

Highlights



3.8 million

children under age five vaccinated in Yemen's northern governorates from 29 -31 May 2021



Three

states in Sudan (North Darfur, West Darfur and Red Sea) established environmental surveillance



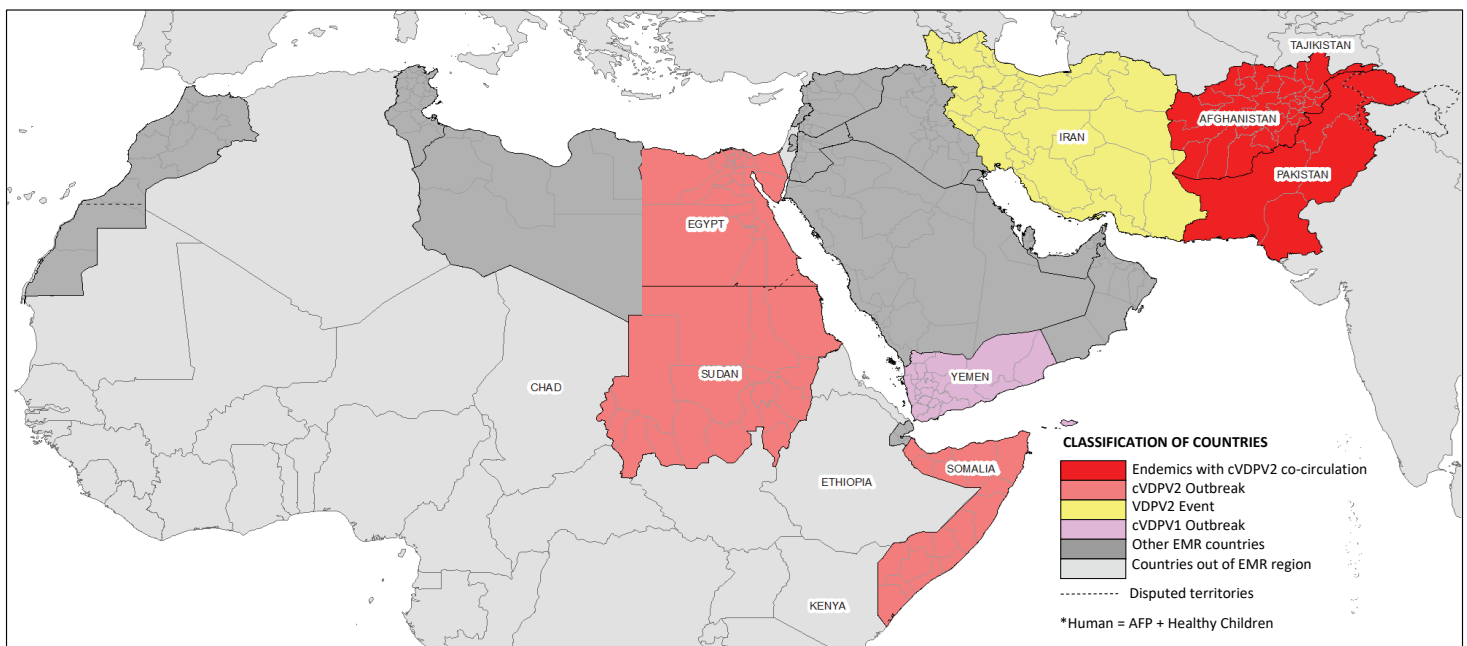
Seven

countries in the EMR-MENA regions actively involved in nOPV2 preparations (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Pakistan)

Situation Update

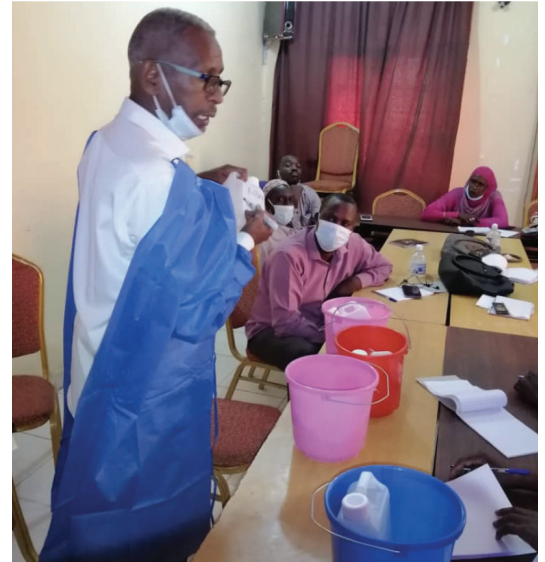
- Countries within the UNICEF MENA and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region continue to respond to detection of circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses.
- In **Egypt**, one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample has been detected in Qena governorate, bringing the total number of cVDPV2 positive environmental samples to 10. The sample was collected on 8 June 2021, representing breakthrough transmission following the completion of two mOPV2 NIDs earlier in 2021. The country is discussing options for a vaccination response, preferably with nOPV2.
- 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 have been 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 cVDPV1 case has been confirmed in **Yemen**, bringing the total cases to 35 since the outbreak began in June 2019. The most recent case, which is from Sa'adah governorate, had onset of paralysis on 25 March 2021.

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

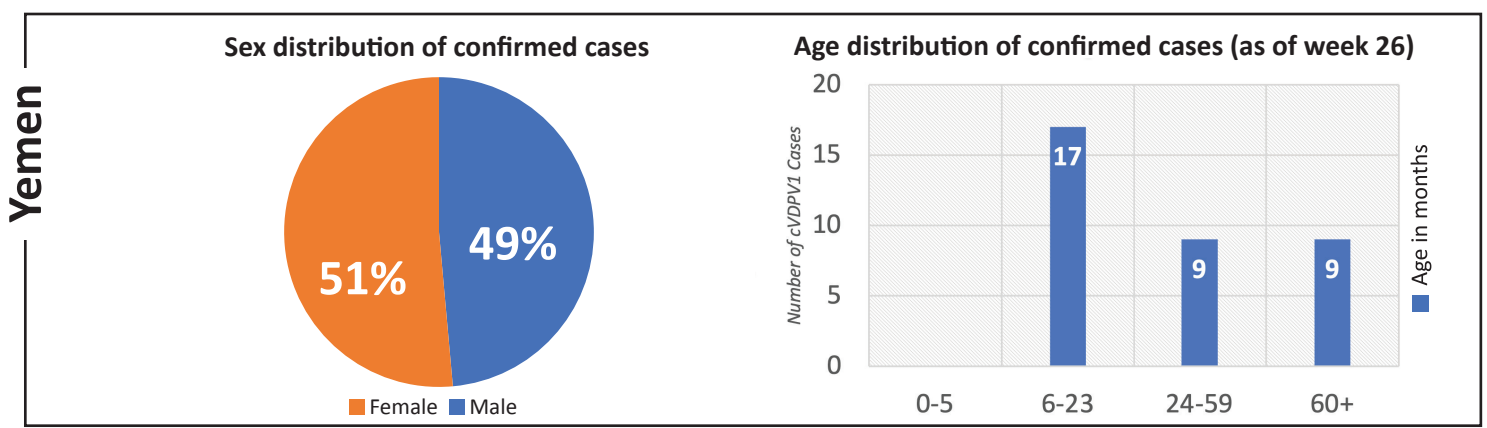
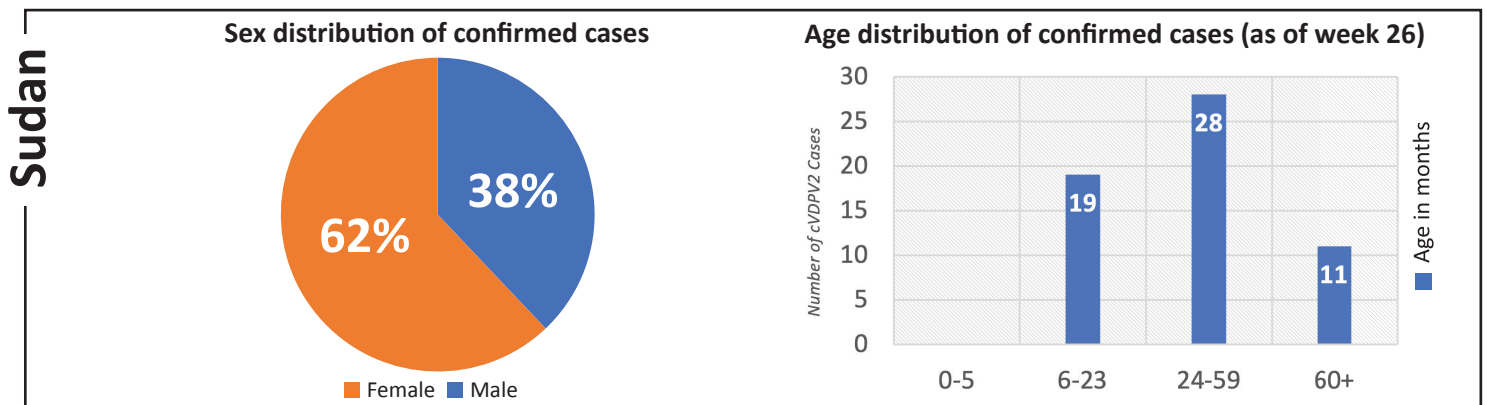




- A total of 585 AFP cases were reported up to week 25 in **Egypt**. The non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (NPAFP) rate is three, while the stool adequacy rate is 89%.
- Twenty-four environmental samples collected from 17 provinces in **Egypt**, between 28 April to 19 June 2021 have confirmed isolation of VDPV2. The samples are not linked genetically and there is no evidence of spread. Responding to these emergencies, WHO continues to work with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population to conduct field investigations and enhance environmental surveillance.
- A total of 303 AFP cases were reported up to week 25 in **Iran**. The NPAFP rate is 3.1, while the stool adequacy rate is 96%.
- In **Sudan**, a total of 270 AFP cases have been reported, of which 229 were discarded as non-polio AFP cases and 41 are pending classification.
- New environmental surveillance sites in North Darfur, West Darfur and the Red Sea states of **Sudan** have commenced collection on 3 July. The National polio Laboratory, with support from WHO, conducted training for state-level officers and district-level personnel, covering all aspects of collection and reverse cold chain. Three additional states will expand environmental surveillance in July and August 2021.
- A total of 73 stool samples from **Yemen**'s AFP cases were tested in the Regional Reference Laboratory in Muscat in June 2021 and all tested negative for poliovirus. More specimen samples with onset of paralysis between March-June 2021 are pending testing.
- Due to limited human resource capacities in the Muscat Laboratory, the programme is exploring alternative options to fast-track testing samples from **Yemen**. Coordination is ongoing with Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) labs and National Institute of Health (NIH) labs in Islamabad, Pakistan.



The National Polio Laboratory in Sudan conducts training on collection of environmental surveillance in North Darfur, West Darfur and Red Sea states





Sudan:

- Sudan is working towards completing the nOPV2 deployment readiness checklist to prepare to deploy nOPV2 in outbreak response.

Yemen:

- Around 3.8 million children under age five (93% coverage) were reached with bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) during the second outbreak response campaign. The campaign was conducted in 14 northern governorates from 29 -31 May 2021. In addition to bOPV, 3.07 million children aged between six months to five years received Vitamin A.
- In 19 northern districts that reported a high number of measles cases this year, measles and rubella vaccine were also administered during the campaign.
- In Sa'adah governorate, the epicenter of the VDPV1 outbreak, two weeks of integrated outreach activities commenced on 21 June 2021, with the aim of reaching 200,000 children under age five with polio vaccine and other primary health care services.
- The last two OPV vaccine shipments to arrive in Yemen in January and April 2021, totaled 6,669,400 doses and have been used to cover campaign and routine immunization requirements.
- UNICEF and WHO continue their partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and Population's Health Education Center (HEC) as the central government body to lead Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions; UNICEF supported in developing evidence-based communication plans and activities at the central level (mass media, social media, SMS and printed materials) and the field level (house to house visits, mosque sessions, vehicles with megaphones).



Around 3.8 million children under age five were reached with polio vaccine during the second outbreak response campaign in 14 northern governorates in Yemen from 29 -31 May 2021

Iran:

- Iran is working towards completing the nOPV2 deployment readiness checklist in order to prepare to deploy nOPV2 in outbreak response.
- Contingency planning around an expected population influx due to increasing insecurity in neighbouring Afghanistan is underway in Iran. The Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) is developing a risk mitigation plan that includes the establishment of refugee camps, strengthening polio surveillance and providing polio vaccination services. WHO is providing technical and financial support.

Egypt:

- On 17 June 2021, the Ministry of Health and Population requested the introduction of nOPV2 in a national campaign. The Government of Egypt, with support from WHO, is working towards completing the nOPV2 deployment readiness checklist.



- The second meeting of the Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication and Outbreaks convened on 1 July 2021, bringing together Member States from across the Region, Polio Oversight Board (POB) members and key GPEI stakeholders to focus on renewing regional solidarity and commitment to eradicating polio. Following the meeting the Minister of Health Egypt, Dr Hala Zayed and the Minister of Health from United Arab Emirates, Dr Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Owais authored an op-ed calling for regional solutions to the remaining challenges.
- A regional webinar on communication strategies for nOPV2 was held over 29-30 June 2021, aimed at enabling around 90 UNICEF and WHO country office colleagues and ministry of health counterparts to meet the three communications requirements for use of nOPV2 under EUL (strategies for each of advocacy, communications for development, and crisis communications).
- WHO EMRO and UNICEF MENARO are coordinating a joint risk assessment to implement two synchronized nOPV2 mop-up rounds in Djibouti, Sudan and Somalia in October and November 2021, which will be further synchronized with rounds planned for neighboring AFRO countries.
- Sudan and Yemen continues to participate in Horn of Africa coordination calls with the aim of strengthening AFP surveillance in border states and identifying population movements as early as possible in order to provide routine immunization services and ensure these population are covered during any response campaign.



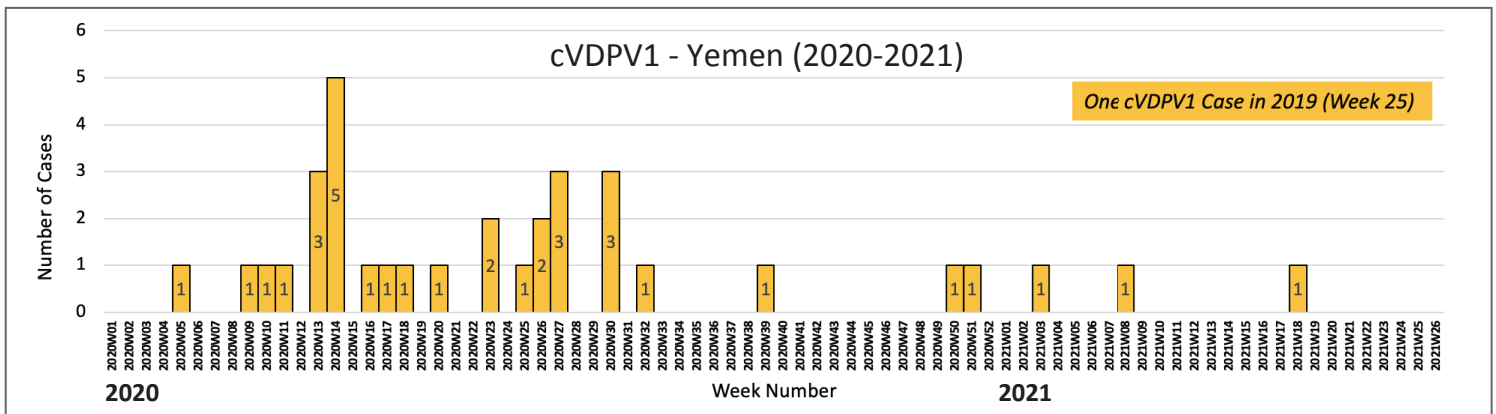
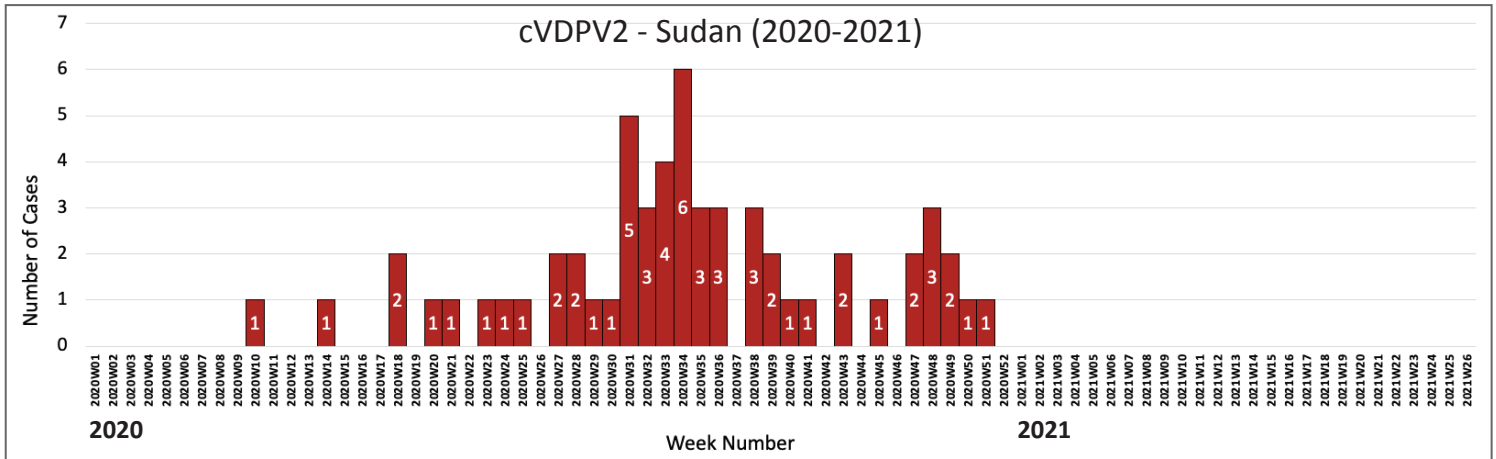
Health and humanitarian situation

- To date, more than 11 million COVID-19 cases and 220,000 deaths have been reported from 22 countries across WHO's EMR since the first registered case on 29 January 2020. In June, WHO EMRO launched the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan to reinforce collective readiness and response in the Region.
- Contingency planning is underway in Iran and Pakistan in an anticipated exodus following an increase in insecurity in Afghanistan. This is raising the risk of poliovirus transmission.
- Sudan has seen a sharp increase in the prices of fuel, food and other necessities, with fuel prices in particular having a significant impact on the population and leading to fuel shortages and hours-long queues outside service stations across the country.
- In Yemen, armed clashes continue in Marib governorate, triggering new population movement amongst people who have already been displaced, some of them several times over.



Global developments

- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)'s new Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 was launched on 10 June 2021. It offers a set of actions that will position the GPEI to deliver on a promise that brought the world together in a collective commitment to overcome the remaining hurdles, including setbacks caused by COVID-19, and eradicate polio.
- As part of the Polio Oversight Board's visit to Pakistan, WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director and UNICEF's South Asia Regional Director concluded on 10 June 2021 a joint week-long visit to urge greater solidarity and investment to reach every child with life-saving vaccines.
- The thirty-fifth meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Certification Commission for Poliomyelitis Eradication concluded on 3 June 2021. The commission focused on current challenges, including the recent international spread of cVDPV2 between countries inside and outside the Region, causing outbreaks in Egypt and Sudan as well as an event in Iran. A concern was also raised for Yemen, where cVDPV1 cases have been detected due to low population immunity.



Other cVDPV2 Outbreaks in the EMR

2020

Regional cVDPV2 outbreaks				Environmental surveillance			
	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia		Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia
	305	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	24 October 2020

2021

Regional cVDPV2 outbreaks			Environmental surveillance		
	Afghanistan	Pakistan		Afghanistan	Pakistan
	42	8		39	32
Most recent onset of paralysis	9 June 2021	23 April 2021	Most recent collection	25 April 2021	18 May 2021

Send questions to:

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Relevant links:

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website
- Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation
- Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication