



Situation Report

MENA EMR Regional cVDPV Outbreaks

Issue #17 | Week 40 (ending 10 October) 2021

Highlights



200

AFP samples were shipped from Yemen to the National Public Health Laboratory in Oman on 11 October 2021.



63

environmental samples collected from 25 governorates have confirmed separate emergences of VDPV2 in Egypt.



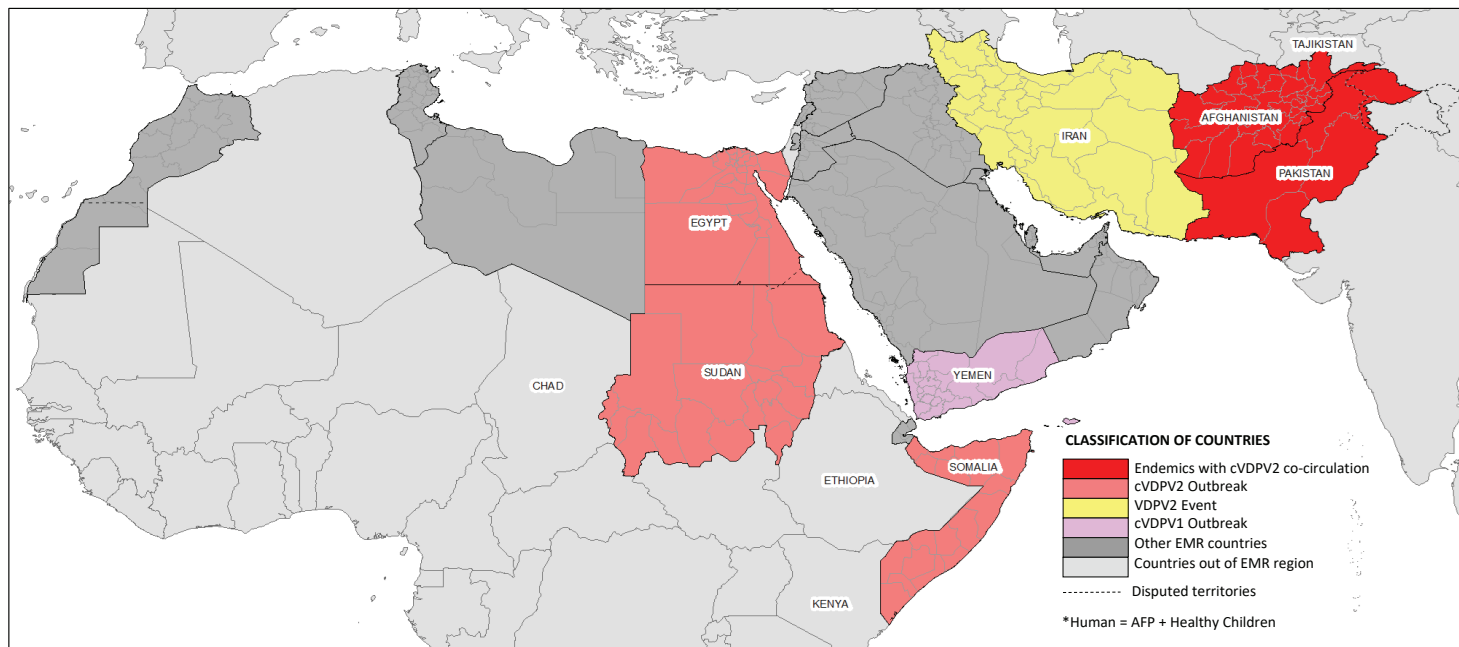
Eight

countries in the EMR-MENA regions are actively involved in nOPV2 preparations: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan.

Situation update

- The Regional Incident Management Support Team (IMST) continues to coordinate country-led efforts to respond to, prepare for, and close polio outbreaks and events in countries within the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa and WHO Eastern Mediterranean regions.
- On 12 October 2021, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recommended to move from initial to wider use of novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) to enable faster nOPV2 deployment and more rapid outbreak response. As of week 40, nOPV2 readiness requirements have been verified for **Afghanistan, Egypt and Somalia**.
- No cVDPV2 positive environmental samples have been detected in **Egypt** since the most recent detection on 8 June 2021. To date, 10 cVDPV2 samples have been isolated across six governorates.
- No cVDPV2 positive environmental samples have been reported in **Iran** since the most recent detection on 20 February 2021. To date, four cVDPV2 samples have been isolated, all from Sistan and Balochistan (S&B) province.
- No new cVDPV2 cases have been detected in **Sudan** since the most recent on 18 December 2020. Fifty-eight cases were reported in 2020.
- No new cases of cVDPV1 have been detected in **Yemen** since the most recent on 25 March 2021. Three cVDPV1 cases have been reported in 2021, all from Sa'adah governorate.

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



Egypt:

- A total of 63 environmental samples collected from 25 of the country's 27 governorates have confirmed separate emergences of VDPV2. South Sinai was the latest governorate to report new VDPV2 isolates on 10 October 2021. The new isolates are not genetically linked to each other or any previous VDPV2 isolates.
- A total of 943 AFP cases were reported up to week 40. The non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (NPAFP) rate is three, while the stool adequacy rate is 90.1%. This reflects a well-functioning AFP surveillance system, which is supplemented by an extensive environmental surveillance (ES) network.

Iran:

- Iran's nOPV2 readiness is progressing quickly. As of 12 October, 72% of the 25 documents have been submitted, and 64% have been verified: see the regional nOPV2 dashboard.
- A Sabin-like type 2 (SL2) poliovirus was detected in a sample collected on 21 July 2021 at the Chabahar ES site in Chabahar city. Per global guidelines, SL2 isolation more than four months post-OPV2 use (most recent campaign was 9 March 2021) must trigger a search for mOPV2 vials or population movement from countries using OPV2.
- A total of 492 AFP cases were reported up to week 40. The NPAFP rate is 3.1, while the stool adequacy rate is 96.1%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system. Five sites in S&B province continue to conduct ES.

Sudan:

- Following the expansion of the ES programme to 14 sites country-wide, a tracking mechanism has been initiated at the National Polio Lab to ensure close oversight on AFP surveillance. A total of eight samples were collected in September and are being processed.
- A total of 447 AFP cases were reported up to week 40. The NPAFP rate is 2.9 and stool adequacy rate is 94.4%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system.

Yemen:

- The regional polio programme continues to work with the Country Office to facilitate movement of AFP samples out of Yemen. Despite multiple shipment challenges, 150 AFP samples were sent to the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) lab on 20 September 2021 and 200 AFP samples were shipped to the National Public Health Laboratory in Oman on 11 October 2021.
- Three environmental sites are functioning in Sana'a, Aden, and Hudaydah governorates. Samples from Sana'a have been shipped to KEMRI, while samples from Aden and Hudaydah are pending shipment.
- A total of 592 AFP cases were reported up to week 40. The NPAFP rate is 4.9 and stool adequacy rate is 89.8%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system.



A total of 14 environmental surveillance sites are now operating in seven states in Sudan. Photo: WHO/Sudan



Outbreak response update

- From 16-21 September 2021, WHO supported the implementation of a workshop in **Egypt** targeting surveillance officers and field staff from nine governorates. Training focused on early detection of VDPV2, interpretation of new emergences with the aim of identifying immunity gaps, the introduction of nOPV2, and retroactive and proactive case search. The timing of the first nOPV2 campaign is pending the arrival of vaccine in country.
- In **Iran**, WHO is funding seven surveillance officers and three lab technicians, and is providing lab supplies, strengthening surveillance activities and workshops, and supporting preparedness for nOPV2 introduction; WHO and CDC are covering the cost of shipping polio samples out of Iran for testing.

Sudan:

- The first virtual outbreak response assessment is underway, with global experts reviewing more than 2,000 documents and conferencing with national and sub-national personnel from the government and partner agencies. The debriefing with the Federal Ministry of Health is scheduled for 18 October.
- WHO HQ is currently piloting the vaccine-preventable diseases budgeting template in Sudan. This template facilitates consolidation of future budget allocation and planning in line with the polio transition plan.

Yemen:

- The first of three rounds of polio and measles and rubella (MR) vaccination in Sa'adah governorate is tentatively planned for 28 October 2021. The site-to-site campaign aims to reach 206,482 children under age five with bOPV and 189,244 children aged six months to five years with MR vaccine.
- Separately, the third round of integrated outreach campaigns concluded in Sa'adah governorate on 4 October 2021, which included bOPV, measles, rubella and diphtheria vaccination, nutrition and WASH.
- A measles, polio and vitamin A campaign will commence on 23 October 2021 in 147 IDP camps in Marib governorate to vaccinate 41,885 children aged 0-59 months against polio and 103,768 children aged 6 months-15 years against measles.



Vaccine logistics

- **Sudan** has recalled remaining mOPV2 stocks from all states except Red Sea state and moved them to central storage. The current security situation in Red Sea state has thus far precluded recall.
- Both bOPV and MR vaccine are available in country for the 28 October 2021 campaign in Sa'adah governorate, **Yemen**.



Risk communication and community engagement

- At the request of **Egypt's** Ministry of Health and Population, IEC materials have been printed for upcoming NIDs, including 70,000 posters, 240,000 vaccination registry books, 100,000 vaccination team ID cards and 80 million door stickers. UNICEF has also finalized an agreement with the Egyptian Red Crescent to raise awareness of NIDs with non-Egyptians include refugees and asylum seekers.



Health and humanitarian situation

- To date, more than 16 million COVID-19 cases and 294,840 deaths have been reported from 22 countries across WHO's EMR since the first registered case on 29 January 2020. Iran's case count has been trending downward since early September 2021.
- Heavy fighting in Marib, Al-Jawf and Al-Baida in **Yemen** continues to drive population movement and impede the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food and medicines.



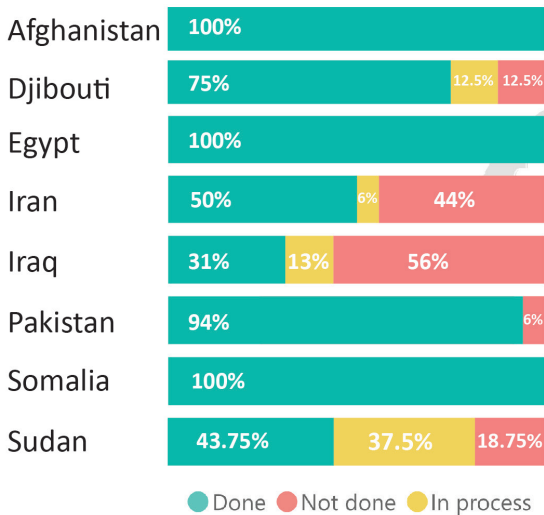
Global developments

- The Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks held its third meeting on 12 October 2021 as part of the 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean. Ministers of health, Member States' representatives, the Chair and some members of the Polio Oversight Board provided inputs on the progress made in 2021 and reaffirmed commitment to achieving polio eradication.



nOPV2 progress update - up to week 40, 2021

Update on country-level progress



Eight

countries are preparing for nOPV2 use.

74%

of all nOPV2 readiness requirements have been verified by the global verification team.

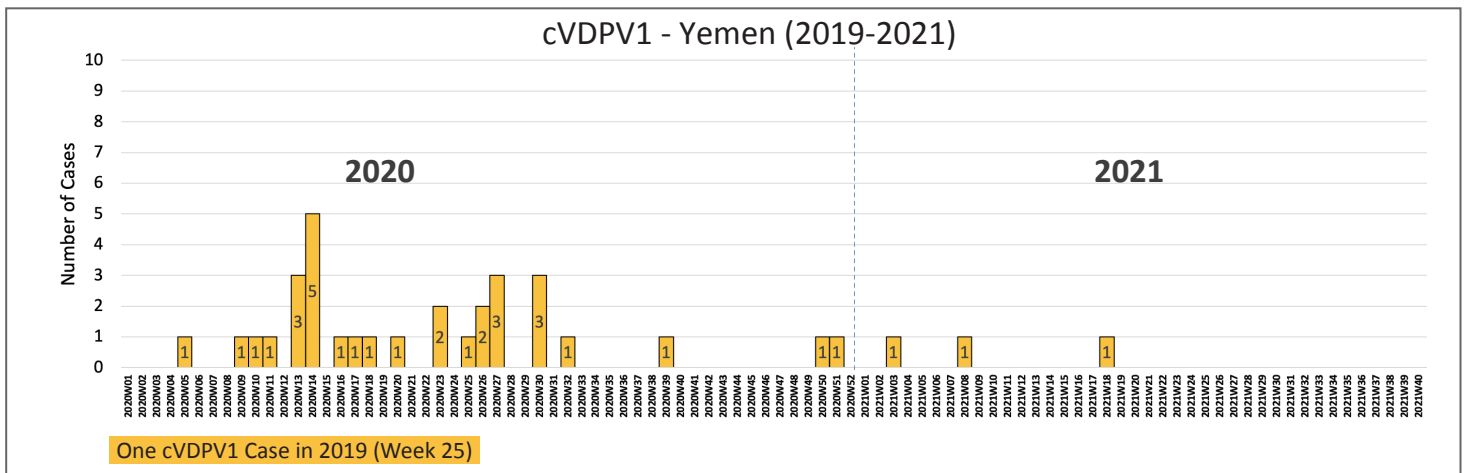
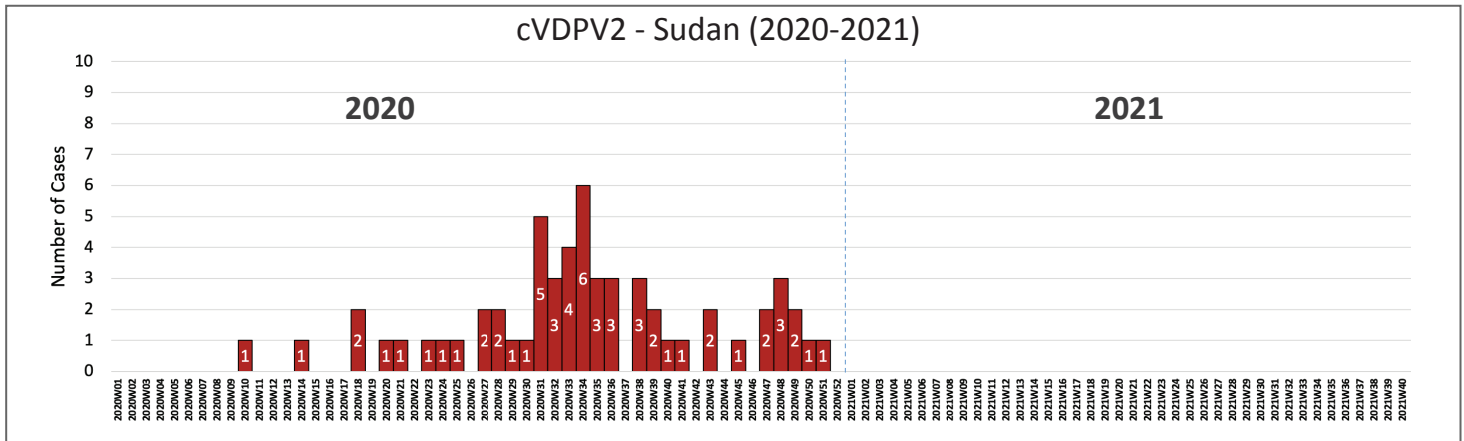
82%

of all nOPV2 readiness requirements have been submitted by countries.

Track progress towards use of nOPV2 on the regional nOPV2 dashboard.



Outbreak EPI curves



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
	43	8		40	35
Most recent onset of paralysis	9 July 2021	23 April 2021	Most recent collection	23 June 2021	11 August 2021

Send questions to:

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Relevant links:

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website
- Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026
- IMST outbreak dashboard
- Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation
- EMRO YouTube channel (polio eradication playlist)