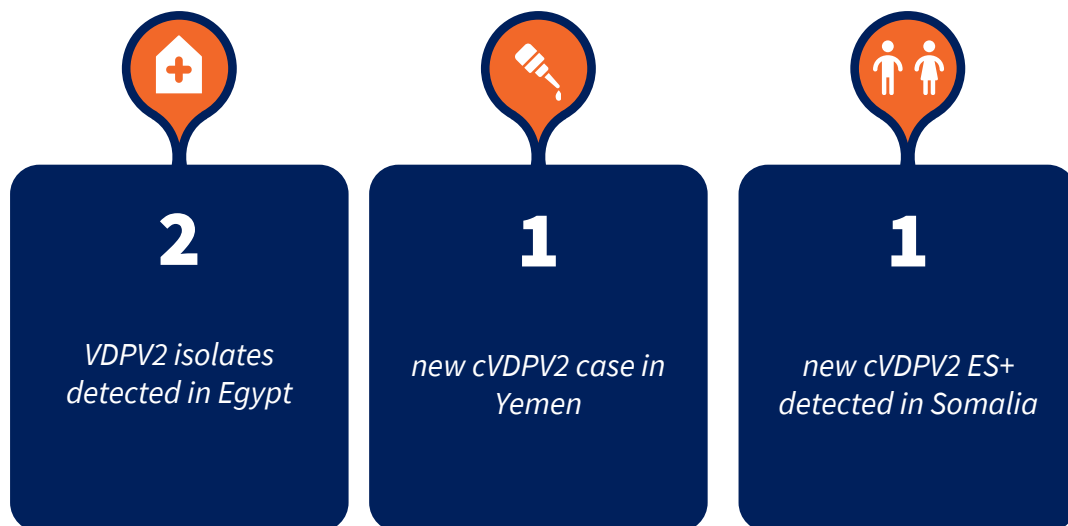
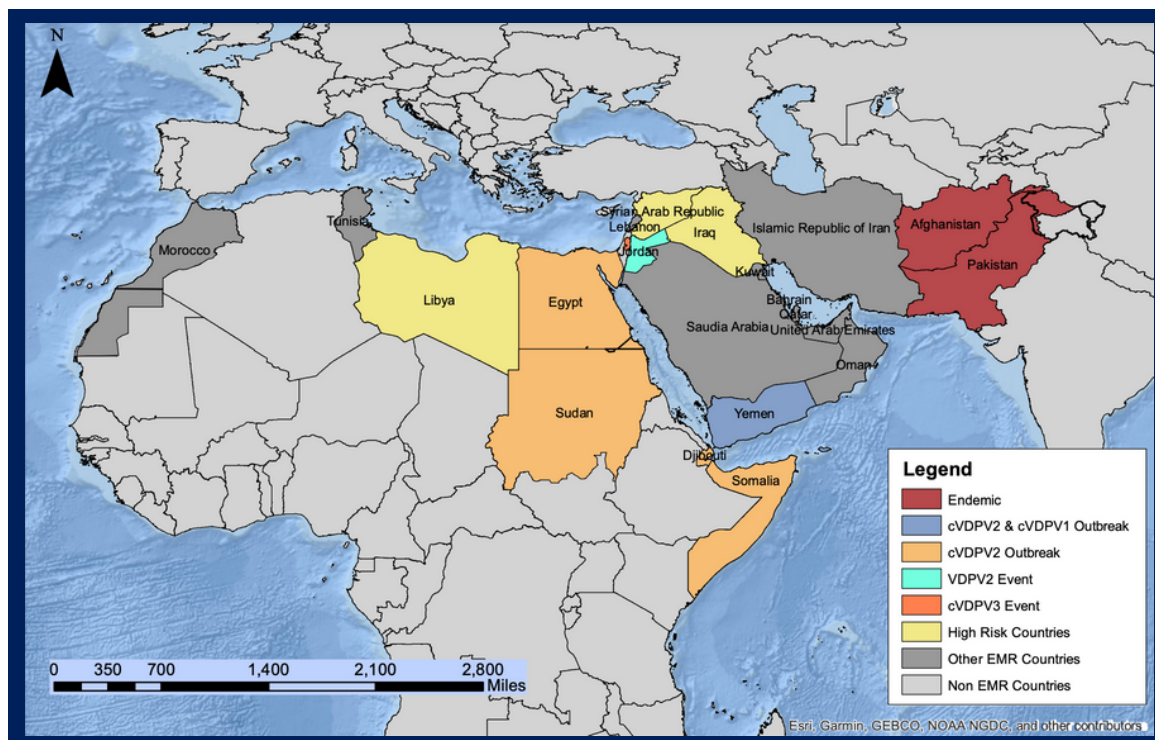


BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- **Egypt** completed its OBRA on 6 August 2023 with a recommendation for closure after the OBRA team found no evidence of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 of the outbreak emergence CHA-DJI-1 and EGY-QEN-1.
- Separately, advance notification has been received of VDPV2 novel in environmental samples in North Sinai and Ismailia governorates in **Egypt**. The investigation is ongoing, however, due to the urgency of this high-risk event, the Ministry of Health has already implemented an nOPV2 campaign in the affected areas.
- In **Yemen**, there have been two new cases since the last sitrep: one cVDPV2 from Hodeidah (date of onset: 18 April 2023) and a VDPV2 case has been confirmed in a child with AFP in Taiz governorate (date of onset: 9 May 2023). Following these and the three ES positives in Sana'a, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, with support from WHO, is enhancing surveillance to ensure no cases are being missed.
- **Somalia's** third Supplementary National Immunization Days (SNID) from 20-23 July 2023 was carried out in 80 of 81 districts targeted in the southern and central areas of Somalia nOPV2. Following updated mapping of inaccessibility status by settlement/village, an estimated 98,429 under-fives are currently inaccessible, nation-wide.



Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) isolates:

	2022		2023	
	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
DJIBOUTI	0	12	0	0
EGYPT	0	6	0	2
SOMALIA	5	6	2	4
SUDAN	1	1	0	0
YEMEN	162	27	1	3



SUDAN IN FOCUS

- The conflict in **Sudan's** emergency was graded as WHO Grade 3 on 5 June 2023. Major disruptions of health services continue. Insecurity, particularly in the central and western parts of the country, with high levels of violence and injury. Despite severe challenges, AFP surveillance continues countrywide and ES has been started in Gezira, Red Sea and White Nile states.
- With the National Polio Lab in Khartoum inaccessible, extensive coordination, logistics, and risk mitigation efforts led to a second shipment of stool samples from AFP cases and contacts, and ES samples being collected from multiple states in Sudan and then shipped by road to VACSERA polio laboratory in Giza, **Egypt** in early August, following the same route as the first.
- The establishment of this route offers benefits beyond polio: fever and rash samples from multiple states joined the second batch of polio samples on the domestic legs of the journey in order to reach Port Sudan and be tested for measles.



SUDAN IN FOCUS (continued)

- A third shipment is expected to be carried out in the second half of September.
- AFP cases continue to be notified, followed by investigations and stool sample collection where it is possible to do so.
- Reports from West Darfur, North Darfur, and Khartoum states show that the AFP surveillance network is severely constrained, and some focal points are unreachable due to connectivity issues.



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

DJIBOUTI



- The most recent cVDPV2 isolate was collected on 22 May 2022.
- The OBRA is scheduled for 14-19 October 2023.

EGYPT



- The OBRA was completed on 6 August 2023 and found that there was no evidence of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 of the outbreak emergence CHA-DJI-1 and EGY-QEN-1. The OBRA has recommended the closure of this outbreak but highlighted that the risk of importation or new emergence remains high, and thus surveillance must remain robust.
- Two new VDPV2 isolates, both from the environment and of novel origin, have been detected in North Sinai and Ismailia governorates between 12 July and 8 August 2023.

SOMALIA



- One new cVDPV2 isolate has been confirmed in an ES sample collected on 13 July 2023 from the Kawma site in Hamarweyne district. The isolate, which has 71 nt changes, is genetically linked to ENV-SOM-BAN-WBR-TOO-23-010 from the SOM-BAN-1 emergence.
- As of the epidemiological week TBC in 2023, Somalia has reported two confirmed cases of cVDPV2. The most recent case was identified in the Burhakaba district on 2 March 2023. Following updated mapping of inaccessibility status by settlement/village, an estimated 98,429 under-fives are currently inaccessible, nation-wide.
- Four PV2 isolates from AFP cases are pending sequencing, with dates of onset ranging from 29 June 2023 to 3 August 2023.

SUDAN



- Results from the second batch of stool and ES samples have been received from VACSERA: for the 52 AFP cases, there was one SL2, with the remaining results a mix of negative and non-polio enterovirus.
- Results of the six ES samples from five sites:
 - one SL2
 - four non-polio enterovirus
 - one negative

SUDAN (continued)

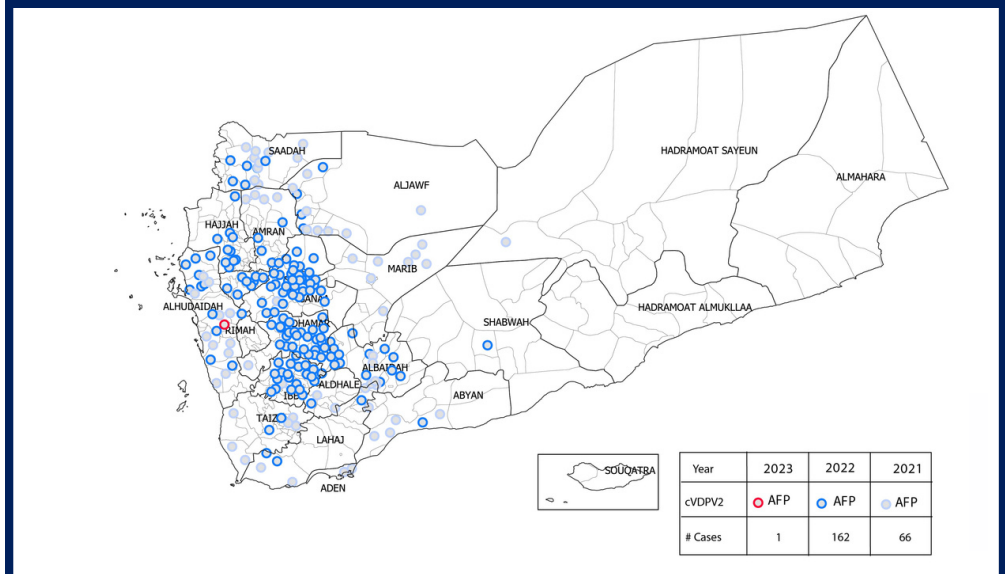
- Environmental surveillance has been restarted in Gezira, Red Sea and White Nile states, which are all hosting large numbers of IDPs.
- Cross-border collaboration with neighboring countries continues. The WHO **Chad** team notified of more AFP cases of Sudanese refugee origin residing in Chad and results are being shared. Coordination with **Egypt** for sample transport continues, as does surveillance enhancement of neighboring countries and frequent communications.

YEMEN



- A total of 229 cVDPV2 cases have been reported, including the latest cVDPV2 case from Al Mighlaf district in Hodeidah (date of onset: 18 April 2023), the first since December 2022.
- Separately, a VDPV2 case has been confirmed in a child with AFP in Al Wazeiah district in Taiz governorate (date of onset: 9 May 2023). This is classified as a new emergence.
- Of 759 AFP cases reported in 2023, sample status is as follows:
 - 44 are still in Yemen
 - 63 are en route to the lab
 - 80 are in the lab in **Oman**
 - 547 are negative for poliovirus
 - Two are positive: one for cVDPV2, and one for VDPV2
- Of the 21 ES samples collected in 2023, status is as follows:
 - Three are positive for cVDPV2 (all from the Sana'a site)
 - Five are negative
 - 13 are pending shipping
 - A further two samples from 2022 were positive for cVDPV2 (both from the Sana'a site)
- An external surveillance review is planned for late September 2023 to determine how well the surveillance system is working and identify any gaps, with the objective of ensuring no cases are being missed; this is being treated as a high priority activity given the new cases in Hodeidah and Taiz and the three ES positives in Sana'a.

cVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT



- WHO, UNICEF and the GPEI are working with the Egyptian authorities to mount a three-round vaccination response to the latest isolates:
 - Round one targets both governorates (more than half a million children under age 10) and commenced on 20 August 2023.
 - Round two combines IPV and nOPV2 and targets under-10s in a small area where the two governorates overlap and populations are understood to be at particularly high risk. It is planned for early September 2023.
 - R3 targets both governorates (more than half a million children under age 10; as per R1) and is planned for late September 2023.

SOMALIA



- The third SNID (R3) of 2023, held from 20-23 July 2023, aimed to vaccinate over 2.6 million children in 81 districts of the southern and central areas of Somalia. Runnigood district, with a target of 21,015 children, was inaccessible for security reasons.
- Coverage data for the July SNID varies greatly:
 - Per administrative coverage, the average vaccination rate in the accessible parts of southern and central Somalia stood at approximately 96%.
 - When both accessible and inaccessible areas are factored in, the overall administrative coverage was around 93%.
 - Middle Juba, Bay, Galgadud, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle achieved administrative coverage of less than 95%.
 - LQAS tells a more challenging story: it was conducted in 66 districts, of which 6 were rejected. Of the 60 districts that completed LQAS, only 22 passed (37%).
- Transit Point Vaccination (TPV) teams, strategically positioned at crucial transition zones between accessible and inaccessible regions and at international borders, have made significant strides in reducing the number of zero-dose children. As of epi week 33, they have vaccinated:
 - 133,570 children under age five
 - 91,334 children over age five
- The next SIA, the country's first NID with nOPV2, is scheduled to start on 23 September 2023.

SUDAN



- All immunization activity in Sudan was disrupted due to the armed conflict. In 12 relatively stable states, routine and essential vaccination activities have continued through fixed and outreach strategies despite severe challenges to import and distribute vaccines once in the country. UNICEF has made special arrangements to bring in vaccines to replenish depleted stock levels using chartered flights.

SUDAN (continued)

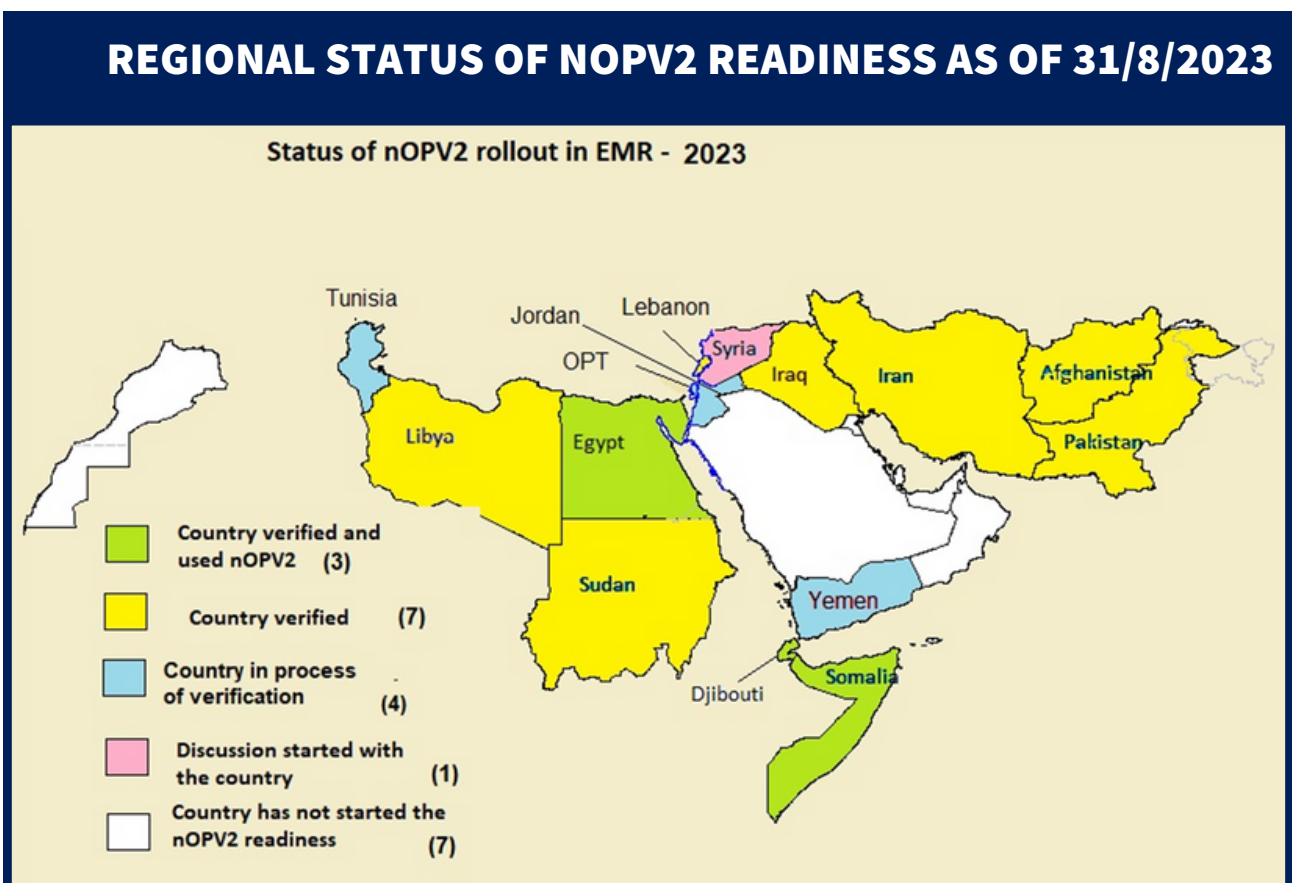
- The planned R2 using nOPV2 has been paused until further notice, and the condition of the 3.29m doses in-country already is precarious due to fuel shortages and the unpredictability of the conflict. The nOPV2 doses are in the national cold store with temperature being maintained and will be moved when feasible.
- Destruction of unopened remaining vials of mOPV2 took place according to guidelines in most states and Form A is being finalized by the country team.

YEMEN



- Access to vaccinate children through the outreach modality continues to elude the programme. Robust, multi-channel advocacy efforts continue, with a growing focus on tackling the state-sponsored vaccine disinformation campaign that has badly impacted access in the northern governorates and threatens to impact demand in the southern governorates.
- Following an official request from the MoPHP, both UN agencies are working to support Ministry colleagues to complete and verify nOPV2 documentation to facilitate use this antigen in upcoming outbreak response in the southern governorates. All documents but one have been verified, with the final confirmation expected imminently.
- An MR vaccination campaign is planned for Yemen's southern governorates in the coming weeks.

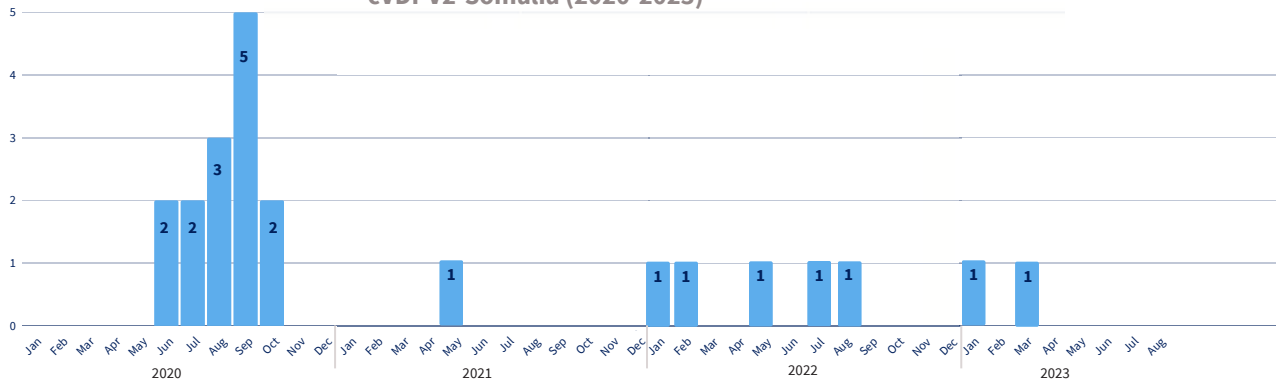
REGIONAL STATUS OF NOPV2 READINESS AS OF 31/8/2023



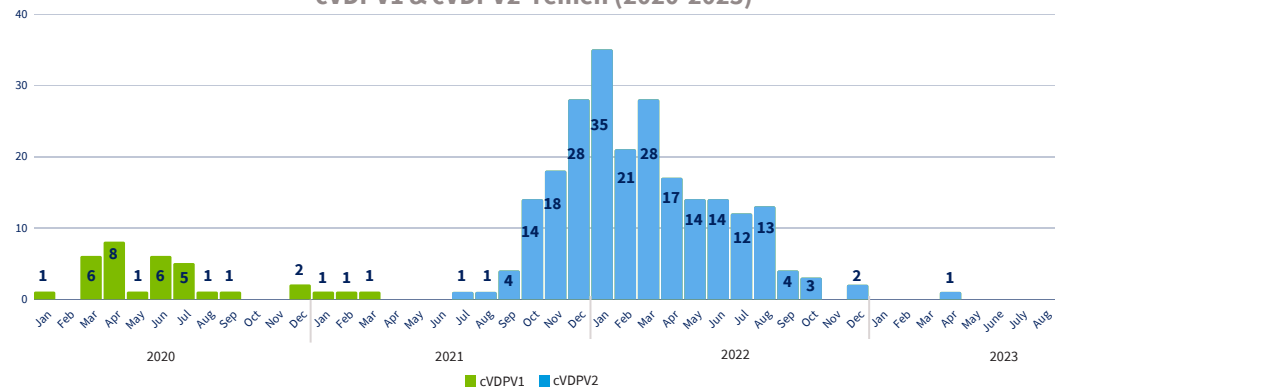


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

cVDPV2-Somalia (2020-2023)



cVDPV1 & cVDPV2-Yemen (2020-2023)

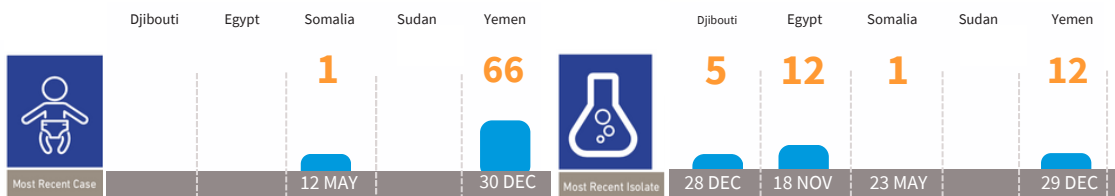


ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR

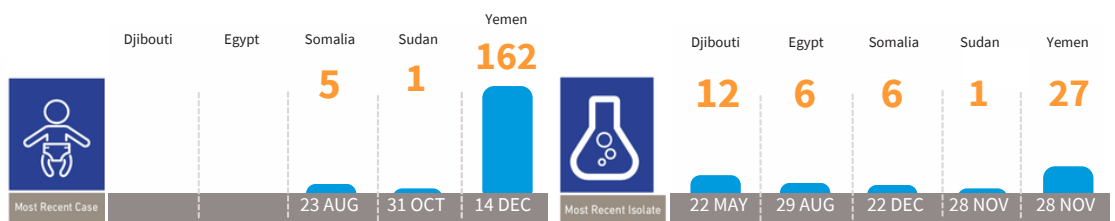
AFP - cVDPV2

Environmental - cVDPV2

2021



2022



2023



Send questions to:

WHO:

Regional Outbreaks Coordinator: akbari@who.int

Regional Outbreak Communications: williamssa@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator: atsega@unicef.org

Regional Chief of Communications: amar@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](#)