Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 6
25 July 2017

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 27
Outbreak grade: 3

Index case
Onset of paralysis: 3 March 2017
Location: Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor
Age: 22 months
Vaccination status: 2 OPV doses/zero IPV

Most recent cases
Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor
Onset of paralysis: 6 June 2017, age: 8 months, vaccination status: 1 OPV/zero IPV
Tell Abyad district, Raqqa
Onset of paralysis: 3 May 2017, age: 14 months, vaccination status: 4 OPV/1 IPV

Key highlights
• No new cVDPV2 cases reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 27 (26 cases are from Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate, and 1 case from Tell Abyad district, Raqqa governorate).
• The first mOPV2 vaccination round in Deir Ez-Zor started on 22 July. A total of 59,051 children under the age of five were vaccinated on the first day of the campaign.
• Given high temperatures, WHO has arranged for local ice-cream factories to assist in the daily freezing of ice packs.
• Community mobilization activities continue throughout the campaign. Household visits have focused on addressing vaccine refusal through use of community influencers.
• In addition to administering mOPV2, vaccination teams are searching for AFP cases during campaign days. An AFP case detected during vaccination visits in Mayadeen district is under investigation.
• The total number of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 89 (67 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 12 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 14 AFP cases (6 from Raqqa, 7 from Tell Abyad, and 1 from Thawra districts).

Distribution of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) and vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (VDPV2), Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gov.</th>
<th>Deir Ez-Zor</th>
<th>Raqqa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>NPAFP</td>
<td>VDPV2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immunization response activities

Two immunization rounds each are planned for Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate.

First round—Deir Ez-Zor

- The first round in Deir Ez-Zor (22-27 July) has begun with 355 vaccination teams administering mOPV2 to children under five years through fixed site vaccination posts and house to house visits. On the first day of the campaign, a total of 59,051 children were vaccinated. Among these, 23% of children were under 12 months of age.
- Community acceptance is high in Deir Ez-Zor, particularly in the Subaikhan area—the epicenter of the cVDPV2 outbreak—due to extensive communication activities. However, WHO is monitoring fixed site vaccination team performance.
- Given high temperatures in the field (at times above 50°C), provision of adequate quantities of frozen ice packs for vaccine storage and transport is a challenge. In order to supply the required 1,500 frozen ice packs to all vaccine distribution centers, WHO has arranged for local ice-cream factories to assist in the daily freezing of ice packs.

First round—Raqqa

- Vaccine was shipped from Damascus to Qamishli on 18 July.

Coordination and surge support

- 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.
- WHO and UNICEF have deployed additional human resources (surge support) to both hubs since the start of the outbreak.

Communications for Development (C4D) and social mobilization activities

Deir Ez-Zor

- Social mobilization activities continue during the polio campaign.
- Refusal cases have been minimal during the first few days of the campaign owing to pre-campaign sensitization. Refusal cases are being addressed daily through liaison with influencers and dissemination of messages tailored to the concerns of caregivers.

Raqqa

- Training of social mobilization teams began 22 July. Micro-plans for campaign implementation have been finalized and shared with mobilization teams. A total of 240 mobilizers are being engaged.
- Campaign IEC materials have been pre-positioned at key campaign locations and will be disseminated when house to house and community visits take place.
EPI Curve NPAFP & VDPV2 Cases, 2015-2017 (up to 24 July 2017)

Vaccination status (OPV+IPV) AFP cases* aged 6-59 months (up to 24 July 2017)

* VDPV cases are included

Data as of 24 July 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

For more information:

**WHO**
Dr Salah Haithami—Syria Outbreak Coordinator
WHO EMRO
E: haithamis@who.int | T: +962 7 9131 4980

Dr Fazal Ather—Regional Polio Coordinator
UNICEF MENA
E: father@unicef.org | T: +962 7 9810 0579

Joseph Swan—Communications Officer, Polio
WHO EMRO
E: swanj@who.int | T: +962 7 9048 4637