One new case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) was reported this week from Danyile district, Banadir region. No new cVDPV3 has been reported. The total number of cases is five: two cVDPV2, two cases of cVDPV3 and one case with a co-infection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3.

A second monovalent type-2 (mOPV2) vaccination round, aiming to reach 910,257 children under five, has concluded (4-7 August) in 37 districts in Central and South Somalia, synchronized with border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia. Initial data indicates that a total of 666,057 children received vaccination.

One new environmental sampling site has been identified in Banadir region; collection will start in the coming week. A total of 10 cVDPV2 positive samples and seven cVDPV3 positive samples have been detected in four operational environmental sampling sites.

WHO and UNICEF are working closely with the Government of Somalia, supporting the outbreak response in-country and coordinating on border areas involved in outbreak response activities.
Immunization Response

cVDPV2

- Preliminary post campaign monitoring of the most recent mOPV2 vaccination round (implemented 4-7 August) indicates that 666,057 children under five have been vaccinated. This was the second synchronized vaccination activity with the border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia.

- A total of five large-scale immunization campaigns using mOPV2 have been conducted in Somalia since the initial detection of cVDPV2 isolates in December 2017. In addition, one round of IPV was conducted (alongside a targeted mOPV2 campaign) in Banadir, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle reaching more than 270,000 (90% of the total target) children aged between 2-23 months.

cVDPV3

- Planning continues for two immunization rounds targeting approximately 2.5 million children under five in all regions of Somalia with bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV). These rounds are scheduled to take place in October and November 2018 and will be synchronized with activities in Kenya and Ethiopia.

- One national immunization days (NID) round using bOPV has been conducted, covering Puntland, Somaliland, South and Central zones, in addition to a small scale response in Banadir and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions. In total, more than 2.5 million children under the age of five have received bOPV in 2018.

Surveillance

- One new poliovirus type-2 isolate from Boorancade village, Balanbale District, Galgadud is pending genomic sequencing.

- All regions but one are meeting both key indicators for AFP surveillance: 3* or more non-polio AFP (NPAFP) cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens. Lower Shabelle (2.9) is not meeting the NPAFP rate.

- Of the 23 zero-dose AFP cases reported in 2018, 12 have been reported from inaccessible districts, eight from partially-accessible districts and three from accessible districts (two from Warsheikh, Middle Shabelle region and one from Jaribanin, Mudug region).

- Of the 209 AFP cases reported in 2018, 43% and 38% came from urban and rural populations respectively. Nomadic communities account for only 19%.

- One new environmental site has been identified in Shangani district of Banadir region. The first sample should be taken in the coming week. The original four sampling sites established in Banadir (Mogadishu) are conducting weekly sampling as part of efforts to enhance surveillance. Additional measures include increased focus on strengthening health facility-based surveillance, sensitization and orientation of health personnel, intensification of surveillance activities through active case searches in the community and health facilities, and collection of stool samples from healthy children.

Background

- Densely-populated Banadir region reported the highest number of cases (72 out of 199) in Somalia during the outbreak of wild poliovirus in the Horn of Africa in 2013-2014. The outbreak was stopped following a multi-country, multi-partner immunization response. Somalia has reported no cases of wild poliovirus since August 2014.

- Conflict and insecurity hindered access to children in Central and South zones during polio immunization campaigns in 2017. Seventeen out of 115 districts remain inaccessible in Somalia. Approximately 240,000 children under five years of age have been reported as not accessible for more than a year.

*NPAFP target in an outbreak setting is 3 per 100,000 children below 15 years of age
EPI Curve and AFP classification (up to 16 August 2018)

Environmental surveillance by classification, 2017-2018 (up to 16 August 2018)

Vaccination Status (OPV) of Non-polio AFP cases aged 6-59 months by region, 2016-2018 (up to 16 August 2018)
Relevant Links

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website, updated weekly.
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses video
- Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video
- What is vaccine-derived polio?
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV

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