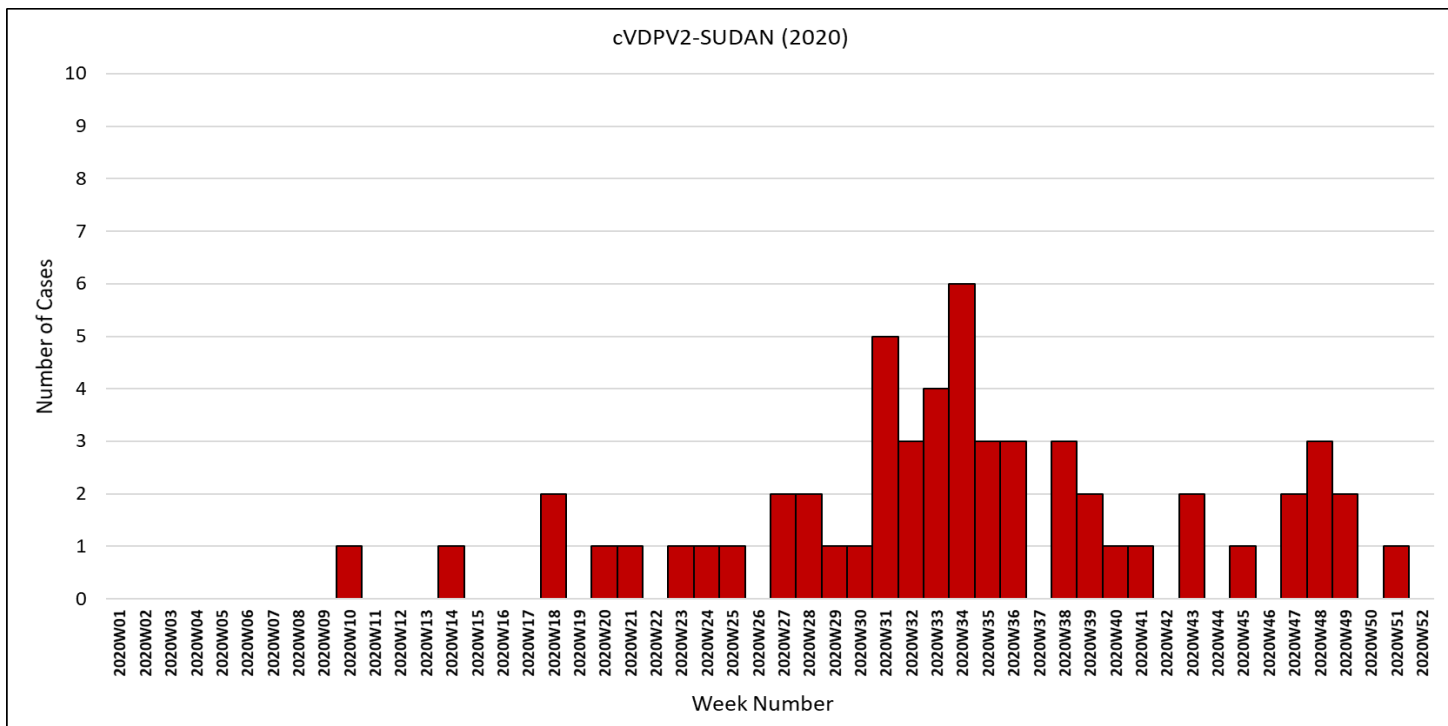
PAKISTAN
 **3**
14 January 2021



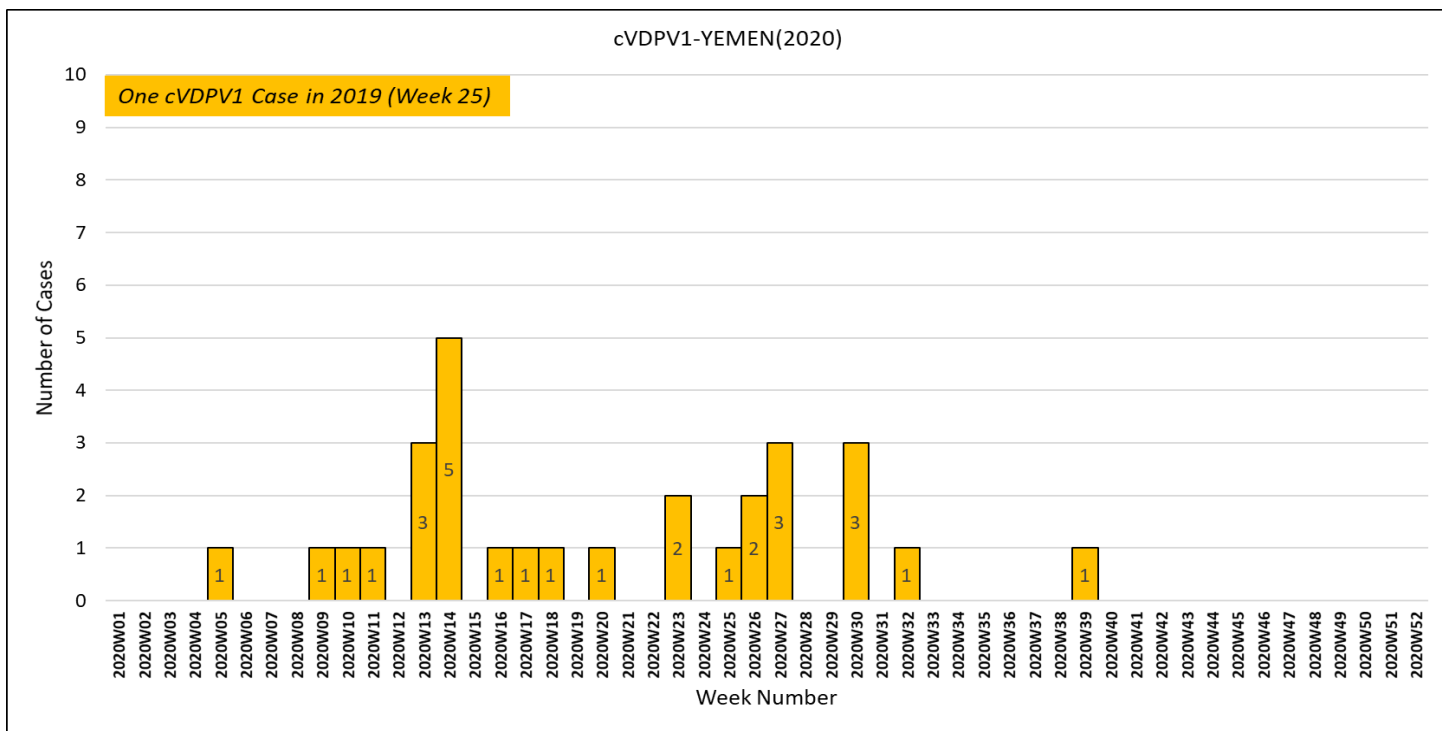
Environmental
Surveillance
Most recent collection

PAK: 4
12 January

OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



For more detail, please see the [Sudan country-level situation report](#).



Send questions to:

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Relevant links:

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#), updated weekly
- **WATCH:**
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation](#)
- [Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [What is vaccine-derived polio?](#)