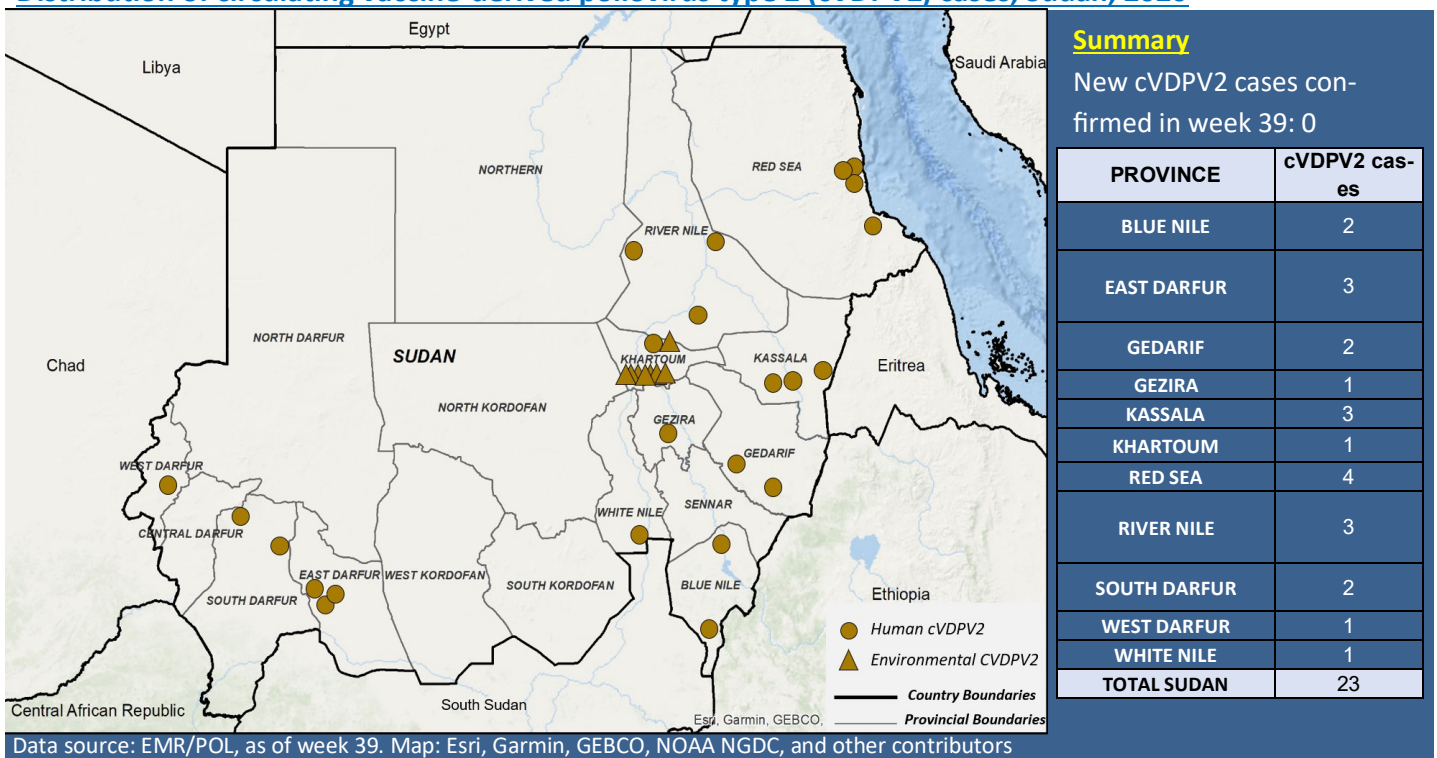


Situation overview

- No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were confirmed in week 39. In total, 23 cases across 11 states have been confirmed in Sudan since the beginning of the outbreak.
- The cases have onset of paralysis between 7 March 2020 and 18 August 2020.
- A total of eight environmental samples positive for cVDPV2 have been confirmed so far, all from Khartoum state with most recent collection on 9 August 2020.
- The outbreak has been graded at level 2.
- Planning continues for the first round of outbreak response in late October. On 1 October, nearly ten million doses of polio vaccine arrived in Khartoum for use during the upcoming campaign. A joint UNICEF-WHO press release on the vaccine arrival and campaign preparations can be read [here](#).

Distribution of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases, Sudan, 2020



cVDPV2 case details

- The median age of the 23 children affected by cVDPV2 is 36 months.
- The gender ratio of the children affected, male-female, is 1 : 1.3.
- None of the 23 affected children have ever received inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). Five of the children have never received oral polio vaccine (OPV), and four children have received between one and three doses of OPV, leaving them under-immunized against polio.
- The most recent case, with onset on 18 August, was detected in River Nile state. The child is 15 months old.

Immunization activities

- Coordination continues between the Government, and country office, regional office and HQ levels of WHO and UNICEF in order to plan and facilitate a large scale outbreak response, comprising at least two vaccination rounds. In week 39, the country team remained heavily engaged and discussed areas including the campaign budget gap and preparing for training of health workers participating in the upcoming campaign.
- The second round of routine immunization acceleration in 109 low performing localities (13 states) is complete. The acceleration was intended to boost children’s immunity to the polio virus. Raising routine immunization levels is a critical part of providing lasting protection to children against polio.

Vaccine management

- 9.9 million doses of monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2 (mOPV2) have been procured by UNICEF and arrived in Sudan on 1 October to be used in the first round of the campaign.
- Distribution arrangements to move the vaccines to subnational levels are in place.
- A freezer room has been installed in the central vaccine store to hold the mOPV2.
- Procurement of other vaccine supplies by UNICEF is on track and deliveries are anticipated to arrive on time.
- Watch a [short video](#) on vaccine arrival and preparations for the campaign.



Photo caption: UNICEF staff inspect the vaccines on the runway of Khartoum International Airport. ©RespectMedia

Disease surveillance

- The Sudan polio programme reported 45 new acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases in week 39. The total number of reported AFP cases in week 39 was 468, of which 351 cases (75%) were discarded as non-polio AFP cases, 94 cases (20.1%) were pending classification and 23 cases are confirmed cVDPV2 (4.9%).
- 23 L20B positive isolates are currently pending confirmation from the regional reference laboratory.
- Planning for expansion of the environmental surveillance system is progressing well. The programme is exploring the feasibility of expansion into six prioritized states (Dafur: West, East, North; Red Sea, Gezira and White Nile). This will supplement the AFP surveillance system in priority states in the country.
- AFP surveillance training and sensitization sessions are being conducted in 14 of 18 states in Sudan, targeting disease surveillance staff, health workers and traditional healers.

Communications and C4D (Communications for Development)

- Coordinated Communication and Social Mobilization activities have been organized jointly between the Health Promotion Department of the Federal Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF.
- C4D and health promotion officers across Sudan are meeting on weekly basis to enhance coordination of the social mobilization activities associated with the polio outbreak response.
- Planning is ongoing for the upcoming campaign, including plans for campaign inauguration, a joint press release, social media, IEC material and community outreach.
- World Polio Day on 24 October will be an important opportunity to raise awareness of vaccination ahead of the first round.

Relevant Links

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses video](#)
- [What is vaccine-derived polio?](#)

For more information, please contact:

WHO
Dr. Mohammad Taufiq MASHAL — Polio Team Lead
World Health Organization, SUDAN
E: mashalm@who.int | T: +249 91 214 9441

Lina MUSTAPHA — Communications Officer,
World Health Organization, SUDAN
E: lmustapha@who.int | T: +249903079781

UNICEF
Shaza M. AHMED — Polio Team Lead
UNICEF, Sudan
E: smahmed@unicef.org | T: +24912692023

Salma ISMAIL — Communication Officer
UNICEF, Sudan
E: saismail@unicef.org | T: +249965101246