



Situation Report

MENA EMR Regional cVDPV Outbreaks

Issue #22 | Week 10 (ending 10 March) 2022

Highlights

tOPV



to be used in outbreak response campaigns across all of Yemen

7 March



confirmation of cVDPV3 case in Jerusalem, posing risk to populations in Israel and oPt

24 cases

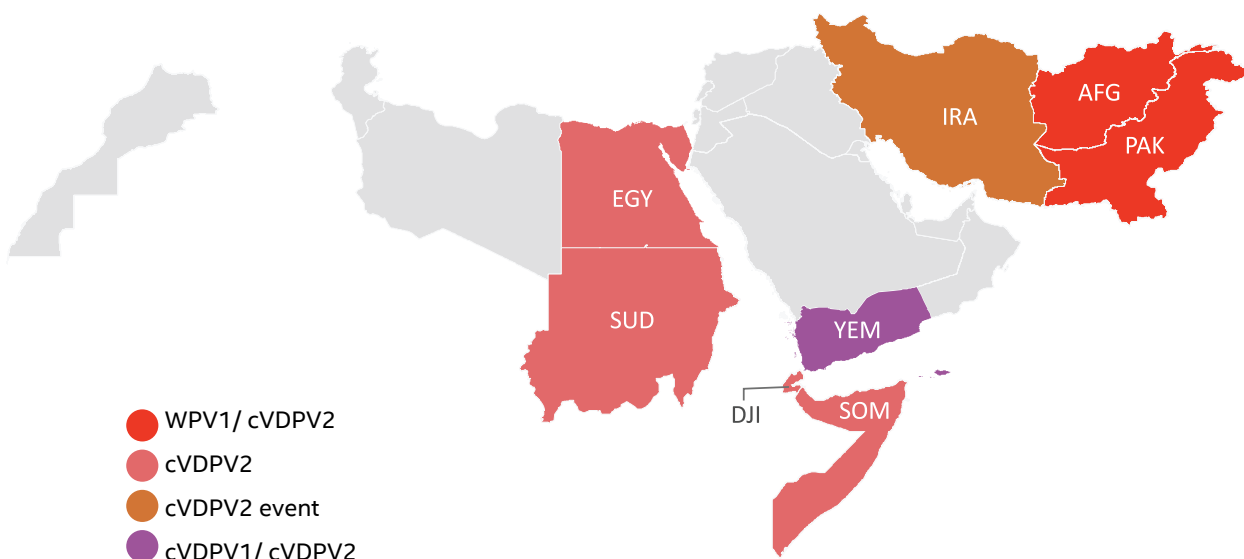


of cVDPV2 in Somalia, the region's longest-running outbreak

Situation update:

- On 7 March 2022, VDPV3 was confirmed in 45-month-old girl with AFP in Jerusalem, **Israel**, date of onset 17 February 2022, confirming a cVDPV3 outbreak in Israel. Investigations are ongoing into the cVDPV3 detected from an environmental surveillance site in Bethlehem, **occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)**, and health authorities in both places are conducting field, epidemiological and virological investigations.
- Multiple polioviruses type-2 from human and environmental samples are pending for sequencing from significant areas of **Yemen**; this is particularly concerning as Yemen's northern governorates have not yet implemented a cVDPV2 outbreak vaccination response, posing imminent risk of spread of polio.

Poliovirus in the Eastern Mediterranean Region – 2022*



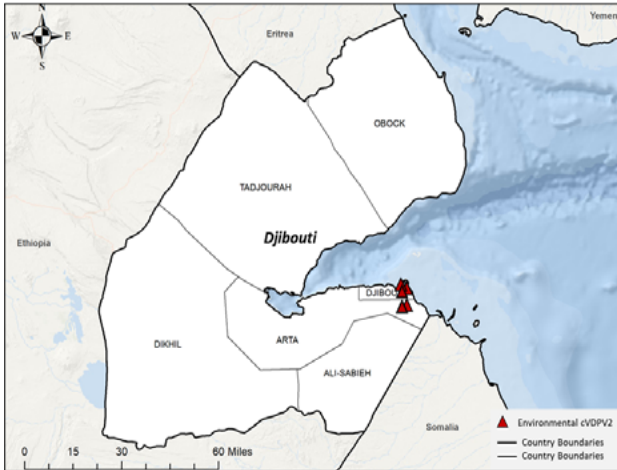
*Data as of 10 March 2022



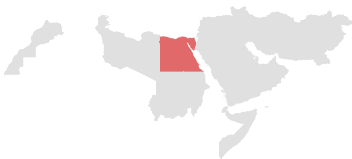
Epi and surveillance update



Djibouti:



- No new cVDPV2 isolates; the most recent cVDPV2 was reported in three environmental samples collected in January and February 2022, which are pending sequencing.
- A cross-border meeting was held on 28 February 2022, with the regional medical officer from Arta region entering Somalia to coordinate on surveillance; initial feedback from those involved suggests it was a very productive mission.
- Planning is underway to nominate a dedicated vaccination team to the border, particularly with synchronized campaigns (nOPV2 for Djibouti and mOPV2 for Somalia) pending.
- Active case search was amplified during R1 of the NID, resulting in 19 AFP cases notified; after validation of national surveillance focal point, two cases from Tadjourah were included in the line list with stool shipped to KEMRI lab in Nairobi on 9 March 2022.



Egypt:

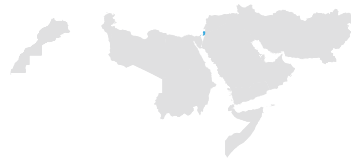
- No new cVDPV2 isolates or new VDPVs reported.

- Following the December nOPV2 NID, a total of 93 nOPV2-like isolates were detected through ES in almost all governorates within 2.5 months of the campaign, reflecting high-quality implementation with extensive reach.



Iran:

- There is no new cVDPV2 following two vaccination campaigns more than a year ago in Sistan and Balochistan (S&B) province, which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Sabin 2 and VDPV2 continue to be reported in S&B, reflecting ongoing population movement with neighbouring countries.
- The most recent positive VDPV2 isolate collected on 4 February 2022; it was not genetically related to earlier reported VDPV2s from Iran or elsewhere.



Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt):

- On Monday 7 March 2022, circulation of VDPV3 was confirmed in Israel through detection of VDPV3 from a 45-month-old girl with AFP in Jerusalem, which is genetically linked to VDPV3 isolated from environmental surveillance sites in Jerusalem, Israel, and Bethlehem, occupied Palestinian territory, between September 2021 and January 2022.
- Field investigation and laboratory data confirm outbreak of cVDPV3 in Israel. Due to proximity and population movement, there is imminent risk of spread of polio in populations in both Israel and occupied Palestinian Authority.
- Media interest has been high and the GPEI has [posted a statement](#) acknowledging the outbreak in Israel and need for the coordination between EMRO and EURO, headquarters and agencies.



Somalia:

- No new cVDPV2 isolates from human or environmental samples; the last cVDPV2 from an AFP case was reported in January 2022.
- Sequencing results pending for PV2 isolated from:
 - One AFP case in Banadir (Dharkenley district; onset 12 February 2022) and its contact.
 - One AFP case in Galgadud (Guriel district; 21 February 2022) and its contact.
 - Three contacts from an AFP case in Lower Shabelle, stool collected 22 February 2022.
 - One contact from an AFP case in Mudug (Galkayu district), stool collected 27 February 2022.
 - Three isolates from three sites in Banadir, samples collected 24 February 2022.
- All of the above PV2 pending sequencing originate from areas where mOPV2 campaign was conducted 12-14 February 2022, except Awdheegle and Galkayu.
- An AFP/measles surveillance enhancement mission took place in Awdal Region, Somaliland, between 22 February and 3 March 2022.



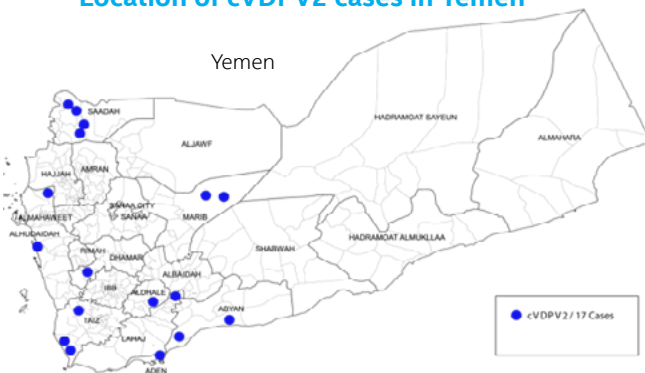
Sudan:

- Sudan has not reported a cVDPV2 case for more than one year: the most recent case had onset of paralysis on 18 December 2020. The last positive environmental sample was collected on 9 November 2020.
- Enhanced surveillance activities continue in the country.

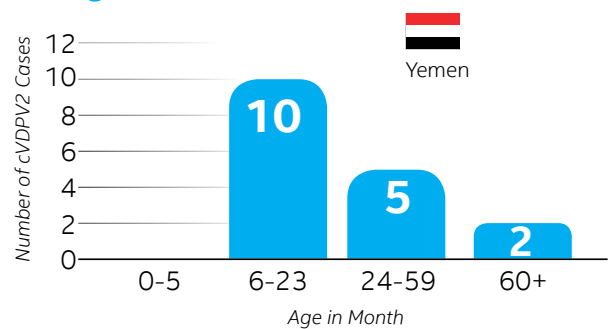
Yemen:

- The most recent AFP case positive for cVDPV2 had onset on 11 November 2021, and the most recent cVDPV1 case had onset on 27 March 2021.
- 25 AFP cases positive for PV2 are pending for sequencing, as well as 20 contacts
- A total of 224 AFP cases were reported up to week 10. The NPAFP rate is 7.4, and the stool adequacy rate is 88%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system
- Enhanced surveillance activities continue, but security and logistical challenges continue to slow the movement of samples to labs outside the country.

Location of cVDPV2 cases in Yemen



Age distribution of confirmed cases





Outbreak response update



• Djibouti nOPV2 NID R1, February 2022

Djibouti:

- R1 of the national response campaign was conducted from 27 February to 3 March 2022, making Djibouti the second country in EMR to use nOPV2.
- Preparations for R2 (27-31 March 2022) are ongoing. Intensive training focuses on closing R1 gaps and raising the quality of microplanning, training, close supervision, vaccine refusal redressal, and documentation of vaccine refusal and missing children.

Egypt:

- **nOPV2:** Egyptian Ministry of Health will implement a second round with nOPV2 if environmental or AFP surveillance provides evidence of cVDPV2 related to the outbreak virus. The last ES+ cVDPV2 was collected 8 June 2021 from Qena governorate.
- Egypt is planning to commence a national round with bOPV on 27 March.
- An internal surveillance review is scheduled for May 2022, as part of preparations for the expected OBRA.

Iran:

- Iran has carried out two rounds of house-to-house bivalent OPV (bOPV) campaigns in S&B (R1: 15 January; R2: 19 February) to boost type 1 and type 3 immunity among Iranian and non-Iranian children.
- The campaigns targeted around 664,000 children, with R1 achieving 98% coverage and R2 achieving 99% coverage.

Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt):

- Local health authorities in Jerusalem and Bethlehem are conducting field, epidemiological and virological investigations, to determine more clearly the source and origin of the isolated virus, and potential risk of further spread associated with it.
- A two-round vaccination response with bOPV has been agreed and a risk assessment is ongoing.

Somalia:

- First SNID in South Central Somalia from 12 to 14 February 2022 was completed. According to administrative coverage, 94% of children under five were vaccinated with mOPV2 (1,889,846 of 2,016,573 population targeted).
- Preparations underway for R1 of an NID using mOPV2, planned for 27-30 March 2022, with R2 expected in May 2022.

Sudan:

- The Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was conducted in the last quarter of 2021. Implementation of 21 OBRA recommendations is underway and closely tracked by country teams and regional offices.
- Providing no significant changes, the final OBRA is being planned, which will likely take place in May 2022.

Yemen:

- The Ministry of Public Health and Population, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, is preparing to conduct R2 of a house-to-house tOPV campaign in Yemen's 12 southern governorates from 19 March 2022.
- Agreement on campaign modality and schedule for the northern governments has not been reached, with advocacy efforts ongoing.
- Access remains the critical challenge in Yemen, with the programme unable to reach every child, and hundreds of thousands of children unreached with polio vaccine for more than two years (last NID: December 2020).



Risk communication and community engagement

- In **Sudan**, the implementation of OBRA recommendations continues for both vaccine management and C4D components.
- In **Yemen's** southern governorates, community engagement and social mobilization activities have begun in preparation for the 19-24 February campaign. In the northern governorates, use of megaphones and mosque announcements will take place to raise awareness of the campaign.
- **Djibouti** is conducting social mobilization and community engagement activities for R2 of the national nOPV2 campaign, planned for 27-31 March 2022.



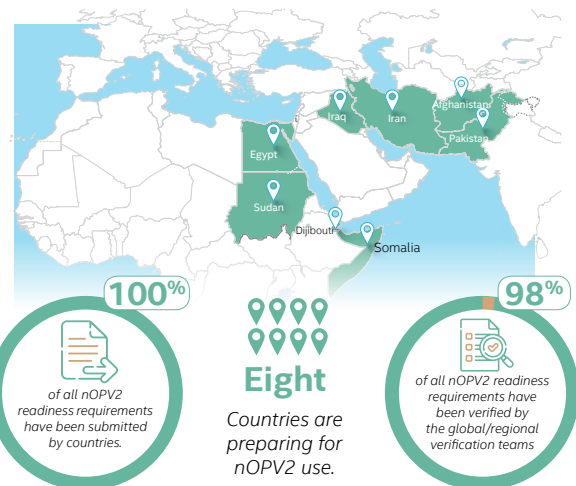
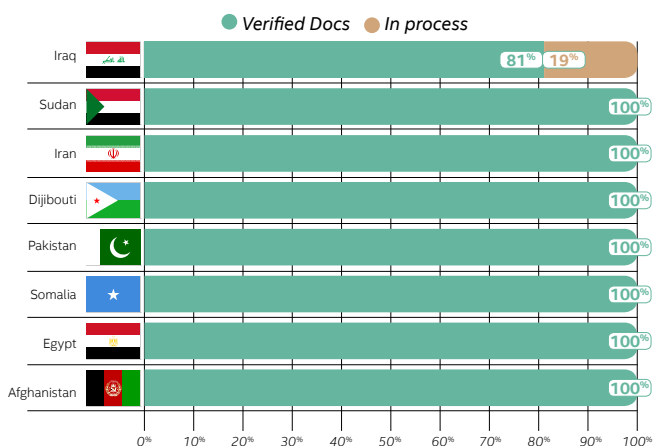
Regional coordination

- To further polio transition and integration agendas, WHO country and regional teams held a four-day 'Integrated Public Health Teams' (IPHT) workshop in Khartoum, **Sudan**, from 28 February to 3 March 2022. Representatives from polio eradication, immunization, health emergencies, and health systems strengthening of the regional and country offices met with 38 participants working across Sudan on AFP surveillance, health system, and emergencies to share their field-level and sub-national responsibilities and get an orientation on integrated functions. Outcomes include revised terms of reference of State Public Health Officers; capacities built on expected roles and responsibilities of PHOs; and monitoring mechanisms for tracking implementation.
- Over 21-23 March 2022, the **Somalia** Summit is planned to take place in Nairobi, bringing together the Federal Government of Somalia, GPEI partners, donors, NGOs and civil society actors in an urgent call to action on polio in Somalia. Objectives for approx. 140 participants include finalizing the 2022 Emergency Action Plan, strengthening partnerships and figuring out how to creatively use existing resources improve health outcomes for all Somali children.



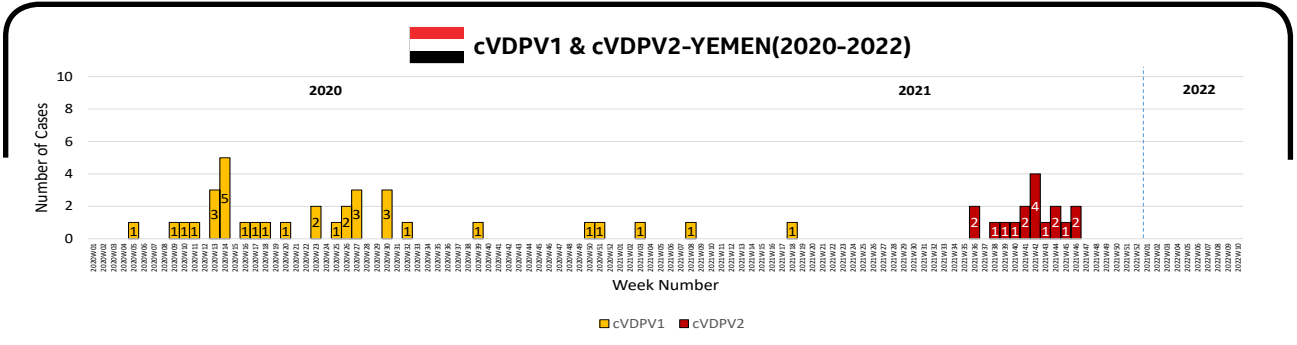
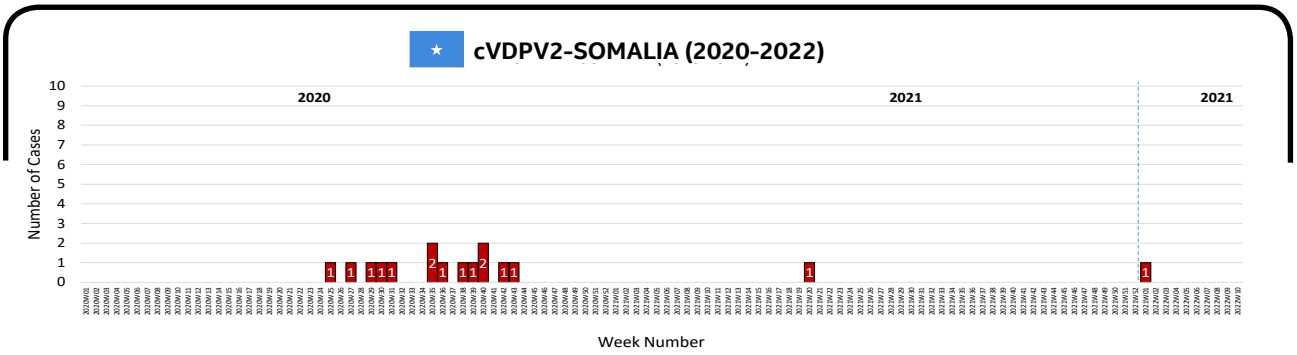
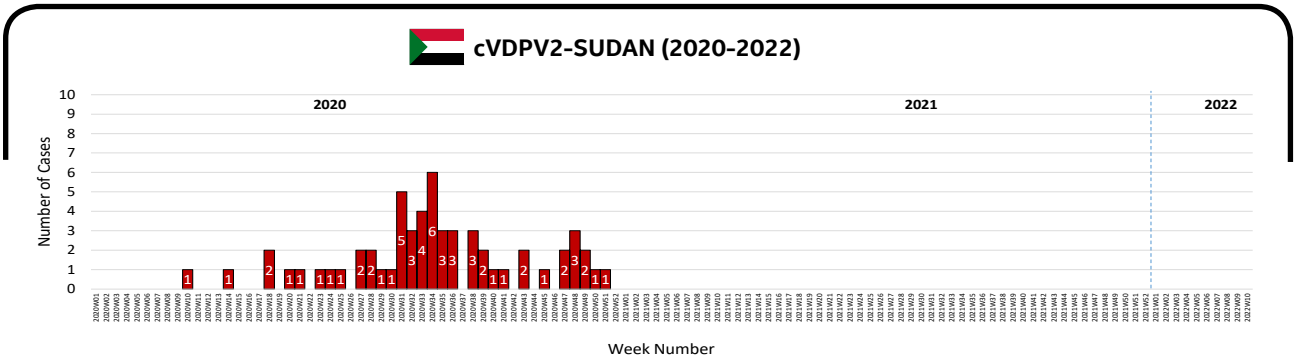
nOPV2 update

nOPV2 documentaion verification status on 10/3/2022

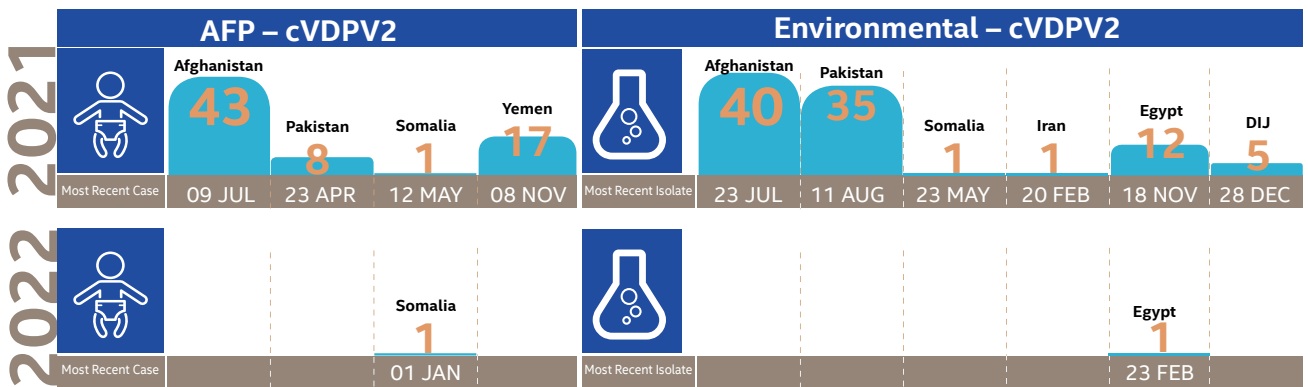




Outbreak EPI curves



Other cVDPV2 Outbreaks in the EMR



Send questions to:

WHO:

Regional Outbreaks Coordinator: shuklah@who.int

Regional Outbreak Communications: williamssa@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator (a.i): dngemera@unicef.org

Regional Chief of Communications: jtouma@unicef.org

Relevant links:

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