

Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 31

23 January 2018



Vaccinators outside an informal tented settlement in Deir Ez-Zor administering polio vaccine to children, as part of the campaign. Photo: WHO

Key highlights

- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 74. The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate.
- The first round of the second phase of the outbreak response has been completed in all governorates (Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Hasakah and Raqqa) with vaccination activities finishing on 21 January.
- Administrative data has been received from all areas except eastern Deir Ez-Zor.
- Post-campaign monitoring began 21 January in all governorates.
- Preparation for the second round (IPV) continues. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners continue to assist.

Immunization response

Deir Ez-Zor

- Vaccination activities in Deir Ez-Zor city took place between 14-19 January. The reported number of children under five years of age vaccinated represents 100% of the estimated target.
- Activities in eastern Deir Ez-Zor governorate ran from 16-20 January. Administrative reports are being compiled.

Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 74
 Outbreak grade: 3

Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	58
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
	Boukamal	12
Raqqa	Tell Abyad	1
	Thawra	1
Homs	Tadmour	1

Index case

Location: Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate
 Onset of paralysis: 3 March 2017, age: 22 months, vaccination status: 2 OPV/zero IPV

Most recent case (by date of onset)

Location: Boukamal, Deir Ez-Zor governorate
 Onset of paralysis: 21 September 2017, age: 5 months, vaccination status: zero OPV/zero IPV

Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 15 months
 Gender: approximately two thirds of cases are female
 Vaccination status of the cases:
 - IPV: 11 cases (15%) received IPV
 - OPV: 41% zero dose, 42% have received 1-2 doses

Distribution of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV2), Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates 2017-2018

Gov.	Deir Ez-Zor		Raqqa		Homs	
	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2
Jan'17	2		2		2	
Feb'17	11		3		4	
Mar'17	5	2	1		2	
Apr'17	7	5	1	1	4	
May'17	13	16	2		3	
Jun'17	8	12	4	1	3	
Jul'17	8	9	2		8	1
Aug'17	12	22			6	
Sep'17	2	5	3		3	
Oct'17	2		4		8	
Nov'17	10		2		3	
Dec'17	8		3		3	
Jan'18	2		3			
Total	90	71	30	2	49	1

- WHO hired four vehicles to move between and within informal tented settlements to check for missed children during campaign days.

Hasakah

- The reported number of children reached in Hasakah represents 102% of the estimated target. Five camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were also reached during the round.

Homs

- According to administrative data, 93% of the target number of children were reached in Tadmour district of Homs. Due to military operations taking place in the area, the campaign had to be extended for two days.

Raqqa

- The reported number of children reached in Raqqa represents 104% of the estimated target. This was the first time for children in Raqqa city to be vaccinated during the outbreak response. A significant portion were returnee IDPs.

Phase one activities

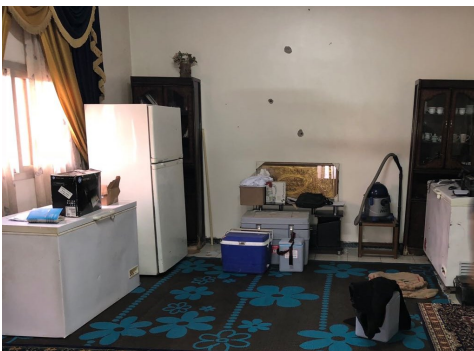
- In the first phase of the response, more than 350,000 resident, refugee and internally displaced children were reached with mOPV2 through two mass vaccination rounds in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Additionally, World Health Organization and UNICEF coordinated with the Government of Syria and local authorities to reach children aged 2-23 months with IPV in infected and high risk areas of Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa, Aleppo, Idleb, Hama and Homs governorates and areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hasakah.

Communications for Development (C4D)

- A UNICEF Regional Office C4D specialist is on mission in Syria to support the campaign and district level microplanning for the next round.

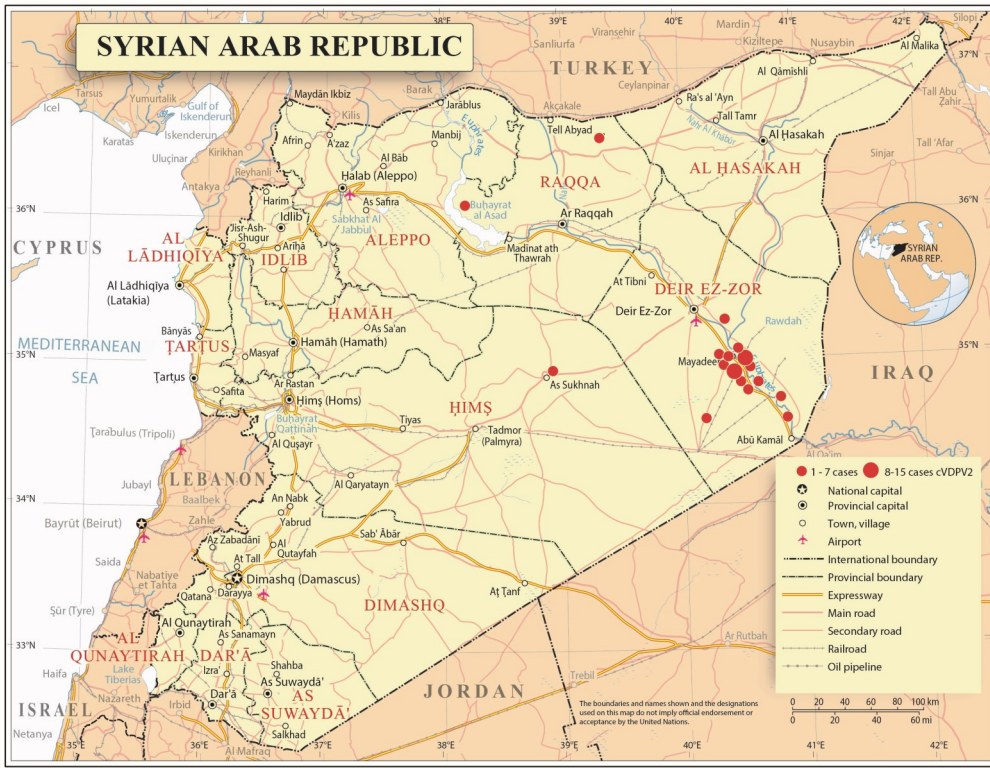


Vaccinators travelled by motorbike to reach children in remote communities of Deir Ez-Zor. Photos: WHO



Vaccine cold chain was ensured despite the lack of functional health facilities in Deir Ez-Zor. Photo: WHO

Distribution of cVDPV2 cases in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, Syria, 2017 and 2018



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: Syrian Arab Republic, Administrative map, DFS, United Nations 2012

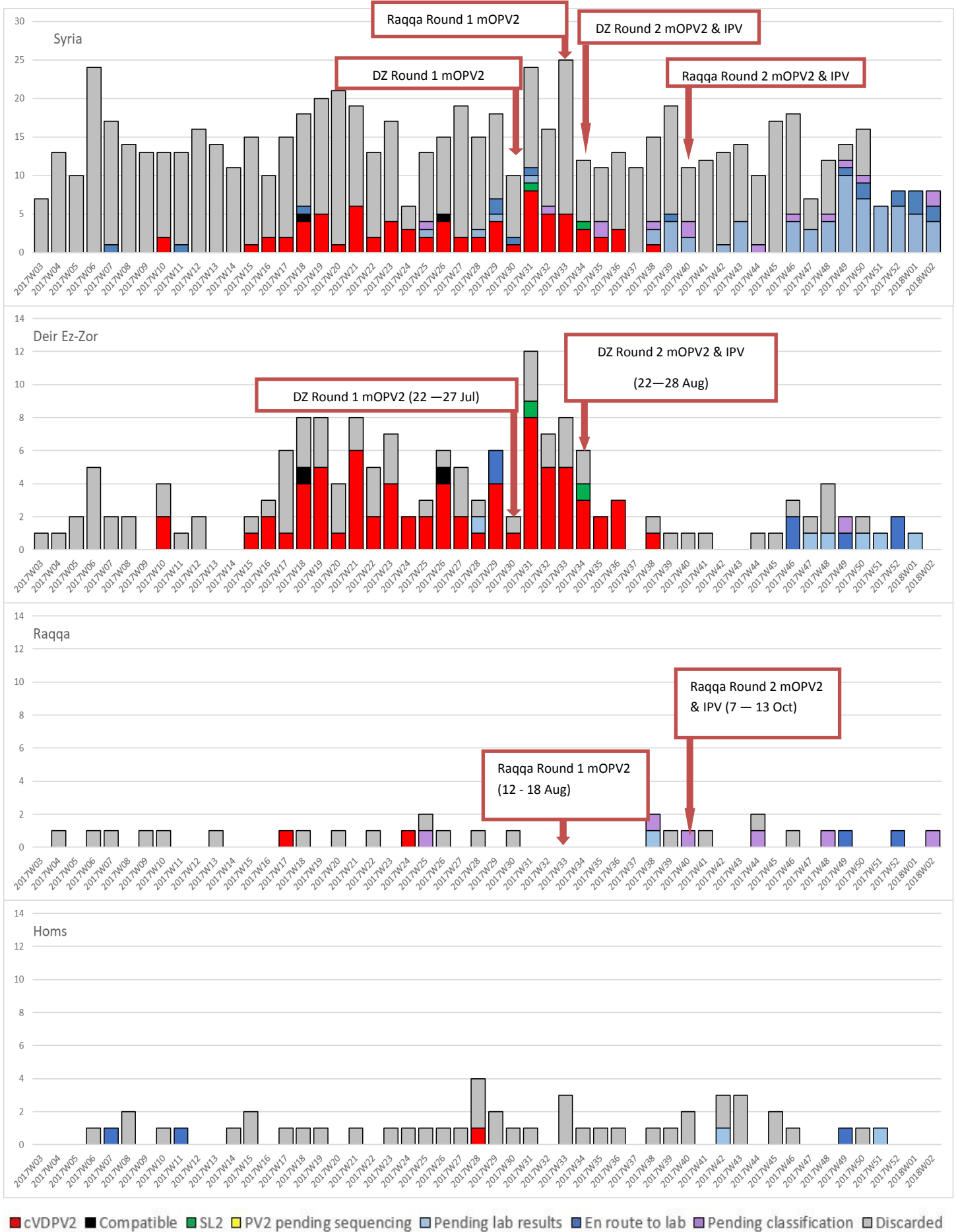
Coordination and surge support

- WHO and UNICEF continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response through the joint Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in both hubs (Gaziantep and Damascus).

Surveillance summary

- In 2017, Syria and all governorates but four are meeting both key indicators for AFP surveillance: 3* or more non-polio AFP cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens. Deir Ez-Zor (77%), Raqqa (67%), Rural Damascus (76%) and Sweida (63%) are missing the 80% target for stool adequacy. (*NB: In an outbreak setting, the target is 3 or more non-polio AFP cases per 100,000 children below 15 years).
- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 161 (108 from Mayadeen, 24 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 29 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 32 AFP cases (12 from Raqqa, 18 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 50 AFP cases (25 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour, 1 from Moukahrram and 3 from Talkalakh districts).
- Activities to strengthen AFP surveillance in affected governorates are ongoing.
- On 18 January, the Environmental Surveillance Committee comprising Syrian Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Resources and laboratory staff met to determine the roles of the respective ministries in the transportation of sewage samples. The committee continues to work towards the expansion of environmental surveillance in other high-risk governorates.

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 and 2018 (up to 22 January 2018)



Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 22 January 2018) *2018 cases not included



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](#)

For more information:

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