

MENA EMR REGIONAL CVDPV OUTBREAKS

Issue #42 | Week 16 (starting 4 April 2025) - Week 32 (ending 7 August 2025)

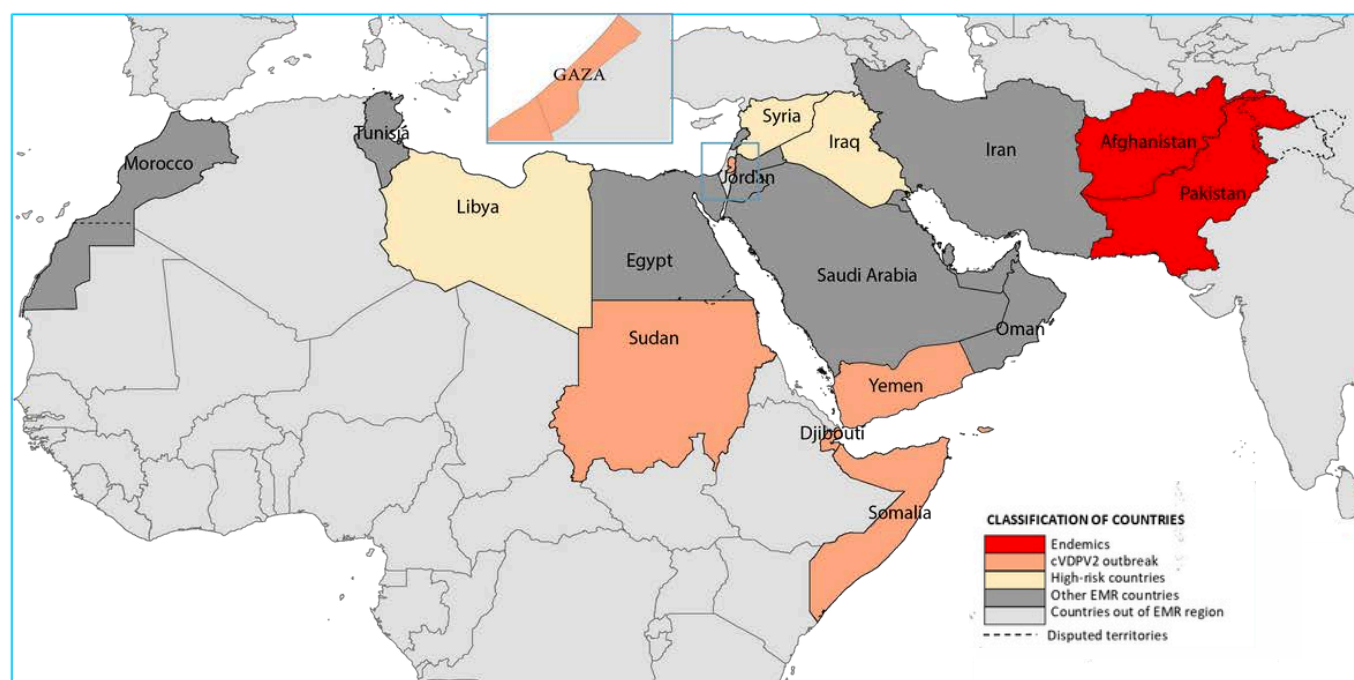
BY THE NUMBERS:



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Egypt** has officially closed its circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak after no new poliovirus detections since December 2023, marking a major milestone for the region.
- In **Gaza**, oPt, surveillance has been significantly strengthened despite severe challenges being faced and access constraints, with no new cVDPV2 detected since 5 March 2025.
- **Somalia** continues to demonstrate strong commitment, maintaining high-quality surveillance and implementing immunization campaigns – including an integrated one - that have reached millions of children.
- In **Sudan**, while cVDPV2 circulation remains limited to parts of states in Darfur, preparations are underway to launch vaccination campaigns targeting over two million children in the Darfur States, despite severe challenges, including access restrictions.
- **Yemen's** northern governorates remain a challenge with several confirmed cVDPV2 cases and without an outbreak response; however, a campaign has been conducted in the southern governorates to protect 1.36 million children from further spillover of poliovirus from the north.
- **Djibouti** is facing twin outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) and cVDPV2. The country achieved high coverage through two nationwide novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) campaigns in April and May. There are plans to provide bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) to children to further mitigate risks of spread of cVDPV1.

Poliovirus in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 2025



Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) isolates related to outbreaks and events

Country	Date of first isolate	Date of last isolate	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		TOTAL	
			cVDPV isolated in children with AFP and environmental surveillance:																			
			AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
cVDPV2 outbreaks and events																						
Djibouti	3-Oct-21	12-Jan-25									5		12				9	1	16	1	42	
Egypt*	10-Jan-21	1-Aug-24									11		6		11		2			0	30	
oPt (Gaza)	23-Jun-24	5-Mar-25														1	20		7	1	27	
Somalia	22-Oct-17	12-Jun-25		2	6	19	3	5	14	26	1	1	5	6	8	9	7	3		4	44	75
Sudan	31-Oct-22	16-Apr-25											1	1		5		2	2	1	3	9
Yemen	20-Jun-21	25-Mar-25									65	13	162	26	8	16	149	26	16	3	400	81
cVDPV1 outbreak																						
Djibouti	2-Feb-24	4-May-25																	9	0	9	
Yemen	18-Sep-19	27-Mar-21					1		31		3										35	0

*Outbreak officially closed in Egypt as of Quarter 2, 2025



SITUATION UPDATE

EGYPT



Closure of poliovirus outbreak in North Sinai

- In May 2025, Egypt closed a cVDPV2 outbreak that was detected in the North Sinai governorate in July 2023. This followed a recommendation made by a team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who conducted a detailed technical review of the country's response to the cVDPV2 outbreak and cVDPV2 events detected in Cairo between 2024 and 2025.
- In 2025, 245 environmental surveillance (ES) samples were collected and processed in the polio laboratory with no detection of cVDPV2.

DJIBOUTI



Twin outbreaks call for scaled up response

- Djibouti is currently facing twin outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) and cVDPV2.

cVDPV2 outbreak:

- cVDPV2 was confirmed in a 27-month-old girl in Djibouti city, Djibouti region. The date of onset of paralysis for this case was 12 January 2025. The strain of poliovirus detected in the child has genetic links to poliovirus from Ethiopia.
- cVDPV2 has also been detected from wastewater samples in nine sewage samples in 2024, and 16 ES samples in 2025 – all collected from the two ES sites in Djibouti – in Djibouti city and Arta region. These ES samples were collected between 8 September 2024 and 4 May 2025 and are genetically linked with poliovirus strains in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.

cVDPV1 outbreak:

- Djibouti confirmed cVDPV1 in nine ES samples, collected from both environmental sites between 2 February 2025 and 4 May 2025. These viruses are not genetically linked to any previously known cVDPV1 viruses.

Outbreak response:

- Djibouti conducted a first nationwide polio campaign from 12-16 April 2025 and vaccinated 155 218 children under five years of age (as compared to a target of 128 936 children). The number of children vaccinated was used as a target for the second round. A second round, conducted from 27-31 May 2025, vaccinated 160 902 children aged under five years with nOPV2 and provided vitamin A to 139 392 children aged from 6 months to 5 years.
- As a response to the cVDPV1 outbreak, a joint risk assessment conducted for the Horn of Africa recommended that Djibouti and the adjoining areas of Somalia and Ethiopia conduct a bOPV campaign. Discussions are ongoing for the country to conduct two campaigns to deliver bOPV.



SITUATION UPDATE

OPT (GAZA)



Five poliovirus-free months in Gaza

- As of July 2025, cVDPV2 was confirmed in seven samples of wastewater in Gaza Strip. All are genetically linked to the poliovirus strain from North Sinai, Egypt. No children were found to have cVDPV2. This compares to 21 detections in 2024 (20 from wastewater and one in a child).
- The most recent cVDPV2 detection in wastewater was collected on 5 March 2025 from Khan Younis. Around five months of no new detections likely suggests a positive impact of the outbreak response campaigns conducted in Gaza in September and October 2024, and February 2025. However, sustaining gains and maintaining robust AFP and ES surveillance remain essential to ensure timely detections and interruption of any residual transmission.

Outbreak response:

- Mass displacement, severe overcrowding, poor water and sanitation, severely disrupted health services, restricted humanitarian access and declining routine immunization keep the risk of transmission high despite no recent poliovirus detection. Future response activities would depend on the epidemiological situation, a humanitarian pause and entry of vaccines and supplies.

SOMALIA



Continued robust measures being taken to search for and respond to poliovirus

- Four cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed in wastewater collected in Somalia in 2025. All four belong to an emergence from Banadir, Somalia.
 - Three of these isolates were collected from the same ES site in South Galkayo Hospital in South Mudug, central Somalia. Genetic sequencing analysis confirmed that the first detection of these three isolates in South Galkayo is closely linked to a cVDPV2 outbreak reported in December 2024 in Bossaso district in Bari, Puntland State.
 - The fourth cVDPV2 isolate was detected in a wastewater sample collected on 8 April 2025 from Baidoa district in Bay, south Somalia. Genetic sequencing analysis confirms it is related to a cVDPV2 previously confirmed in 2024 in the same area. The continued transmission in South Galkayo and Bay suggests persistent transmission in these areas.

Outbreak response:

- During the second quarter of 2025, the following campaigns were conducted in Somalia, as part of its ongoing emergency action plan to address polio (2024-2025):
 - **May 2025:** An integrated campaign conducted in Somaliland and Puntland reached approximately 1.6 million children aged under five years of age with nOPV2 (87% administrative coverage).
 - Additionally, around 3.3 million children aged between 6 months and five years, and about 2.6 million children aged between 1 and 5 years received measles and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) vaccines respectively during this effort. Vaccines for this campaign were delivered directly to Somalia, for the first time ever, in efforts to streamline logistics and reduce preparation time ahead of the campaign.
 - **June 2025:** The first nationwide immunization days (NID) for the year began on 22 June 2025 in south and central Somalia, and was extended to cover Somaliland and Puntland in July 2025. A second round of NIDs was conducted in July 2025 in central and south Somalia, and will be conducted in Somaliland and Puntland in August 2025.



SITUATION UPDATE

- To mitigate the risk of importation of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) from neighbouring countries, particularly Djibouti, where cVDPV1 has been detected in a number of environmental samples, plans are underway to provide bOPV to children in Somaliland (excluding Sool and Sanaag) through two SNIDs, to be conducted in August and September 2025.

SUDAN

Transmission in two states



- In Sudan, cVDPV2 has been detected in two states in 2025- West Darfur – where one child and one ES sample have cVDPV2 - and the Central Darfur State, where one child was confirmed to have cVDPV2.
- All detections are genetically linked to a poliovirus strain from neighbouring Chad. The case in West Darfur has genetic links with the one in Central Darfur State.
- Since the ongoing war broke out in Sudan, AFP and ES samples have been transported across Sudan and delivered to the VACSERA Regional Laboratory in Egypt for testing. On 28 June 2025, the seventeenth batch of 127 AFP and ES samples was sent for testing to Egypt.

Outbreak response:

- The Federal MOH, with support from WHO, UNICEF and partners, plans to implement a polio vaccination campaign vaccinate 2.3 million children under five years of age with nOPV2 to children in five Darfur states (Central, East, North, West and South Darfur States-known as the Darfur Zone) in response to the cVDPV2 outbreak.
- According to the federal-level essential programme on immunization (EPI) and information on accessibility within 65 localities in the Darfur zone, as of July 2025, 36 were fully accessible, 22 partially accessible and seven inaccessible (mainly in North Darfur State) due to conflict.

YEMEN

Results of pending sample shipments trickle in



- Since the start of the outbreak in 2021, a total of 400 cVDPV2 cases have been confirmed. Of these, 149 were confirmed in 2024 and 16 in 2025. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 25 March 2025.
- The cases in Yemen have genetic links to emergences from Taiz and Sanaa governorates of Yemen, and the Red Sea State of Sudan. So far, there have been no links between the cVDPV1 detected in Djibouti and any poliovirus in Yemen.
- Shipping, and testing of stool and environmental samples, from the northern and southern governorates - from 2024 and 2025 - is still underway.

Outbreak response:

- The Health Emergency Extension Response (HEER) plan is yet to be rolled out in the northern governorates of Yemen. Plans are being made to conduct three EPI outreach efforts in 12 northern governorates in 2025. Although the National Immunization Technical Group (NITAG) has approved the use of nOPV2 in the northern governorates, health authorities are yet to conduct an immunization response.
- In the southern governorates of Yemen, a polio vaccination campaign kicked off on 12 July 2025, and administered nOPV2 to around 1.36 m children under 5 years of age and provided vitamin A to more than 1 m children aged between 6 and 59 months. The campaign aimed to protect children from further spillover of cVDPV2 from the northern governorates.



REGIONAL COORDINATION

Horn of Africa and Yemen: Polio Closed-Door Session on the sidelines of WHA78

On 21 May 2025, high-level representatives from the WHO regional offices for Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) convened a meeting of heads of delegation from countries in the Horn of Africa (HOA). Health ministers of Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen, and government representatives of Ethiopia and Kenya reaffirmed their unwavering commitment towards ending the spread of polio in the HOA bloc.

Quarterly interministerial meetings will be conducted to improve inter-country coordination, sustain political commitment and translate it into action, and jointly track progress.

Outsmarting Outbreaks: Innovation, Integration, and Investment convened on the margins of the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, Geneva:

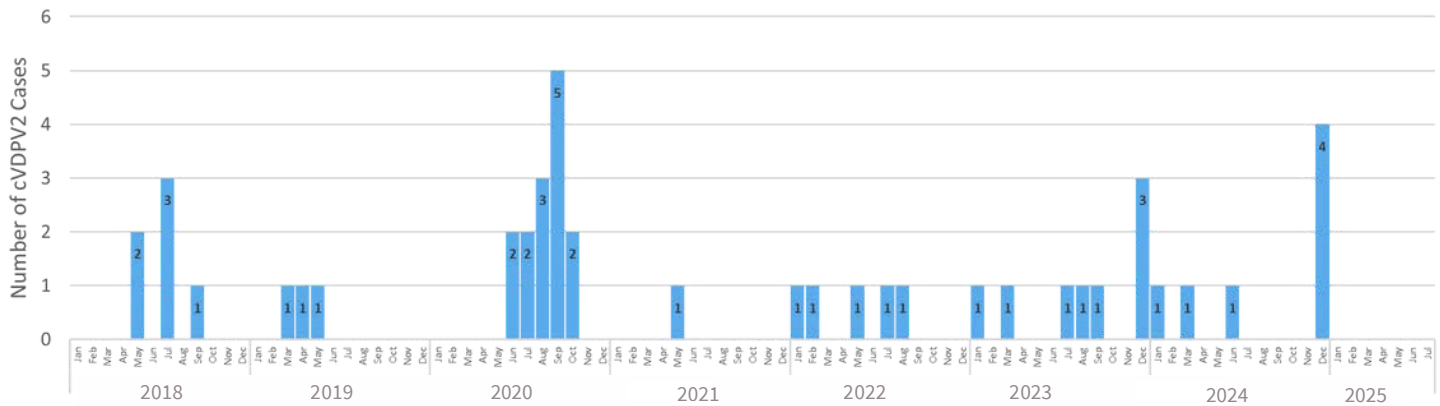
More than 250 global health leaders, including representatives of the GPEI, came together on 20 May 2025, to discuss how to protect progress, scale integrated surveillance, and finish the job against polio, measles, cholera, and other reemerging diseases.

High-level delegates from countries facing disease outbreaks, including Somalia, shared compelling examples of innovation and strengthening health systems, and committed to enhancing routine immunization, advancing equity and preventing outbreaks.

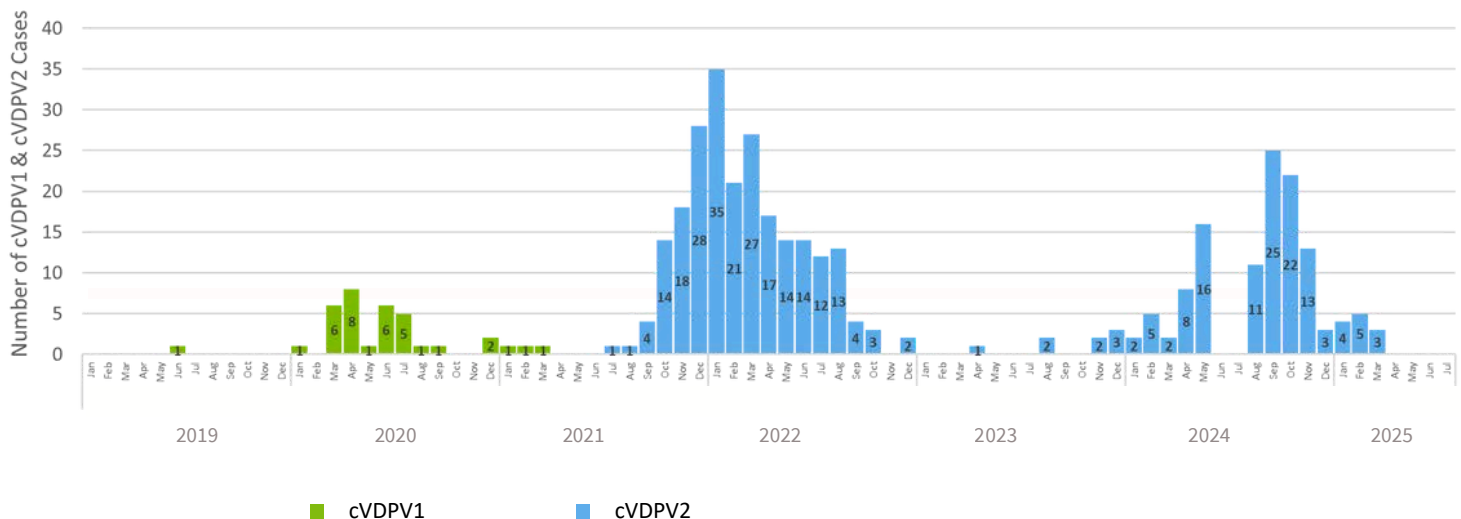
For additional information on the WHA, please visit: [A critical moment for global public health: Polio eradication at the 2025 World Health Assembly – GPEI](#)

OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

cVDPV2-Somalia (2018-2025)



(cVDPV1 & cVDPV2 - Yemen 2019-2025)



■ cVDPV1

■ cVDPV2

Send questions to:

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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](#)