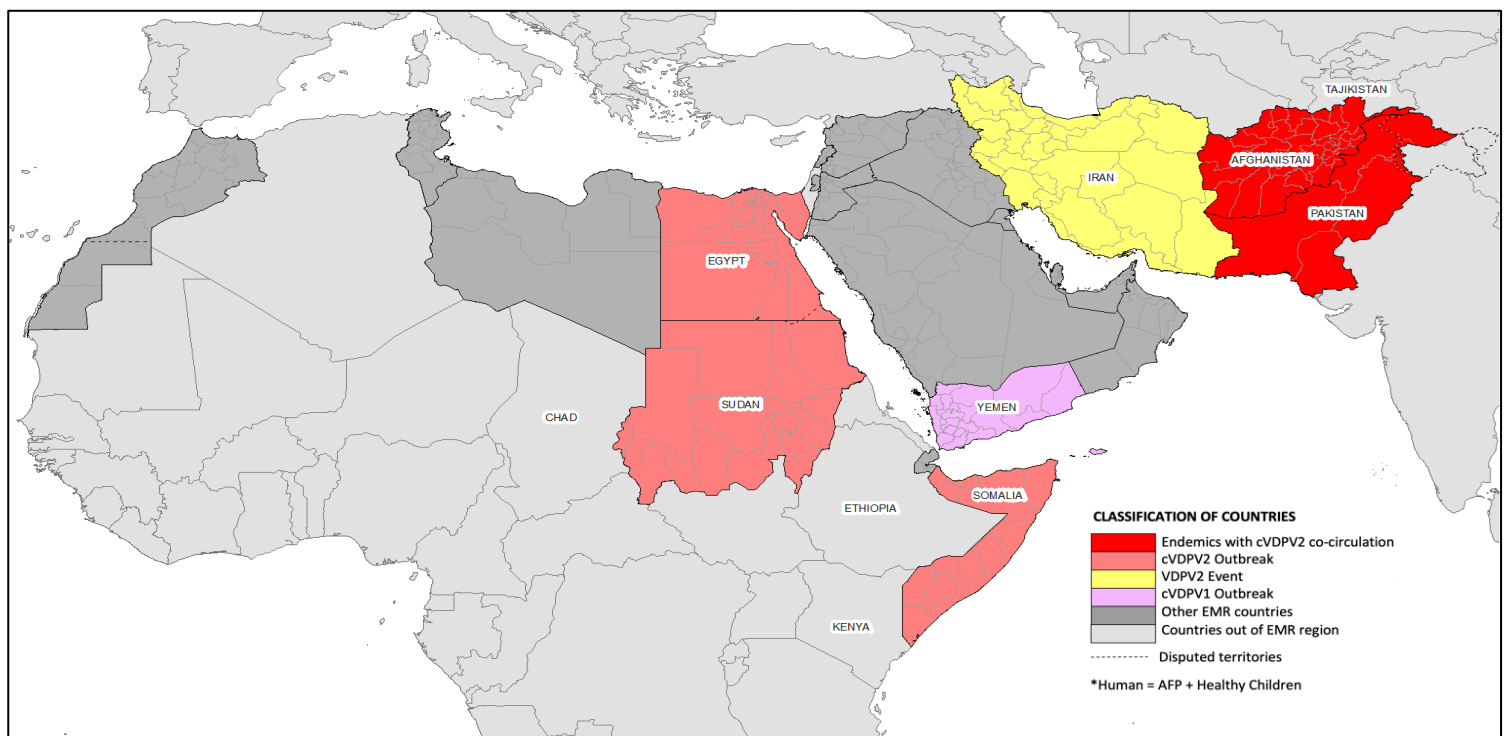




Situation update:

- UNICEF MENA and WHO EMR countries continue to respond to transmission of cVDPV2 in **Egypt**, **Iran** and **Sudan**, and an outbreak of cVDPV1 in **Yemen**.
- No cVDPV2 positive environmental samples reported in **Egypt** since the most recent detection in Alexandria on 25 February 2021. Nine positive samples have been reported to date in 2021.
- In **Iran**, no cVDPV2 positive environmental samples have been reported since the most recent detection on 20 February 2021.
- In **Sudan**, no new cases of cVDPV2 detected to date in 2021. A total of 58 cases were reported in 2020, with the most recent case having onset of paralysis on 18 December 2020.
- One new case of cVDPV1 has been confirmed in **Yemen**, bringing the total to 34 since the outbreak began in June 2019. The most recent case is a 53-month-old child from Sahar district in Sa’adah governorate with onset of paralysis on 15 February 2021.

Countries in WHO’s EM Region with WPV, cVDPV1 and cVDPV2 circulation 2021



Surveillance:

Sudan:

- As of week 20, a total of 202 AFP cases have been reported, of which 170 were discarded as non-polio and 32 are pending classification.
- Environmental surveillance is functioning well in Khartoum state. Of the five samples from April 2021, four were non-polio enteroviruses and one is an L20B isolate currently pending classification.
- Expansion of environmental surveillance to nine new sites in West Darfur, North Darfur, East Darfur, Gezira, West Nile and Red Sea states is ongoing. Training on environmental surveillance collection should start shortly and be followed by the initiation of sample collection.
- Data from internal AFP surveillance reviews conducted in four states (North Darfur, Central Darfur, West Kordofan and Northern states) is being analyzed by the country team.

Yemen:

- AFP surveillance activities continue without interruption throughout Yemen. AFP surveillance quality indicators have been maintained in 2020 and to date in 2021.
- Preparation for the roll-out of environmental surveillance in Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah and Sa'adah governorates, which aims to complement AFP surveillance, is ongoing. The regional team is sending a support mission in early June 2021 to help the country team finalize plans and conduct training.

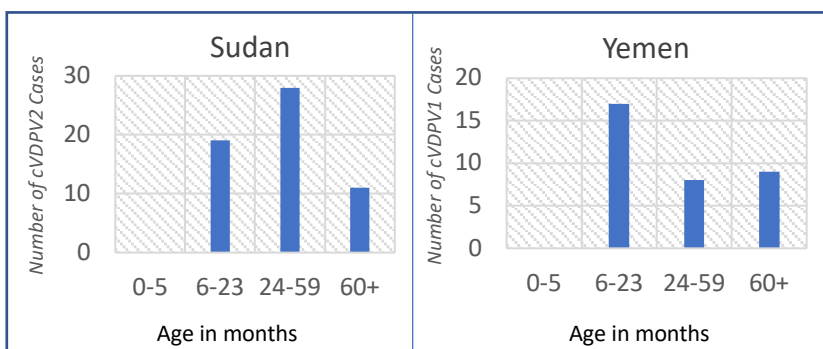
Egypt:

- Training workshops are planned for all surveillance officers, sanitation and EPI staff in three batches for 27 governorates with the aim of strengthening surveillance systems across the country.
- Another training workshop is planned for environmental surveillance staff in border governorates to assist in collecting ad-hoc samples in areas with population movement.

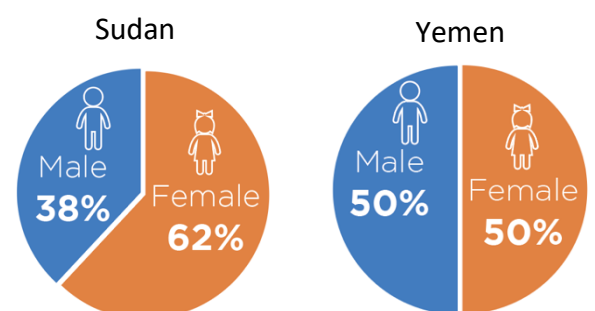
Iran:

- Iran continues to enhance surveillance measures by increasing the frequency of active surveillance visits and building the capacity of leaders of non-Iranian communities on AFP case reporting.
- Environmental surveillance, paused during the Nowruz holiday, has resumed at all sites and is currently functioning well.

Age distribution of confirmed cases (as of 31 May 2021)



Sex distribution of confirmed cases



Outbreak response update:

Sudan:

- Following the joint campaign for IPV and Yellow Fever vaccines implemented in Red Sea, Kassala and Gedarif states during April 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO and UNICEF, continues to prioritize vaccinating children among high-risk groups, including internally displaced persons and refugees.

Yemen:

- After being delayed several times, the second polio outbreak response campaign started on 29 May 2021 targeting around four million children under age five in all 14 northern governorates. Measles vaccination is also being offered in 27 districts in five governorates.
- WHO's monitoring and evaluation team and UNICEF-supported third-party monitors were involved in all campaign activities, including training, to ensure high quality implementation and proper allocation of campaign budget.



The second polio outbreak response campaign in Yemen targeted around four million children under age five in all northern governorates

Iran:

- Post-campaign monitoring data shows 97% coverage in both rounds (conducted in February and March 2021). Further analysis of the data is underway.
- To reach more children in migrant and refugee communities in Sistan and Balochistan province, the Government of Iran recruited vaccinators from these communities and trained community leaders to search for AFP cases among people moving between Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Egypt:

- Border areas and high-risk population groups were prioritized during the second national response round, conducted from 28-31 March 2021. A total of 16.6 million children under age five were reached with mOPV2.

Vaccine logistics:

Sudan:

- Following the last rounds, 1,903,480 mOPV2 doses are stored at national and state-level facilities pending further advice from the Outbreak Preparedness and Response Task Team (OPRTT). UNICEF is working to improve vaccine management and build health worker capacity across the country.

Risk communication and community engagement

Sudan:

- Polio and routine immunization messaging has been incorporated into ongoing COVID-19 social mobilization in the country.

Yemen:

- Social mobilization activities for the campaign's second round in northern governorates started on 23 May 2021 and included messages on polio vaccines and debunking rumours. Mass communication activities began two days later via television, radio, SMS messages, vehicles with megaphones and distribution of printed materials. Activities continued throughout the campaign.

Regional coordination:

- nOPV2:
 - Given the prevailing epidemiology in Africa and South Asia, and evidence of intra- and inter-regional international spread of cVDPV2, efforts are ongoing to initiate preparations for use in **Egypt** and **Iran**.
 - **Djibouti's** Ministry of Health has officially accepted the use of nOPV2 and is preparing readiness criteria. On 15 June 2021 the monthly call with the **Djibouti** country team (MoH, WHO, UNICEF and partners) and regional offices (WHO, UNICEF) will address the status of activities.
- Regional efforts continue to further integrate polio activities with essential health services, including through the introduction of integrated public health teams (IPHTs) in polio transition priority countries.
- The regional polio IMST (WHO/UNICEF) continues to convene coordination calls with the GPEI's OPRTT and with country counterparts from GPEI agencies and ministries of health.
- Weekly in-country coordination meetings between WHO and UNICEF continue to review the situation in **Yemen**. Regional meetings continue every two weeks.

Health and humanitarian situation:

- To date, over 10 million COVID-19 cases and 202,000 deaths have been reported from 22 countries across WHO's EMR since the first registered case on 29 January 2020.
- **Iran** saw a decline in COVID-19 cases and deaths in May 2021 following a devastating second wave.
- In **Sudan**, inflation continues to rise, driving up the prices of fuel and food. According to WFP, over half of IDPs and 45% of refugee families across **Sudan** are food insecure.
- In **Yemen**, the ongoing conflict and increase in COVID-19 cases continue to delay polio activities.

Funding resources:



- Strong domestic financial contributions have enabled outbreak responses across the Region: **Egypt** and **Iran** used domestic funding for operational cost of response activities, **Sudan** mobilized domestic resources to cover the funding gap in outbreak response and **Yemen**'s response relied partly on non-GPEI resources.
- **Yemen** has prepared the budget (\$1,164,993) required for July-December 2021. The initial submission to the OPRTT was completed.
- In **Sudan**, the Federal Ministry of Health is working with partner agencies to develop and submit the phase 3 budget required for the period July-December 2021.
- The current available outbreak response funds for **Egypt** are being utilized towards strengthening AFP surveillance and building the capacity of surveillance and public health sanitation staff in 27 governorates across the country.
- On 5 May 2021, the GPEI issued a statement regarding the United Kingdom's proposed funding cuts to the polio programme, expressing concern that the proposed 95% cut will result in an enormous setback to the eradication effort at a critical moment.

Global developments:



- The twenty-eighth meeting of the Emergency Committee under International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) was convened on 4 May 2021. The WHO Director-General accepted the committee's assessment and determined that the situation relating to poliovirus continues to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- The seventy-fourth session of the World Health Assembly commenced on 24 May 2021 with Member States committed to adopting the GPEI's new Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026. The strategy, which will be launched virtually on 10 June 2021, aims to urgently overcome the remaining hurdles to eradication and end all forms of poliovirus everywhere.

Other cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR

2020

cVDPV2 cases				Environmental surveillance			
	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia		Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia
	308	135	14		174	135	26
Most recent onset of paralysis	30 December 2020	24 December 2020	25 October 2020	Most recent collection	27 December 2020	28 December 2020	25 October 2020

2021

cVDPV2 cases			Environmental surveillance		
	Afghanistan	Pakistan		Afghanistan	Pakistan
	39	8		39	31
Most recent onset of paralysis	22 April 2021	23 April 2021	Most recent collection	25 April 2021	12 April 2021

Please direct comments and questions to:

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UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator: father@unicef.org

Regional Chief of Communications: jtouma@unicef.org

Relevant links:

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website
- Statement following the Twenty-Eighth IHR Emergency Committee for Polio
- Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026 (Executive summary)
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation