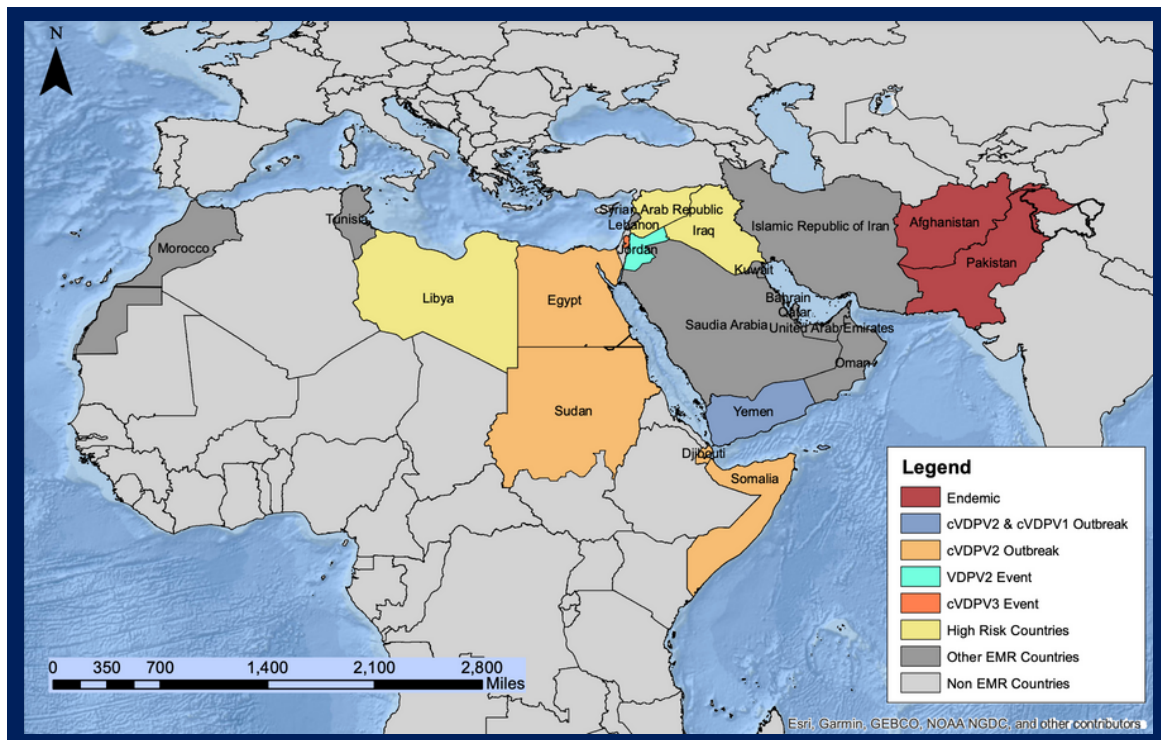


BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- The **Djibouti** OBRA was conducted over 15-19 October 2023, and the team concluded that definitive interruption of cVDPV2 transmission in Djibouti cannot be established due to gaps in poliovirus surveillance and suboptimal immunity in some populations.
- The first two rounds of response to the cVDPV2-n outbreak of the emergence EGY-NOR-1 in North Sinai and Ismailia, **Egypt**, have been carried out, reaching more than half a million (R1: 545,974; R2: 551,975) children under age 10.
- A total of 11 cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed in **Somalia** in 2023 to date, the same number as was confirmed in all of 2022.
- In **Yemen**, there has been one new cVDPV2 case since the last sitrep, from Beni-Elharith district in Sana'a city (date of onset: 28 August 2023). Efforts continue to unlock access for vaccination with Sana'a leadership, and to raise demand for vaccination from the ground, up.



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

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



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

EGYPT



- Following the closure of the CHA-NDJ-1 emergence, there have been no further detections of cVDPV2 through either AFP surveillance or environmental surveillance.
- Six environmental cVDPV2-n positives have been collected from the EGY-NOR-1 emergence outbreak between 12 July 2023 and 13 September 2023 from two overlapping sites in one governorate. One sample has been collected post R2 and results are pending at the lab.

SOMALIA



- Five cVDPV2 cases have been reported this year, the latest from Burhakaba district in Bay region (date of onset 29 September 2023). This isolate has 73 nt difference and is genetically linked to another cVDPV2 reported from the same area (date of onset 13 March 2023).
- Six cVDPV2 isolates have been reported this year through environmental surveillance, the latest in a sample collected on 7 September 2023 from Twenty-one October site in Weberi district in Banadir region.
- Two PV2 isolates are pending for sequencing results:
 - A contact (nOPV2 positive) from Belet Hawa district in Gedo region, with onset of index case on 25 October 2023.
 - An ES sample collected on 21 September 2023 from Twenty-one October site in Banadir.

SUDAN



- Sudan's Polio National Emergency Action Plan (July 2023 to December 2024) was developed by Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health in close cooperation with WHO and UNICEF Sudan Country Offices and with support from WHO and UNICEF Regional Offices EMRO and MENA. The plan outlines the response for sustaining integrated public health functions, social and behavior change, essential immunization, cross-border coordination, operations, monitoring and assessment, and budget.
- Surveillance continues and a third shipment of AFP and ES samples reached VACSERA mid-October and results are now available.
- A detailed investigation was conducted on the VDPV2 detected in Port Sudan Pediatric Hospital with date of collection of 18 September 2023. Ongoing actions include orienting all AFP providers in the district and strengthening immunization.
- Environmental surveillance had been restarted in Gezira, Red Sea and White Nile and West Darfur states.
- Cross-border collaboration with neighboring countries continues with Egypt, Chad, South, Sudan and Central African Republic. A bilateral meeting was held between Sudan and Egypt teams over 1-2 November 2023.

YEMEN

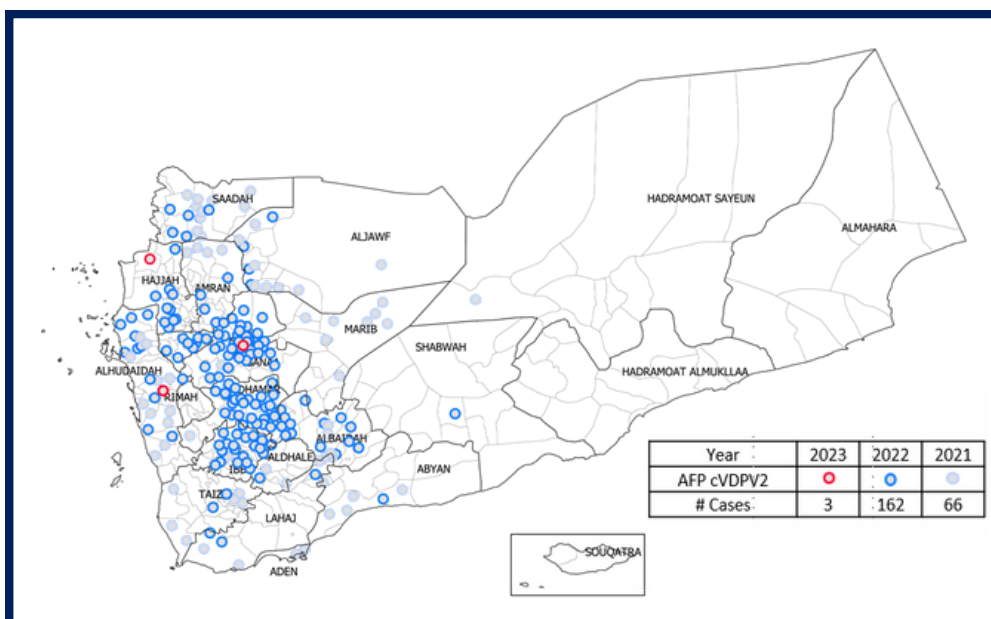


- A total of 231 cVDPV2 cases have been reported, including the latest cVDPV2 case from Madid in Al Bayda governorate (date of onset: 28 August 2023).
- The strain of VDPV2 confirmed in a child with AFP in Al Wazeiah district in Taiz governorate (date of onset: 9 May 2023) has not been detected since. It remains a new emergence.
- Stool samples have been collected from 1,047 cases; status as follows:
 - 826 results are available, including three positive for cVDPV2, and one VDPV2
 - 65 are at the lab in Muscat
 - 58 are en route
 - 98 are pending shipping within the week
 - 158 are from zero-dose children

YEMEN (cont.)

- Of the 25 ES samples collected in 2023, status is as follows:
 - Three are positive for cVDPV2 (all from the Sana'a site)
 - 16 samples covering the period February-September recently arrived in NIH Islamabad and are pending testing
 - Three samples collected in October are waiting to be shipped
- An external surveillance review was carried out in Yemen over 1-5 September 2023 and found that while Yemen's surveillance system is working, it is not capable of detecting low-level circulation. A report on the surveillance review has been published.

cVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN



OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT



- Egypt is working to implement OBRA recommendations, with a particular focus on improving engagement with non-Egyptian and other at-risk communities.
- Two SNIDs have taken place in two governorates (North Sinai and Ismailia) to stop transmission of cVDPV2-n:
 - R1: 20-23 August 2023, reached 545,974 children under age 10
 - R2: 1-4 October 2023, reached 551,975 children under age 10
- An IPV catch-up campaign ran from 18-31 October 2023 in high-risk areas only, reaching around 13,000 children between seven months and nine years of age; nOPV2 was also offered.
- Further efforts are planned for early 2024 in Egypt's frontier governorates to identify children who have missed out on OPV2 and close immunity gaps.

SOMALIA



- The first NID of 2023 started on 24 September 2023, targeting over 4 million children under five with nOPV2 and vitamin A.
- During the campaign, a thorough mapping of all inaccessible areas was completed in the southern and central areas of Somalia, with the following findings:
 - About 171,967 children under age five are living in extremely constrained areas, where campaign quality cannot be monitored for security reasons.
 - Of the above 171,967, a total of 20,195 children are totally inaccessible in Runnigod district in Middle Shabelle region.
 - The remaining 151,772 under-fives are located across 18 partially inaccessible districts in Bakol, Bay, Gedo, Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions.
- NID administrative coverage was over 96% for accessible areas, but when inaccessible areas are factored in, the overall administrative coverage was about 92%.
 - Eight regions achieved less than 95% coverage: Bay (93%), Galgadud (93%), Lower Shabelle (94%), Middle Juba (75%), Middle Shabelle (86%), Sanaag (89%), Sool (19%) and Togdher (88%).
 - At the district level (total 118), 72% of districts achieved >95% administrative coverage.
 - Of approximately 3.87m children vaccinated, about 0.97% were zero-dose. Awdal (2.03%), Sahil (4.78%) had higher rates of zero-dose prevalence.
 - LQAS results tell an improvement story compared to the previous campaign: Of the 91 lots surveyed across the country, 59 passed (64.8%), 23 failed (25.3%) and 9 were intermediate (9.9%).
- Transit Point Vaccination teams, positioned between accessible and inaccessible areas and at international borders, are reducing the number of zero-dose children. As of epi week 33, they have vaccinated 133,570 children under age five and 91,334 children over age five.
- The second NID has been delayed by flooding. It started on 5 November 2023 as planned in Banadir, Puntland and much of Galmadug ; it started on 6 November 2023 in most of Hirshabelle , and it has not yet started in Jubaland, Southwest and Somaliland . Somaliland has rescheduled to 18-21 November 2023.

SUDAN



- Although there has been some disruption to essential immunization activities, UNICEF has brought in vaccines on chartered flights to replenish depleted stock levels, and efforts are ongoing to maintain EI activity wherever possible. A measles and rubella campaign is planned in the coming months in a phased approach to respond to the ongoing measles outbreak.
- The planned R2 using nOPV2 has been paused, and the condition of the 3.29m doses in country is precarious due to fuel shortages and the unpredictability of the conflict. The nOPV2 doses are in the national cold store in Khartoum with temperature being maintained and will be moved when feasible.

SUDAN (cont.)

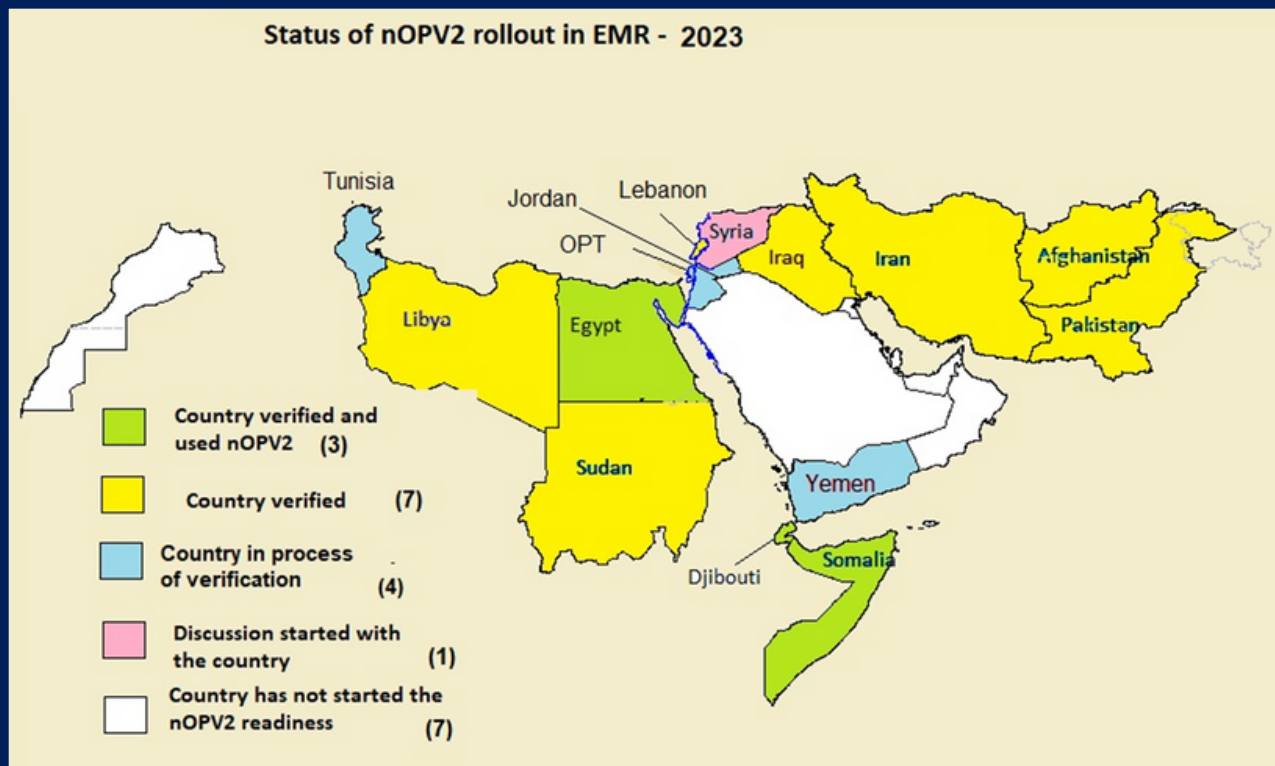
- Destruction of unopened remaining vials of mOPV2 took place according to guidelines in most states and Form A has been finalized and shared with IMST and ORPG.

YEMEN



- Access to vaccinate children in the northern governorates 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.
- Intensive efforts are ongoing across the partnership to better understand the drivers of demand and refusal in Yemen, and to raise community-level demand for vaccination (not just polio, but all antigens). Coordination through the IMST mechanism will ensure findings are used to maximum impact.
- Following verification for nOPV2 use, the antigen will be used in a house-to-house campaign in the southern governorates, tentatively planned for December 2023.

REGIONAL STATUS OF NOPV2 READINESS AS OF EPI WEEK 45





DJIBOUTI OBRA

- The Outbreak Response Assessment, conducted over 15-19 October 2023, found that:
 - There has been no detection of poliovirus for 15+ months in Djibouti since the last cVDVP2 detection on 22 May 2023 (at Djibouti ville environmental surveillance site).
 - National coordination and planning were adequate in responding to the outbreak as were communication and social mobilization strategies.
 - Population immunity was increased against poliovirus type 2 through four vaccination campaigns, however there are areas for improvement in microplanning and reaching special populations during campaigns, as well as routine and essential immunization
 - There are gaps in detection and reporting of AFP cases as well as in conduct of environmental surveillance, which may prevent detection of low-level cVDPV2 circulation.
- Based on the findings, the OBRA team concluded that definitive interruption of cVDPV2 transmission in Djibouti cannot be established at this time because of the gaps in poliovirus surveillance and suboptimal immunity in some populations.
- Accordingly, the outbreak cannot yet be declared closed at this time. The team recommended the following actions to be taken and the situation assessed after a four to six month period:
 - **Surveillance:** develop a surveillance enhancement plan for both AFP and environmental surveillance and demonstrate improvement in key performance indicators for both. This should be followed by an external surveillance review to validate the improvements.
 - **Population immunity:** strengthen essential immunization activities including catching up defaulters and reaching zero dose children.

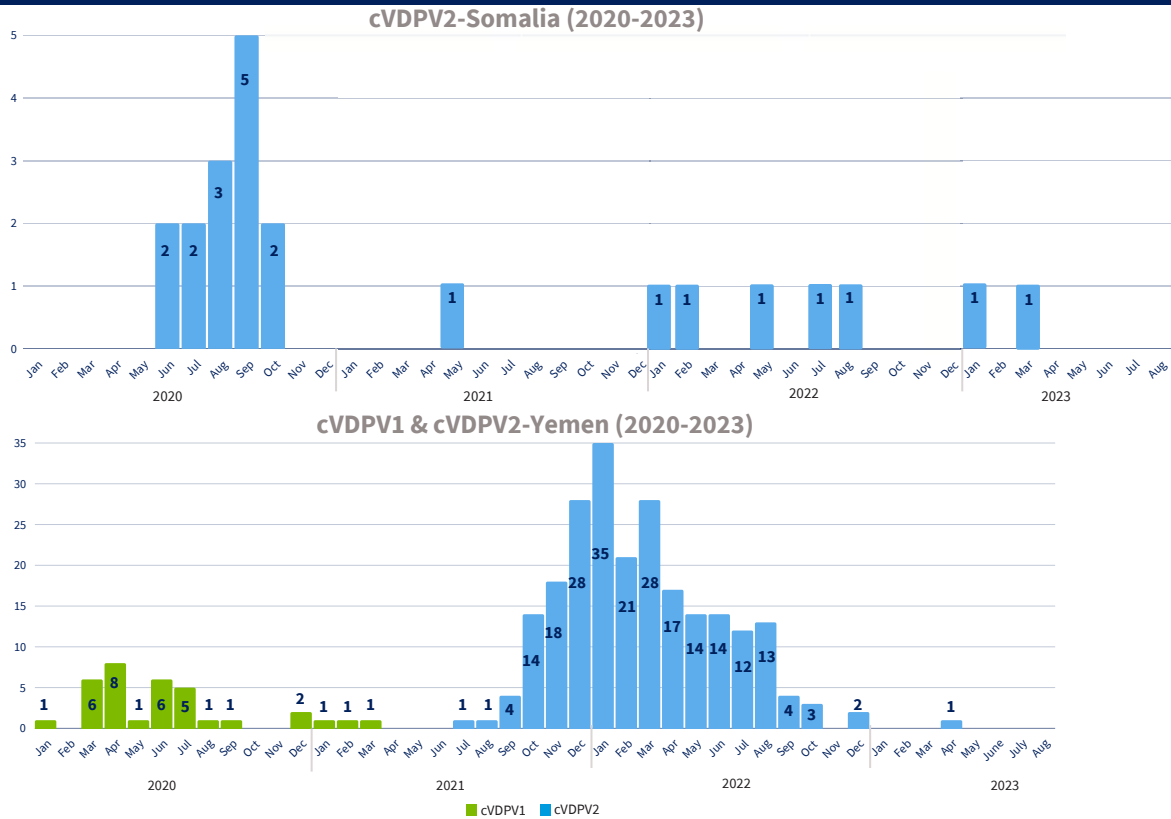


COORDINATION

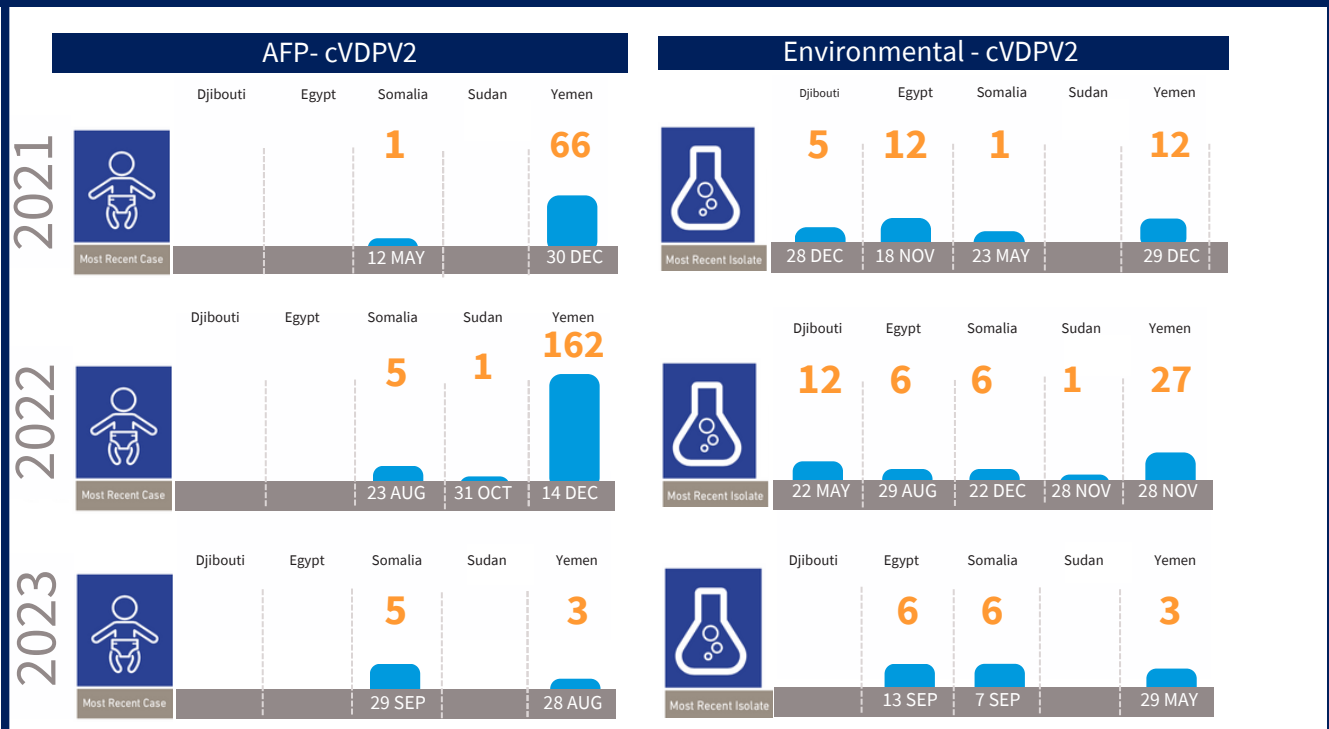
- A two-day meeting was held over 31 October and 1 November 2023 between ORPG and IMST among HQ and regional GPEI outbreak partners. Participants took stock of the 2023 outbreak and high-risk countries in terms of epidemiology, programmatic response, and continuing priorities in the context of GPEI Goal 2, refined ORPG-IMST collaboration going into 2024 and set goals for year.



OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR



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](#)