cVDPV2 cases in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, Syria, 2017

Key highlights

- One new case of cVDPV2 confirmed this week, from Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate. The case, a 9-month-old boy with no polio vaccination history, had onset of paralysis 19 June 2017.

- The total number of cVDPV2 cases is 40. All confirmed cases to date have had onset of paralysis before 14 July 2017.

- Preparations for the second Raqqa round continue.

- Micro-plans are being updated for each of Raqqa’s districts. Pre-round C4D activities have started.

- IPV vaccination for children missed in the second Deir Ez-Zor round continues through health facilities.

- An IPV campaign targeting children aged between 2-23 months in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama is being planned to boost population immunity.

Immunization response

- The national response plan currently includes two immunization rounds each in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate.

- There is no evidence of further poliovirus transmission in Tadmour district, Homs.

Distribution of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV2), Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gov.</th>
<th>Deir Ez-Zor</th>
<th>Raqqa</th>
<th>Homs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mth.</td>
<td>NPAFP</td>
<td>cVDPV2</td>
<td>NPAFP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Apr</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>
Raqqa

- Preparations for the second Raqqa round continue.
- Micro-plans are being updated for each of Raqqa’s districts to include newly accessible areas. A two-day workshop to develop a joint micro-plan for the whole governorate is scheduled to take place next week.
- WHO continues to engage Syrian NGOs working in emergency health response to assist with routine immunization and AFP surveillance in Raqqa and Hasakah IDP camps. WHO is conducting orientation sessions for health staff on AFP case detection, reporting, and vaccination status monitoring.

Deir Ez-Zor

- IPV vaccination for children missed in the second Deir Ez-Zor round continues through local health centers.
- IPV is also being administered to missed IDP children from Deir Ez-Zor in Damascus health clinics.

Other governorates

- An IPV campaign targeting children aged between 2-23 months in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama is being planned to boost population immunity.

Regional response

- A polio campaign was launched in Anbar governorate, Iraq, which borders Syria, on 17 September. Bivalent OPV and IPV-containing vaccine are being used in the campaign which aims to cover 8 of Anbar’s 10 districts.

Surveillance summary

- The National Expert Committee (NEC) met on 14 September to review 30 AFP case files. One AFP case from Mayadeen, Deir Ez-Zor, (date of onset of paralysis 27 June 2017) was classified as compatible.
- Infected governorates are currently meeting global standards for AFP surveillance. Deir Ez-Zor governorate however, has an adequate specimen rate of 76%, which is below the minimum accepted standard for this indicator.
- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 138 (104 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 24 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 16 AFP cases (5 from Raqqa, 10 from Tell Abyad, and 1 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 32 AFP cases (15 from Homs city, 14 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 2 from Talkalakh districts).

Coordination and surge support

- WHO and UNICEF have deployed additional human resources (surge support) to both hubs since the start of the outbreak.
- WHO-UNICEF joint EOCs in both Damascus and Gaziantep hubs in collaboration with partners continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response. Since the start of the outbreak, Regional Offices of both organizations have held weekly calls with hubs to ensure coordination at all levels.
Data as of 19 September 2017

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2015-2017 (up to 19 September 2017)
Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 19 September 2017)

Relevant links

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

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Data as of 19 September 2017