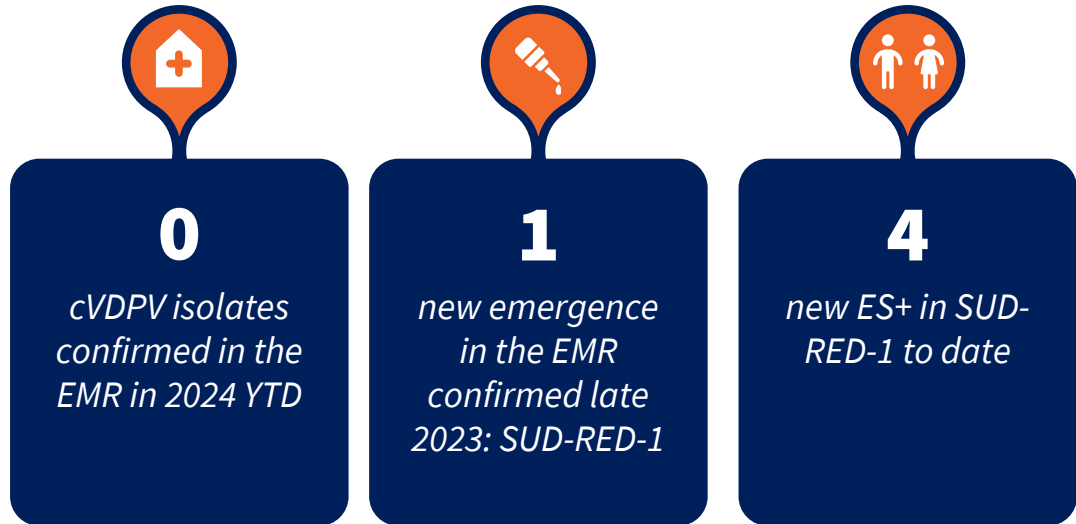
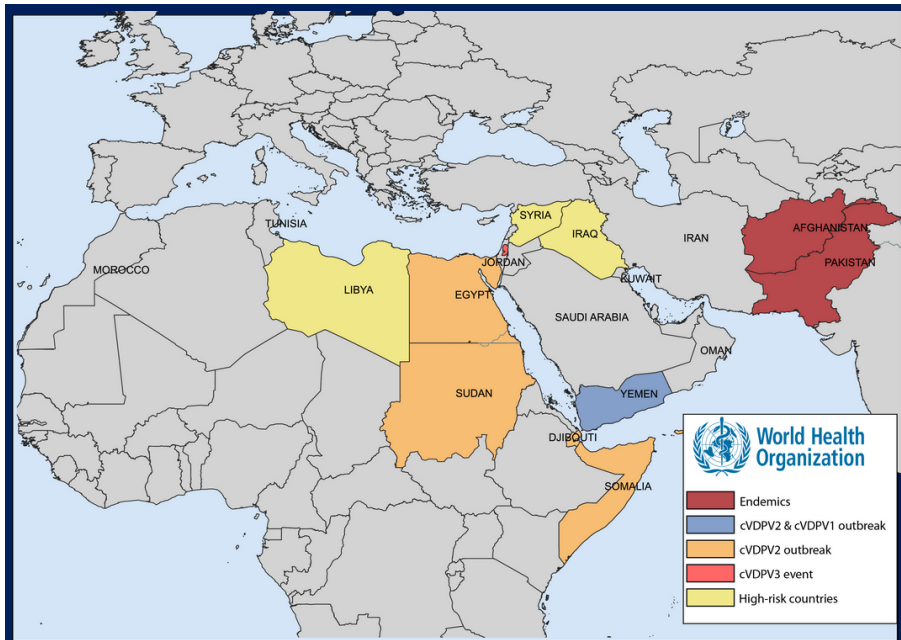


BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- In **Yemen**, six ES+ and one case have been confirmed since the last IMST situation report.
- Additional isolates have been confirmed in early 2024, all dating to late 2023:
 - Five ES+ in Somalia (most recent: week 43) in Banadir, an area with known circulation
 - Four ES+ in Sudan (most recent: 30 November 2023), constituting a new emergence, SUD-RED-1, unrelated to previously identified cVDPV2 strains
- 2024 to date: zero circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) isolates collected.



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

	2022		2023		2024	
	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
DJIBOUTI	0	12	0	0	0	0
EGYPT	0	6	0	11	0	0
SOMALIA	5	6	5	9	0	0
SUDAN	1	1	0	4	0	0
YEMEN	162	27	4	10	0	0



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

EGYPT



- Following two rounds of SNID using nOPV2 in North Sinai and Ismailia governorates in August and October 2023, breakthrough transmission was confirmed on 5 December 2023 after detecting cVDPV2-n from an environmental sample collected at Al-Dahya site on 13 November 2023, more than 21 days after round 2.
- As part of breakthrough investigation, a total of 80 ad-hoc samples were collected to identify the source of the virus and to exclude spread of virus to other districts. This approach yielded four samples that were positive for cVDPV2-n, all from tributaries of Al-Dahya.

SOMALIA



- Five cVDPV2 cases were reported in 2023, 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).
- The most recent ES isolates from Somalia are from ES sample collected in October 2023 from Urobo and Kawma sites in Banadir. This brings the total number of cVDPV2 positive environmental samples in 2023 to nine.
- An external surveillance review is planned for the first half of 2024 to assess the sensitivity of polio surveillance in Somalia.

SUDAN



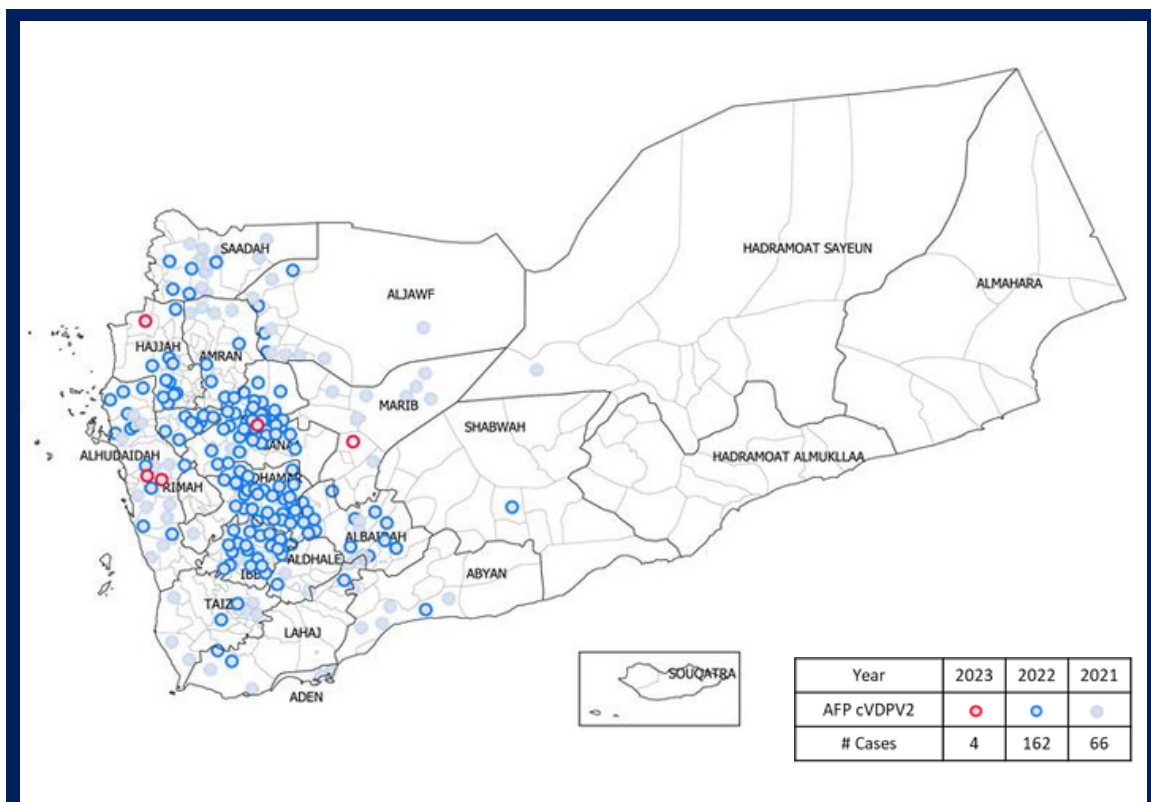
- Four new cVDPV2 positive ES isolates were confirmed by the lab on 21 January 2024. All were collected from Port Sudan district of Red Sea state between 18 September and 30 November 2023, from the same collection site. All these viruses belong to the SUD-RED-1 emergence and are unrelated to previously identified cVDPV2 strains.
- Surveillance continues and a fifth shipment of AFP and ES samples has moved across Sudan and was delivered to VACSERA on 24 January 2024; results are pending.
- Monthly ES collections continue at selected sites with ad hoc samples collected from additional sites.

YEMEN



- A total of 237 VDPV2 cases have been reported since the start of the outbreak in 2021: 232 cVDPV2 and five VDPV2. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 17 November 2023.
- As of week 6 2024, Yemen has reported 1,330 AFP cases in all of 2023 and 108 AFP cases in 2024. Of these:
 - 163 AFP were discarded as they were negative for poliovirus
 - Four were confirmed as cVDPV2 and three as VDPV2 (not circulatory)
 - 268 are pending laboratory testing
- Of the 32 ES samples collected in 2023, status is as follows:
 - 12 are positive for VDPV; they are from Sana'a, Hodeida and Aden
 - 12 are negative for VDPV and WPV
 - Eight samples from 2023 and three from 2024 are shortly to be shipped to Islamabad for final testing

cVDPV2 CASES IN YEMEN





OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT



- Two rounds of nOPV2 campaigning targeting just under 300,000 children have been implemented in response to the breakthrough transmission:
 - R1 started on 24 December 2023
 - R2 started on 21 January 2024
- Both rounds exceeded 95%, but independent monitoring showed gaps in team performance and microplanning.
- Further efforts are planned for this year in Egypt's frontier governorates to identify children who have missed out on OPV2 and close immunity gaps. The government has been advised to implement an IPV catch-up campaign in North Sinai to further protect children from polio.

SOMALIA



- The first round of polio SIAs for 2024 was completed in late January 2024. The SNID targeted 2.7 million under-fives in 81 districts in South Central Somalia using novel OPV2 vaccine.
- The preliminary information from the administrative coverage data shows that 2,473,229 under-fives (90% of the target) were vaccinated.
- LQAS was conducted in 62 of the 81 targeted districts, with results as follows:
 - 50% (31 lots) passed at 90%
 - 27% (17 lots) achieved intermediate status (passed at 80%)
 - 22% (14 lots) failed

SUDAN



- In response to the new cVDPV2 isolates collected, a risk assessment was completed and presented to the Outbreak Response and Preparedness Group (ORPG). The details of the response are being finalized, and it is expected to happen in accessible states after Ramadan.
- Country-wide, although there has been some disruption to essential immunization activities, efforts are ongoing to ensure vaccines are replenished in all states and activities continue wherever possible. UNICEF has made special arrangements to bring in vaccines to replenish depleted stock levels using chartered flights. Phase I of the measles and rubella campaign was conducted at the end of January 2024 in seven states in response to the ongoing measles outbreak and achieved above 100% coverage.
- After a comprehensive review by EPI, the 3.29m doses that were held in the national cold store in Khartoum have been deemed unviable for use, given the prolonged power cuts and the growing fuel crisis. Accessibility to the cold store location remains very low but is being monitored closely to identify the earliest possible time to retrieve the vaccine and ensure proper disposal and destruction of the vials.

YEMEN



- Access to vaccinate children in the northern governorates continues to elude the programme. Robust, multi-channel advocacy efforts are ongoing to carry out a multi-antigen vaccination campaign to respond to ongoing polio, measles and other vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.
- Two back-to-back nOPV2 vaccination rounds are planned in February and April 2024 in the southern governorates, targeting 1.3 million children under age five.



DJIBOUTI OBRA RECOMMENDATIONS

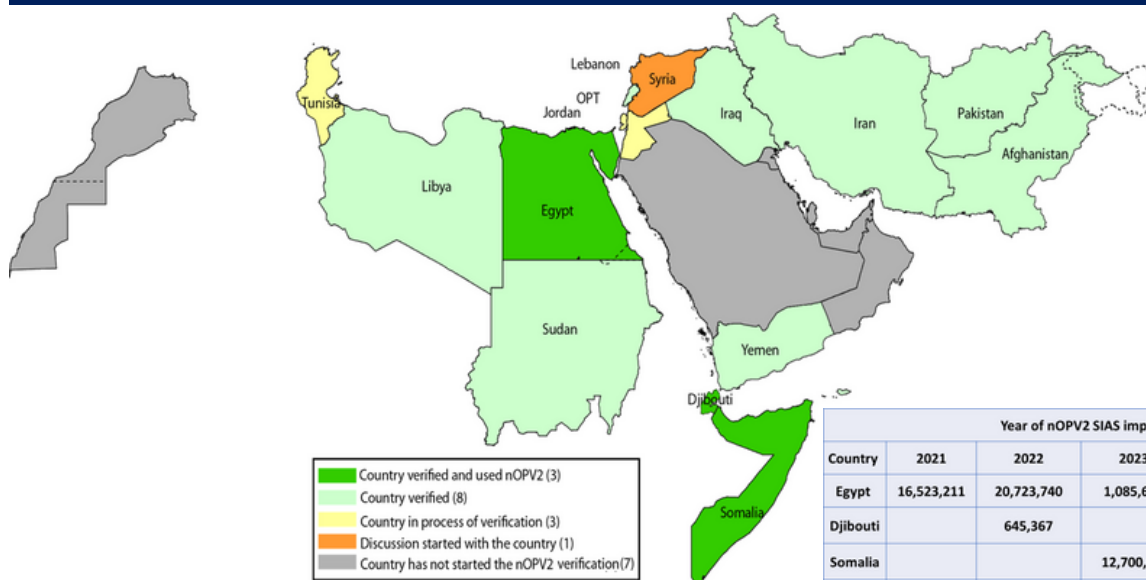
- In response to OBRA recommendations, the country team has developed a surveillance enhancement plan and begun implementation:
 - The WHO polio consultant arrived in Djibouti on 10 February 2024 and will follow up on planned surveillance enhancement activities
 - An EPI consultant is expected to arrive mid-February 2024
- Training on IATA certification for shipping of hazardous materials and goods has been completed, following the expiration of the previous certification in August 2023.
- TempTale log tags have been received in country and a training session on these tags is planned for Q1 2024.



REGIONAL COORDINATION

- On 18 January 2024, a meeting took place between WHO and UNICEF RDs, the POB Chair, and the Yemen WHO and UNICEF Country Representatives. Notably, both the incoming RD EMRO, Dr Hanan Balkhy, and the outgoing RD EMRO, Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, took part in this call, designed to align efforts between the two agencies in order to deliver much-needed health care, including vaccination, to children in **Yemen's** northern governorates.

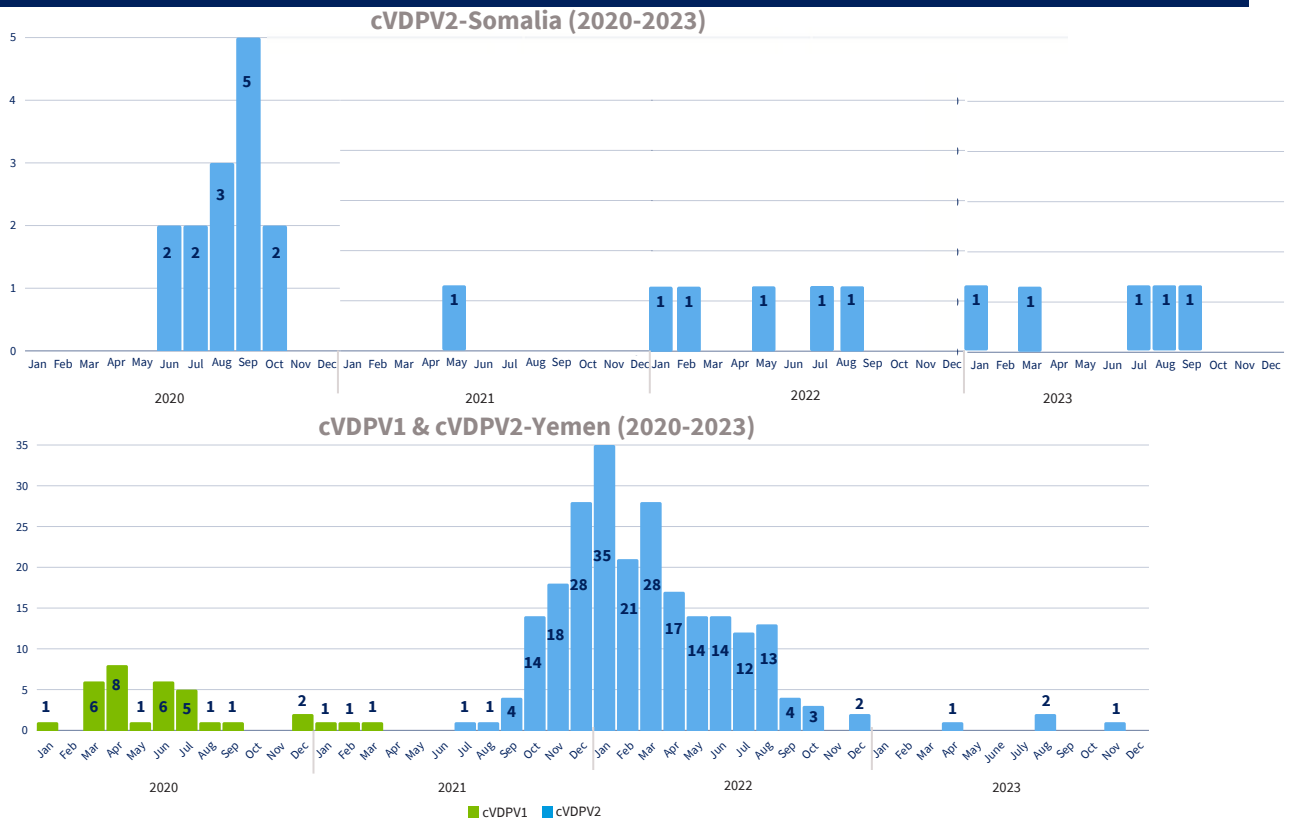
nOPV2 READINESS AT WEEK 6 2024



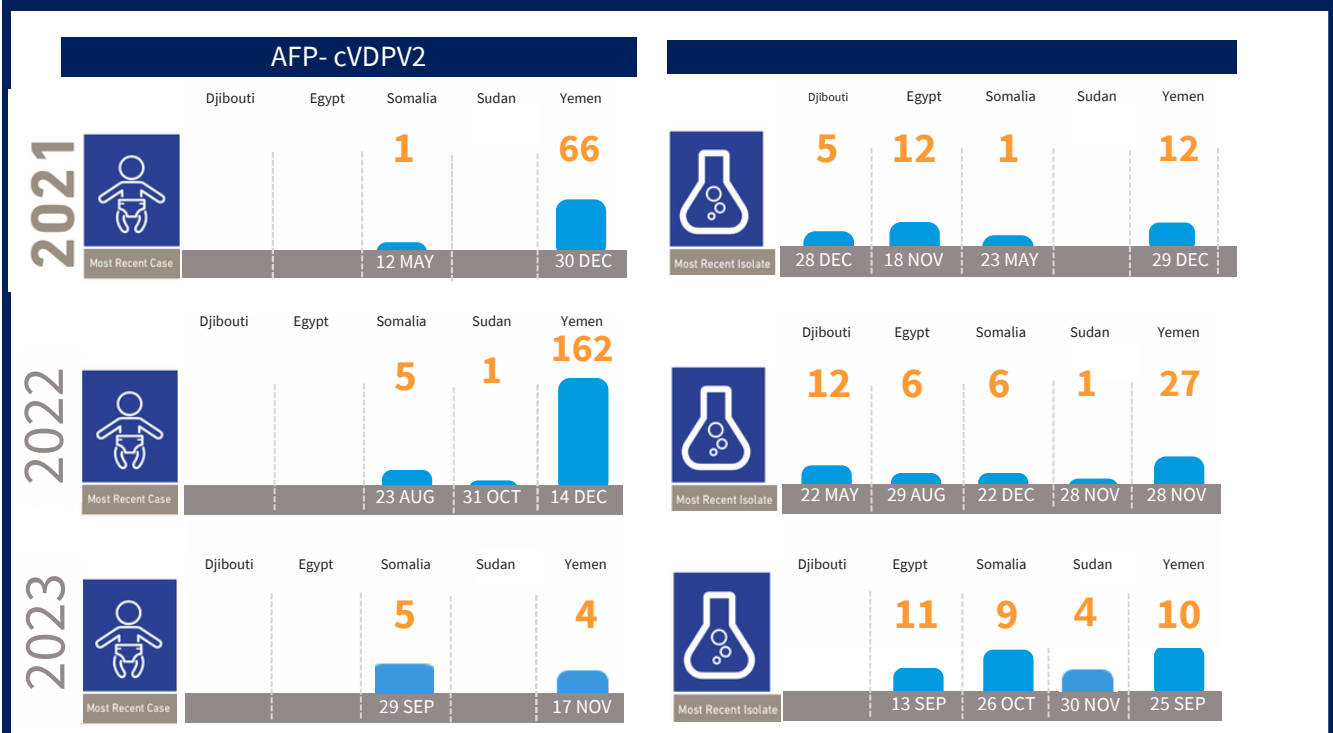
Country	Year of nOPV2 SIAS implementation				Total
	2021	2022	2023	Planned	
Egypt	16,523,211	20,723,740	1,085,624		38,332,575
Djibouti		645,367			645,367
Somalia			12,700,655		12,700,655
Sudan				11,207,500	11,207,500
Yemen				1,615,000	1,615,000
Total	16,523,211	21,369,107	13,786,279	12,822,500	64,501,097



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](#)