Situation update

- No new human cases or environmental samples of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) type 2 have been reported this week. The latest case had onset of paralysis on 2 September 2018 in Somalia.
- No new human cases or environmental samples of cVDPV type 3 have been reported this week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 7 September 2018 in Somalia.
- In Somalia, the total number of cases of paralysis caused by cVDPV2 remains 5, with 18 positive environmental samples in 2017 and 2018. The total number of cases of paralysis caused by cVDPV3 remains six, with 10 environmental isolates. One case of paralysis has been identified with co-infection of cVDPV type 2 and 3, and one environmental sample has been found with both viruses.
Population immunity

**cVDPV3 outbreak response**

- Kenya conducted a second round of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) campaigns from the 20—24 October in 12 high risk countries bordering Somalia and Ethiopia. This campaign reached 2,948,481 children under the age of five.
  - Of the 12 counties included in the campaign, only three (Kajiado, Lengata and Masinge) reported more than 10% missed children.
  - Independent monitoring data showed that 98% of children seen in households were vaccinated.
- Somalia launched their third round of nationwide bOPV campaigns on the 29 October. This campaign targeted 3,072,909 children under the age of five with vaccines.
  - An innovative approach to intra-campaign monitoring was introduced for this campaign, with data on children seen, vaccinated and missed submitted online on a daily basis throughout the campaign for review. On average, almost all districts had a daily coverage of over 90% of the target population.
- Ethiopia will conduct a first round of bOPV campaigns to cover all districts in the Somali and Gambella regions, and all districts in the East Harage, Bale and Borena zones of Oromiya region. There will be a special focus on refugee and internally displaced persons camps. The campaign will target 2,598,893 children under the age of five. The dates are to be confirmed.

**cVDPV2 outbreak response**

- A monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2 (mOPV2) vaccination campaign is planned for the 19—22 November in Somalia South and Central zones.

**Somalia’s October vaccination campaigns in pictures**

From left to right: a child is given two drops of bOPV to protect them against polio ©WHOSomalia/M.Sharif; a vaccinator marks a house to show it has been visited ©WHOSomalia/M.Jama; vaccinator and donkey traverse challenging terrain to reach every last child ©WHOSomalia/M.Jama.

**Surveillance**

- Integrated supportive supervision using a mobile phone based application called Open Data Kit is being used to strengthen acute flaccid paralysis surveillance across six Horn of Africa countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Eritrea).
- Using this innovative approach, ten cases of acute flaccid paralysis that were previously missed were identified in September 2018—four in Uganda, three in Kenya and three in South Sudan.
- Using the Open Data Kit app is helping to ensure that active case searching for possible polio cases is happening in the highest priority sites, such as district and referral hospitals where there is a high turn over of patients.

The number of integrated supportive supervision visits has increased in 6 Horn of Africa countries over 2018.
Communications for Development

- During the first mOPV vaccination round in Nairobi county, Kenya, pockets of refusals were identified in Kamukunji and Stahere sub-counties. This was presented as the reason for 18 and 19% respectively of children who were missed on vaccination campaigns.

- To reduce the number of refusals, several specific actions were designed and implemented:
  - Engaging the Association of Paediatricians and community leaders to affirm the safety of the polio vaccine and the importance of vaccination for all children under the age of five
  - Using social media to promote positive messaging and counter rumours
  - Engaging children as agents of change in schools
  - Increasing the number of locally influential people in social mobilisation and vaccination teams

- Through the implementation of these strategies, the number of refusals has dramatically reduced in the most recent vaccination round in these areas of Nairobi county. This has helped to reduce the total number of missed children overall.

Coordination and support

- The Africa Regional Certification Commission met from 12—16 November in Nairobi to review progress towards the eradication of wild poliovirus. Seven countries (Cameroon, Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic, South Sudan Equatorial Guinea and South Africa) will be presenting on their progress, while Kenya, the hosting country, alongside the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Namibia, will be submitting evidence that the country remains free from wild poliovirus.

- The Horn of Africa Coordination Office is preparing for the upcoming Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings later in November by coordinating with country offices and evaluating progress to date.

- A Horn of Africa outbreak response plan for 2019 is currently under development.

Calendar of events

- Annual Regional Certification Commission meeting, Nairobi: 12-16 November 2018
- OBRA: 18—24 November
- HOA TAG Meeting in Nairobi: 26 - 29 November 2018

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Relevant links

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website, updated weekly.
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses explainer animation
- Responding to an outbreak of VDPV interview with Michel Zaffran, Director of Polio Eradication WHO
- What is vaccine-derived polio Q&A
- GPEI vaccine derived poliovirus factsheet
- Somalia Weekly Situation Report