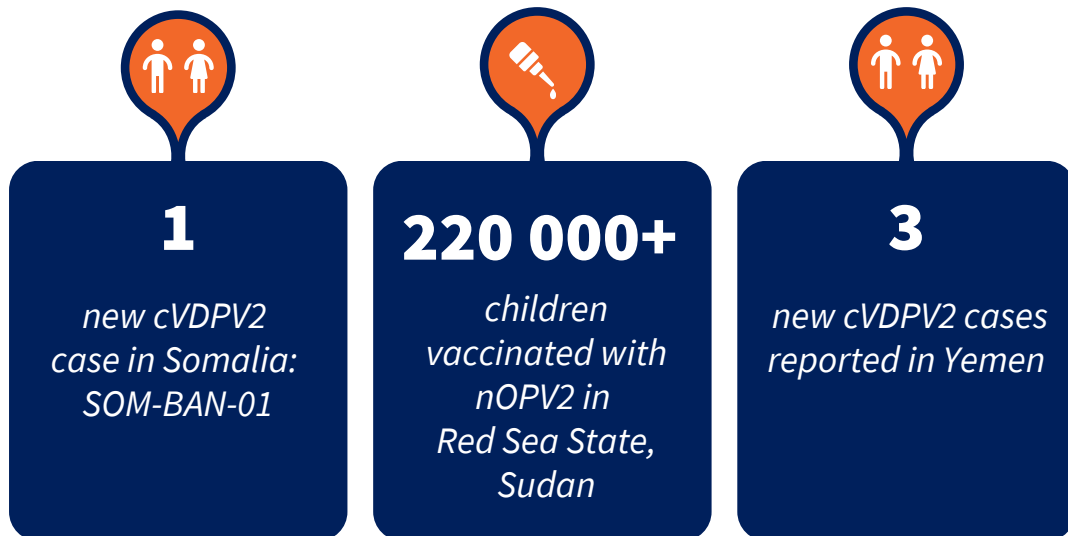


MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

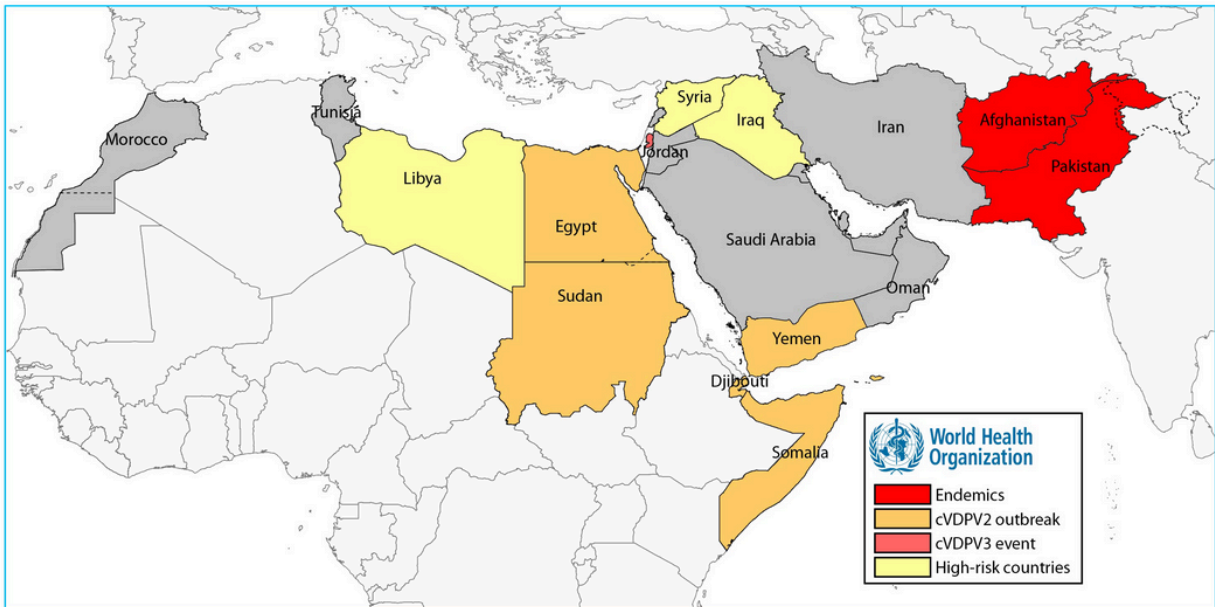
Issue #39 | Week 24 2024 (week ending 20 June 2024)

BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- An environmental surveillance (ES) sample isolated on 31 January 2024 in Cairo governorate, **Egypt**, confirmed as circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), is linked to the SUD-RED-1 emergence, with no local circulation in Egypt. Of five additional samples collected, none had cVDPV2. The most recent sample collected on 14 May 2024 was confirmed to be non-polio enterovirus (NPEV).
- In **Somalia**, cVDPV2 was confirmed in one new case in Bay, with a date of onset of paralysis of 8 March 2024, and an ES sample collected in Gedo on 11 March 2024. Both are linked to the SOM-BAN-1 emergence.
- The environmental isolate confirmed on 24 January 2024 in White Nile State in **Sudan** has been classified as cVDPV2 and is reported to be genetically linked to a cVDPV2 isolated in an AFP case in South Sudan - RSS-UNL-1. This emergence was also detected in Ethiopia.
- In **Yemen**, ten cVDPV2 cases and six additional positive environmental sites have been reported, all from the northern governorates. The most recent virus isolations were from acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases reported from Ibb, and two from Al Hudaidah, with dates of onset of paralysis of 6 April 2024, 27 March 2024 and 8 March 2024 respectively.



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

	2023		2024	
	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
DJIBOUTI	0	0	0	0
EGYPT	0	11 (all cVDPV2-n)	0	1
SOMALIA	8	9	2	1
SUDAN	0	5	0	2
YEMEN	8	16	10	2

EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

EGYPT

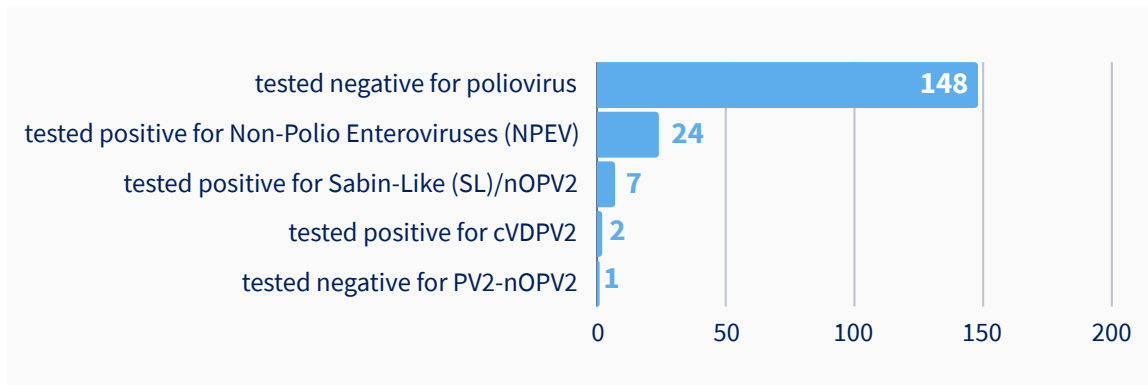


- From the cVDPV2 outbreak related to novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) - cVDPV2-n- in North Sinai, the most recent isolate was detected on 30 December 2023. Following this, 14 more samples were collected over four months from the ES site in North Sinai, none of which showed cVDPV2-n. Four subnational immunization days (SNIDs) were conducted in August, October and December 2023, and January 2024 in response to this outbreak. This outbreak appears to have been contained.
- On 15 February 2024, the polio lab in Egypt reported the isolation of cVDPV2 from sewage water collected from one ES site in Cairo governorate on 31 January 2024. Genetic sequencing showed 11 nucleotide changes from standard SABIN2 and links to the SUD-RED-1 emergence. A cVDPV2 importation event was declared accordingly. There is no evidence of local circulation to date. The most recent sample collected from the site was on 14 May 2024 and showed NPEV.
- The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) implemented an inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) catch-up campaign between 25 February and 11 March 2024, targeting non-Egyptian children in 11 districts in Cairo.

SOMALIA



- So far in 2024, Somalia has confirmed two AFP cVDPV2 isolates. Both these isolates are linked to the SOM-BAN-1 emergence.
- The first cVDPV2 detected in an AFP this year, from the inaccessible area of Bardera district in Gedo, in the southern parts of Somalia, had 74 nt difference and a date of onset of 20 January 2024.
- The second cVDPV2 confirmed in an AFP, with 72 nt difference, had a date of onset of 8 March 2024 and was detected from the inaccessible area of Baidoa district, Bay region, in the central parts of Somalia.
- A cVDPV2 isolate was confirmed in a wastewater sample collected on 11 March 2024 from the Qansaley Health Centre site in Gedo. This new ES isolate has 74 nt diff and has been classified as an orphan virus. It is genetically linked with a previous cVDPV2 detected in the ES site known as '21 October', in Banadir, with a date of collection on 27 July 2023.
- From week 1 to week 21 2024, Somalia has reported 195 AFP cases, of which 182 have lab results. Of these:



- An independent team of international and national Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) assessors conducted an external surveillance review in Somalia from 27 April to 2 May 2024. The key aim of the independent assessment was to identify potential gaps in AFP and ES surveillance systems and recommend corrective measures to enhance the system's sensitivity and quality for promptly detecting poliovirus transmission.

SUDAN

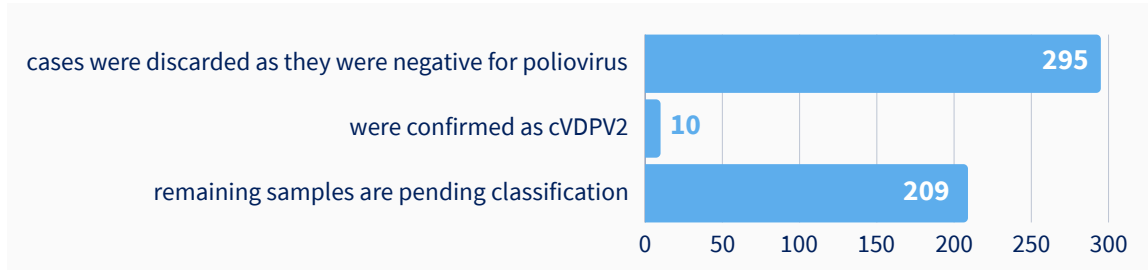


- The environmental isolate confirmed on 24 January 2024 in White Nile State in Sudan has been classified as cVDPV2 and is reported to be genetically linked to a cVDPV2 isolated in South Sudan - RSS-UNL-1. This emergence was also detected in Ethiopia.
- A total of seven cVDPV2 isolates have been reported from ES sites in Sudan as of Week 22, 2024, six of which were from the SUD-RED-1 emergence from Red Sea State, collected from the same site in Port Sudan between 18 September 2023 and 11 January 2024. One ES sample that was collected from the Kosti site from the White Nile State on 24 January 2024 is linked to RSS-UNL-1 from South Sudan.
- Surveillance continues, including through six active ES sites: two in Red Sea State, two in White Nile State, and one each in West Darfur and North Darfur States.
- An eighth shipment of AFP and ES samples was transported across Sudan and delivered to the VACSERA Regional Lab in Egypt on 15 May 2024.

YEMEN



- A total of 250 vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) cases have been reported in children since the start of the outbreak in 2021: 245 cVDPV2 and four VDPV2. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 6 April 2024.
- From week 1 to week 22 2024, Yemen has reported 514 AFP cases. Of these:



- Of the 32 ES samples collected in 2023, 18 that are positive for VDPV2 were detected from Aden, Al Hudaidah and Sana'a.
- As of Week 22 2024, 15 samples have been collected from four governorates namely, Aden, Al Hudaidah, Hadramoat Al Mukla and Sana'a. Results of three are available: two that tested positive for VDPV2 are from Sana'a and Al Hudaidah governorates. The remaining samples are pending testing.
- Yemen continues to expand its ES network. The network has expanded from three sites in 2023 to six sites as of May 2024. The new sites opened in 2024 are Hadramoat Al Mukla, Amran and Ibb.

DJIBOUTI



- A poliovirus type 2 (PV2) that tested negative for nOPV2 was notified on 9 May 2024, from a 17-month-old, zero-dose male, with a date of onset of paralysis of 28 February 2024 in the Afar region of Ethiopia.
- The child was referred from Ethiopia to Djibouti for medical treatment on 4 March 2024. Genetic sequencing of the child's stool samples is ongoing at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory and cross-border collaboration is ongoing between the teams in Djibouti and Ethiopia.



OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT



- A refresher training was conducted for surveillance officers in specific districts on implementing community-based surveillance and detecting AFP among non-Egyptians in May 2024.
- Egypt continues the exercise of identification of hard-to-reach areas in the frontier governorates, which share borders with neighbouring countries, and implemented phase 2 in May. Phase 3 is planned for June 2024.

SOMALIA



- A five-day integrated campaign to deliver nOPV2 and fractional dose inactivated polio vaccine (fIPV) is scheduled to take place from 30 June-3 July 2024. It will be targeting around 175 000 children aged under five with nOPV2 and children aged 4-59 months with fIPV. The target population comprises children from internally displaced persons' (IDP) families in Dharkenley, Daynile, Khala and Yaqshid districts in Banadir.
- The polio programme will be conducting one round of a four-day campaign with nOPV2 in four districts in Somaliland that were missed in the last two years, to prevent any immunity gaps. The campaign is scheduled for June 2024.
- The WHO country office is conducting integrated training for its polio field staff to build their capacity in poliovirus surveillance, supplementary immunization activity (SIA) operations, Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI) and vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) surveillance. The training was successfully completed in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Puntland, Somaliland and South-West State in May and June 2024.
- The Somalia Emergency Action Plan (SEAP) 2024 is ready for endorsement by the Federal Ministry of Health. It outlines strategies that will boost coordinated outbreak response, intensify poliovirus surveillance, enhance integration with other essential health services, strengthen coordination among partners, and target high-risk populations among other priorities.

SUDAN



- In response to the cVDPV2 outbreak, Sudan is conducting three polio vaccination campaigns.
- Red Sea State campaign
 - The polio vaccination campaign in Red Sea State, conducted from 22-25 April 2024, delivered nOPV2 and Vitamin A to children aged from 0-59 months.
 - Over 220 000 children were vaccinated, representing 112% coverage, an increase attributed to additional displaced children being covered.
 - Post-campaign Independent Monitoring (PCIM) showed 95% coverage, with six of ten localities having coverage above 95%.
- Round 1 campaign
 - Round 1 was conducted from 9-12 June 2024 in eight states (Blue Nile, Gedarif, Kassala, Northern, Red Sea, River Nile, Sennar and White Nile States). Health teams aimed to provide nOPV2 and vitamin A to an estimated 3 million children aged under five years.
 - Dates for Round 2 are under consideration.

YEMEN



- The health authorities in Sana'a are working with partners on developing a comprehensive three-year plan to strengthen routine services, and deliver an integrated response to ongoing outbreaks and a roadmap for the rehabilitation of Yemen's damaged health infrastructure. The planning exercise is building on the Health Emergency Extension Response (HEER) concept, drafted to respond to ongoing health crises in the northern governorates.
- The second nOPV2 round is planned for 15 July 2024, with the aim of vaccinating 1.3 million children aged under five years in the southern governorates.



- Following an in-depth investigation of the PV2 case from Djibouti, the polio programme is making plans to roll out next steps, which include strengthening surveillance.
- The 40 recommendations made by the Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) mission conducted in Djibouti in November 2023 focus on coordination, AFP and ES surveillance, routine immunization, vaccine management and social mobilization. Of these recommendations, 73% have either been implemented or are currently being acted on.
- The programme in Djibouti commenced the use of Log Tags to better monitor sample transportation from Djibouti to the KEMRI Laboratory in Kenya.



REGIONAL COORDINATION

- The Regional Commission for Certification (RCC) of Polio Eradication [convened for the 38th time](#), in Qatar, from 19-21 May 2024. The RCC reviewed progress made by countries in the Region towards certification – which is a crucial step in polio eradication efforts. They underscored the urgency to intensify surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response and population immunity.
- A meeting conducted from 22-23 May 2024 in Qatar, to strengthen **polio certification and containment activities in the Region** convened representatives from global, regional and national certification and containment committees, alongside experts from the three levels of WHO – headquarters, the region and high-priority countries. The meeting received updates on certification and containment documentation, discussed RCC recommendations – particularly in the context of national certification committees, and discussed key requirements for certification reports.
- The WHO EMR and UNICEF MENA **Incident Management System Team (IMST)** and global Outbreak Response and Preparedness (ORPG) convened from 12-13 June 2024 in Geneva, to review the regional epidemiology and ongoing cVDPV outbreaks, and align on 2024 priorities among other objectives.
- Two **cross-border meetings** are being planned in July to reinforce inter-country and inter-regional collaboration to stop polio transmission in countries facing outbreaks or at high-risk of importation. A first will be conducted for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia from 1-2 July 2024, and a second will focus on Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan from 3-4 July 2024.
- The **Technical Advisory Group on Polio Eradication for Afghanistan and Pakistan**, which convened in May 2024 in Qatar, [offered urgent recommendations](#) for diligent and full implementation to capitalize on the chance to end polio. Experts' advice to Afghanistan's and Pakistan's polio programmes included focusing on outpacing the wild poliovirus, including in historic reservoirs; reaching missed children with polio vaccines; intensifying coordination along shared borders, or 'virus corridors', to stop virus transmission; and improving quality of programmatic work.



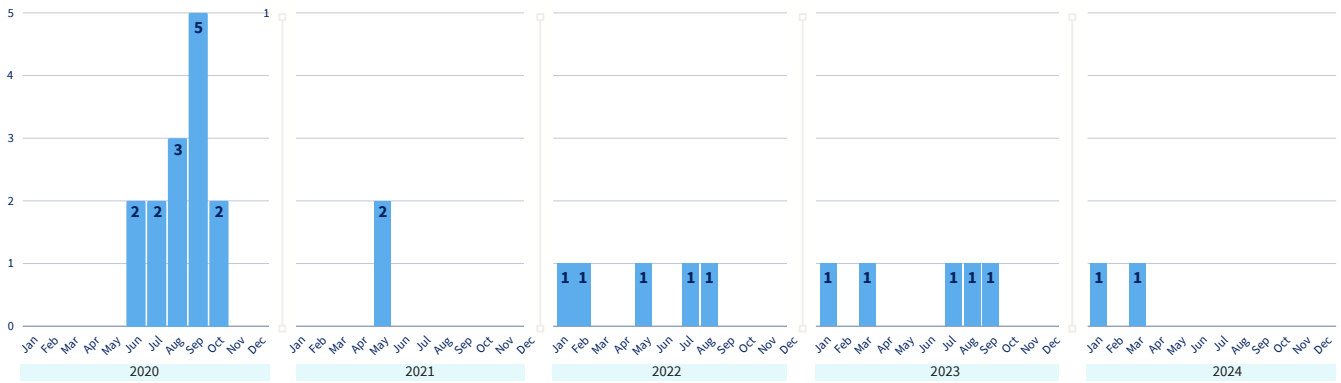
GLOBAL COORDINATION

- During the 77th World Health Assembly, world leaders, including Ministers of Health, policy makers and public health experts [met to discuss polio eradication](#) among other crucial health topics. Member States, reviewed the situation, and unanimously reaffirmed their collective resolve to mobilize strong support and resources needed to end polio.

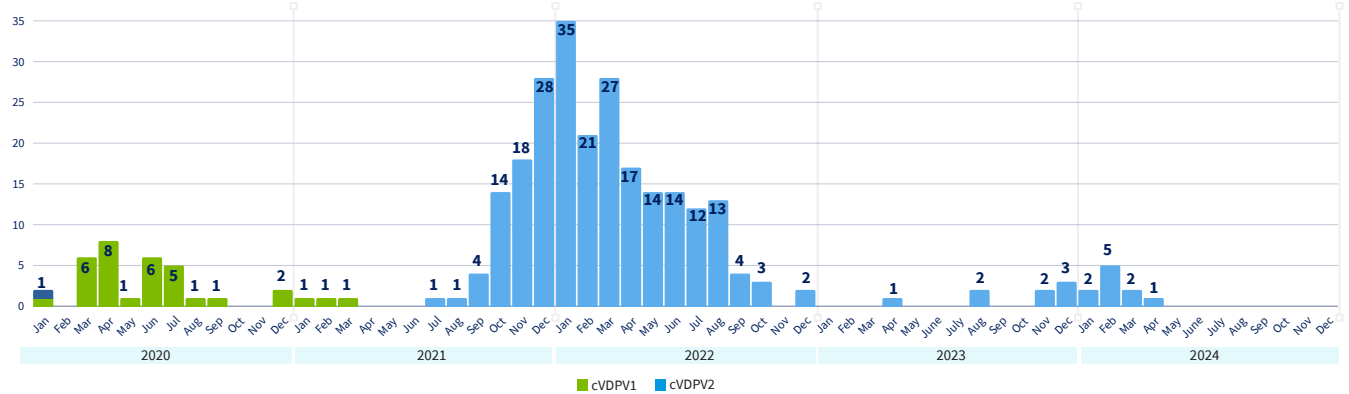


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

cVDPV2-Somalia (2020-2024)



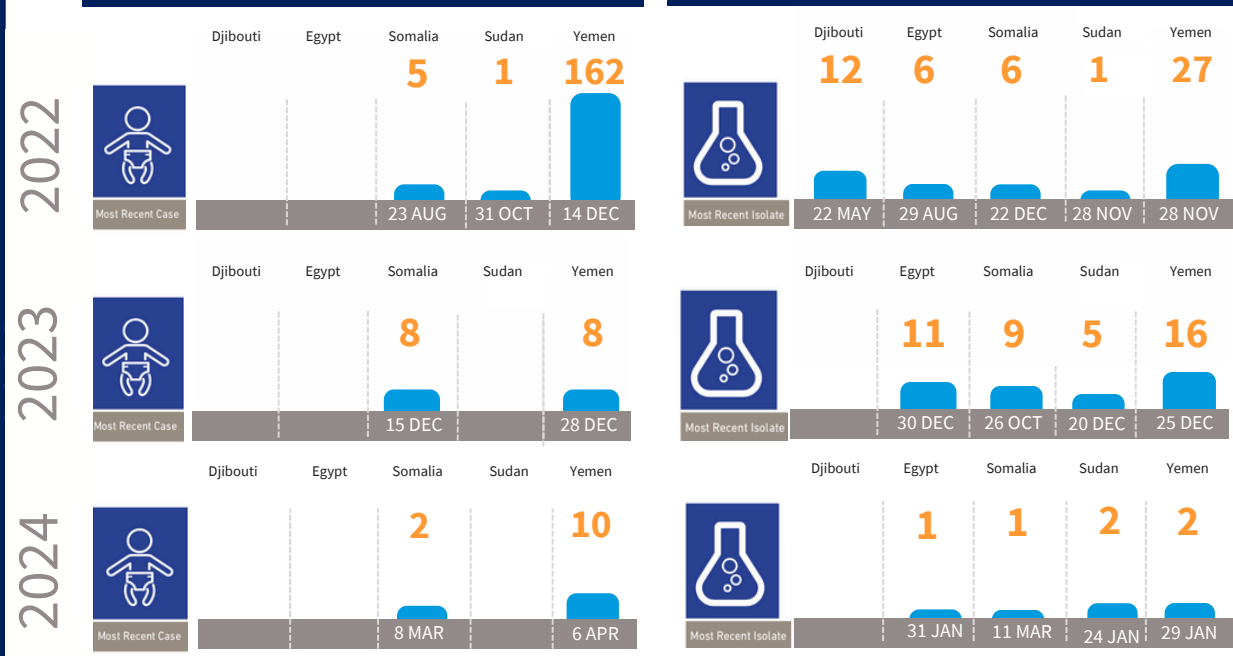
cVDPV1 & cVDPV2-Yemen (2020-2024)



ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR

AFP- cVDPV2

Environmental -cVDPV2



Send questions to:

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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](#)

