



MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #30 | Week 12 (ending 23 March 2023)


BY THE NUMBERS:



8.9 million
children targeted in Sudan's March NID (R1), in response to an importation of cVDPV2



228
cVDPV2 cases confirmed in Yemen to date

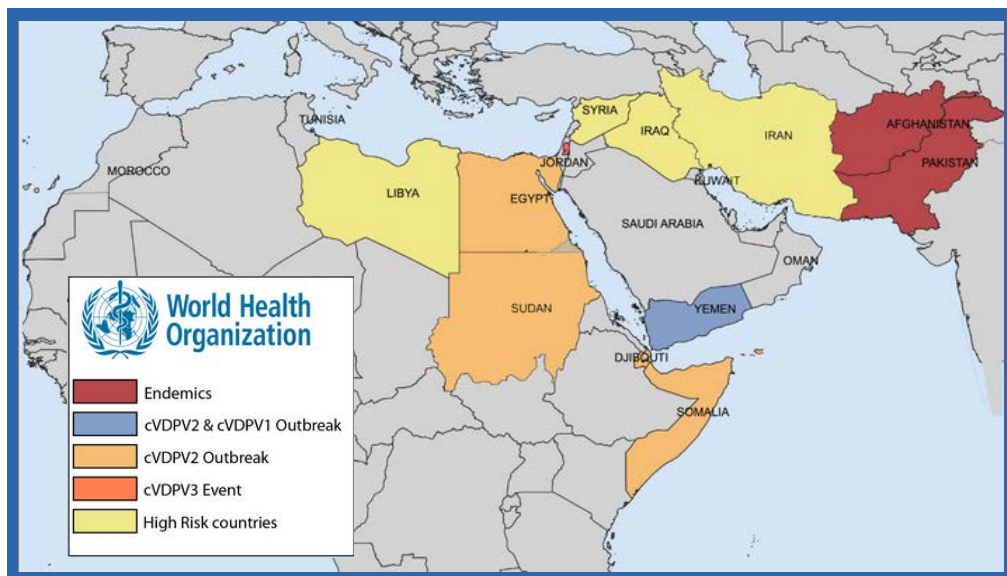


89,000
children remain inaccessible today in Somalia, down from 560,000 in 2021



SITUATION UPDATE

- **Following confirmation of cVDPV2 in an AFP case in West Darfur** state and declaration of a new cVDPV2 outbreak in December 2022, Sudan launched R1 on 18 March 2023, targeting 8.9 million under-fives with mOPV2.
- **In Yemen, a virulent anti-vaccine propaganda campaign** centered in Sana'a is also impacting demand for vaccination in the southern governorates. The programme is responding through coordinated efforts around external and social and behavior change communications, as well as continued advocacy towards Sana'a leadership.
- **Somalia** has one new cVDPV2 case, date of onset 12 January 2023.



Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) isolates:

| | 2022 | | 2023 | |
|----------|------|----|------|----|
| | AFP | ES | AFP | ES |
| DJIBOUTI | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| EGYPT | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| SOMALIA | 5 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| SUDAN | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| YEMEN | 162 | 25 | 0 | 0 |



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI



- To date, all cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed through environmental surveillance:
 - 17 cVDPV2 isolates confirmed since the first isolation in October 2021.
 - Five of these were confirmed in 2021 and 12 in 2022.
 - The last nOPV2 NID was conducted from 3-7 December 2022.
 - The last ES positive was collected on 22 May 2022.
 - One PV2 isolate is currently pending, collected 21 November 2022.
 - Samples are collected every two weeks from each of two sites.
- Nineteen AFP cases were reported in 2022 (4.6 per 100,000 children below 15 years), above the indicator of three AFP cases per 100,000, but stool adequacy, at 47%, is still below the benchmark (80%). The high number of inadequate AFP cases (10/19) is due to late reporting: these cases are typically identified during campaigns or active search activities.

EGYPT



- The most recent detection was on 29 August 2022.

SOMALIA



- In 2023 to date, there has been one cVDPV2 from an AFP case: a child from Kurtunwaarey district, Lower Shabelle, with date of onset 12 January 2023.
- Collection date of most recent cVDPV2-positive ES sample: 4 October 2022.
- Pending PV2 isolates:
 - Five ES samples were collected in October, November and December 2022.
 - Samples from two contacts.

SUDAN



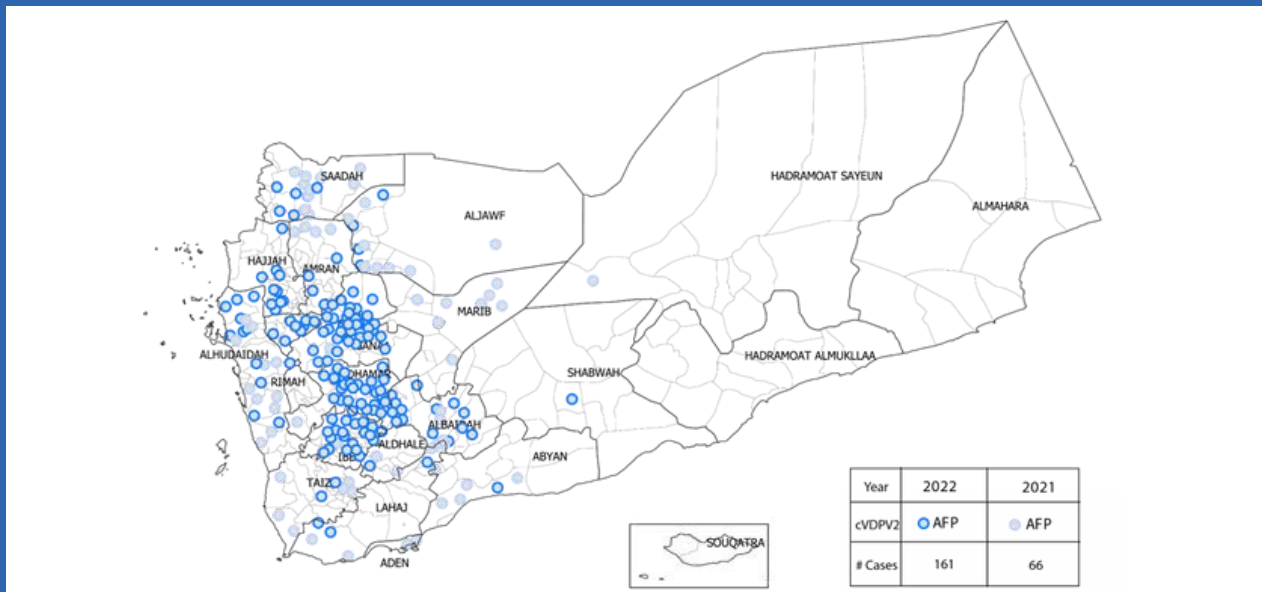
- In this new cVDPV2 outbreak:
 - One case with a date of onset of 31 October 2022 from Kerenik district, West Darfur state.
 - One ES positive was collected on 28 November 2022 from Geneina, West Darfur site.
- Genetic sequencing confirms the new positive isolates are from emergence NIE-ZAS-1, a separate emergence from the outbreak closed in August 2022 (CHA-NDJ-1).
- With a new cVDPV2 outbreak declared on 16 December 2022, outbreak response efforts, such as intensifying surveillance, including increasing frequency of collection in select ES sites, are ongoing.

YEMEN



- A total of 228 cVDPV2 cases have been reported; samples from 146 AFP cases are pending testing.

CVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI

- The last nOPV2 NID was conducted from 3-7 December 2022, targeting 156,194 children under age five:
 - National administrative coverage was 115%, with Djibouti's capital city at 126%.
 - LQAS: three of 17 lots failed, all in the capital.
 - The target population was extrapolated from an old census which, along with robust social mobilization, could explain the high administrative coverage.
- Four NIDs were conducted in 2022 with an observed increase in quality and better administrative coverage as well as improvements in post-campaign monitoring.

EGYPT

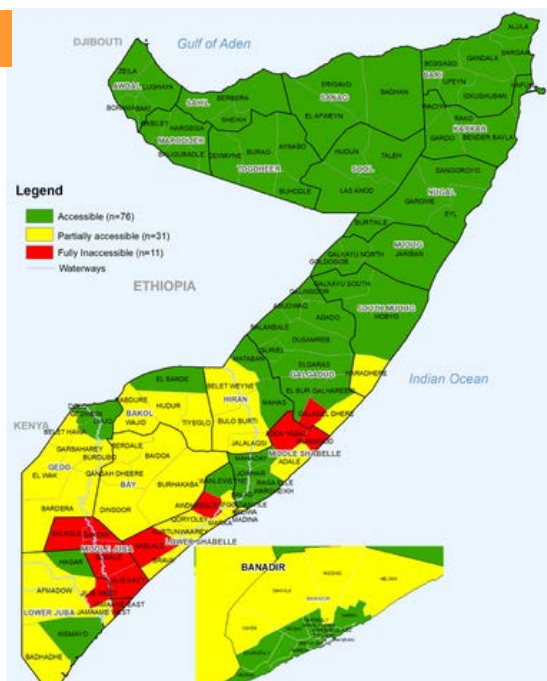
- An Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) is being discussed for June 2023.

SOMALIA

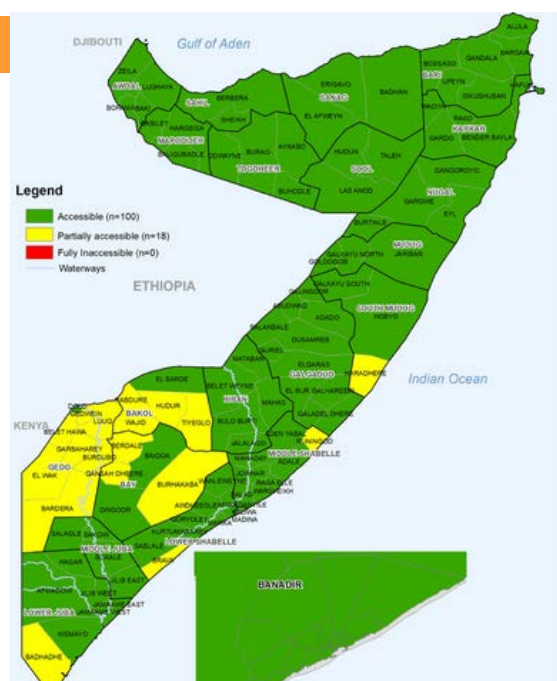
- A SIA for South and Central states started on 12 February 2023 using tOPV, targeting 2,585,255 children under age five; administrative coverage indicates 2,366,997 children were reached (93%).
- The SIA was a major step forward in resolving persistent accessibility issues: vaccinators' success in reaching children in Ruun Nirgood and Aden Yabal made this the first ever campaign where no district targeted for vaccination was fully inaccessible.
- Notably, the newly accessible children are only accessible for polio vaccination, but this development can be seen as a crucial first step towards reaching all Somali children with life-saving immunizations and/or humanitarian assistance services.

SOMALIA ACCESSIBILITY MAPS

2021



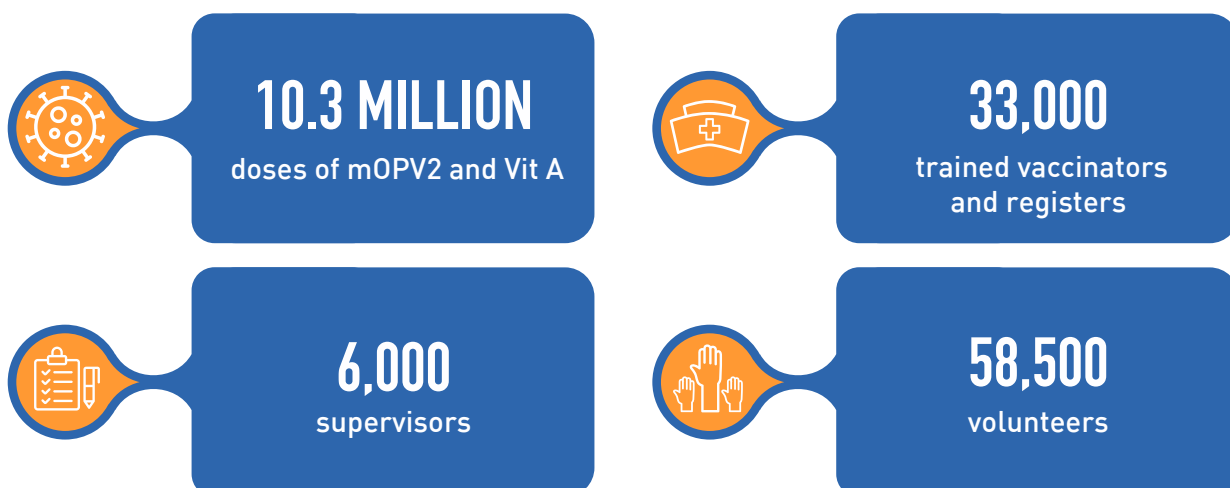
2023



SUDAN

- In response to GPLN notification of a confirmed cVDPV2 case on 16 December 2022, Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) declared a Public Health Emergency on 17 December 2022, notified WHO through IHR, and initiated a National Technical Committee comprised of FMOH, WHO, and UNICEF meeting twice weekly to lead the response to this new outbreak.
- Round 1 was conducted over 18-21 March 2023 using mOPV2, and R2 is planned for after Ramadan (tentatively 8-11 May) using nOPV2, which will make Sudan the third EMR country to use novel OPV2, after Egypt and Djibouti:
 - The FMOH postponed R1 in Blue Nile state until after Ramadan due to reports of side effects from a few localities following the recent MDA campaign for schistosomiasis; this decision was made to avoid confusion and allow time to address the issue.
 - Independent monitoring started on 22 March 2023.
 - LQAS was conducted in West Darfur and Khartoum states on 22 and 23 March 2023.
 - Initial feedback from the ground suggests a well-organized response with robust government leadership and strong support from GPEI partners.
- The NIDs follow an IPV catch up and yellow fever campaign initiated as an immediate response in high-risk states on 28 December 2022, starting in Darfur states and including Sennar state.
- Sudan is actively working on cross border coordination with neighboring countries on surveillance and vaccination response:
 - On 22 December 2022, representatives from Sudan, Chad and South Sudan had an in-person meeting at Khartoum leading to important decisions on cross-border operations to augment outbreak response efforts.
 - Regular information sharing on cross-notification of cases takes place between Sudan and Chad.

SUDAN R1 BY THE NUMBERS:



YEMEN

- The Sana'a authorities continue to refuse access to carry out the integrated child health response that was agreed upon in November 2022 but cancelled by MoH Sana'a six days before the planned launch in January 2023.
- Robust, multi-channel advocacy efforts continue, with a growing focus on tackling the state-sponsored vaccine disinformation campaign that has badly impacted vaccine demand in the northern governorates and threatens to do the same in the southern governorates.
- The ORPG approved two rounds of SIA to be implemented in southern governorates, targeting children under age five (1,290,000); the campaign was carried out over 5-7 March 2023 with 95% administrative coverage; however, 59 of 119 lots failed LQAS. R2 is scheduled to start on 8 May 2023.



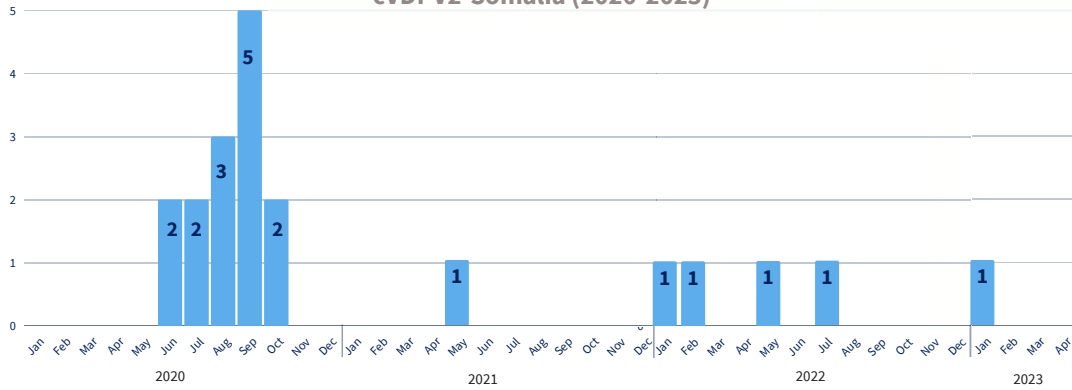
REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Regular coordination continues with weekly Incident Management Support Team (IMST), and Outbreak Response Preparedness Group (ORPG) meetings, and the
- Regional Incident Managers (RIMs) continue to lead coordination between country and regional levels.
- The seventh meeting of the Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks took place on 28 February 2023; following the meeting, members issued two statements, one on the outbreaks in Yemen and Somalia, and another on stopping transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- A joint agency working group has been set up between WHO and UNICEF Yemen with colleagues at the country and regional level developing a strategy and delivering external social and behavior change communication products to respond to anti-vaccine propaganda and create demand for vaccination.
Partners including Somalia's Federal Health Minister, WHO and UNICEF Representatives and technical experts gathered in Mogadishu over 21-22 March 2023 to finalize and endorse the Somalia Emergency Action Plan 2.

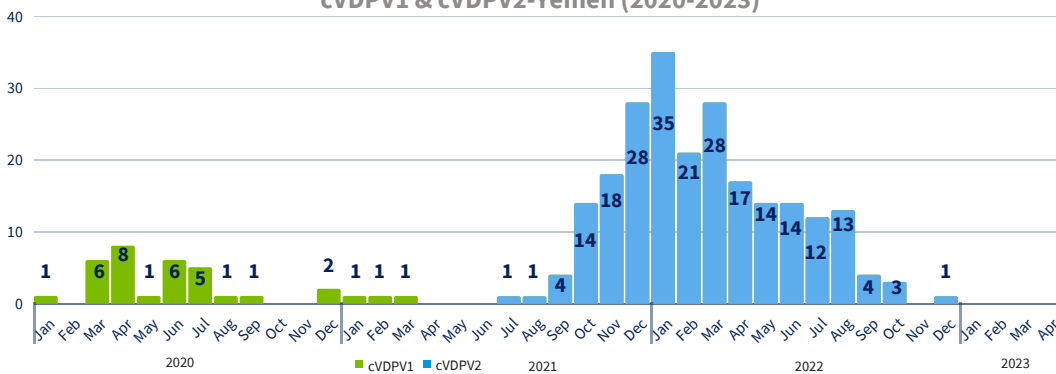


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

cVDPV2-Somalia (2020-2023)



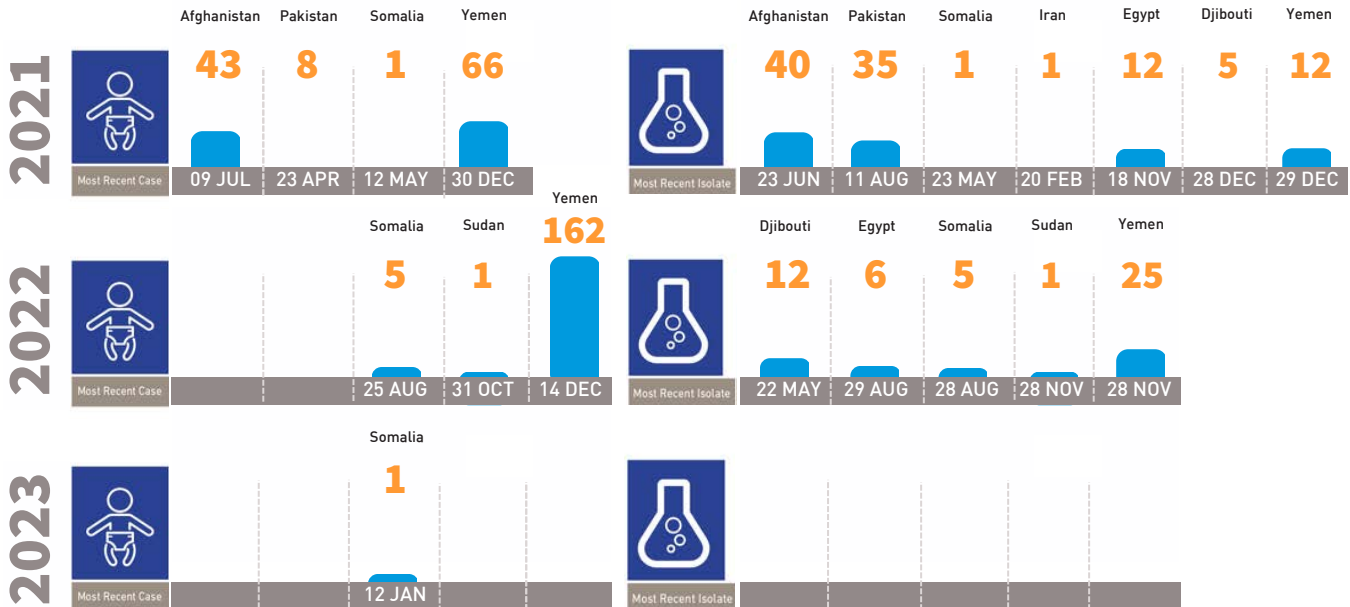
cVDPV1 & cVDPV2-Yemen (2020-2023)



ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR

AFP- cVDPV2

Environmental - cVDPV2



Send questions to:

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 Regional Outbreak Communications: williamssa@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator: atsega@unicef.org
 Regional Chief of Communications: jtouma@unicef.org

Relevant links:

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#)
- [Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026](#)
- [Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation](#)

