No new case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) or type 3 (cVDPV3) has been reported this week. The total number of cases is four: one cVDPV2, two cases of cVDPV3 and one case with a co-infection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3.

The second additional monovalent type-2 (mOPV2) vaccination round is ongoing in 37 districts in Central and South Somalia, synchronized with border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia. In Somalia, the campaign aims to reach 700,000 children under five.

Daily coverage data collected by independent monitors deployed in each district is being analyzed against administrative data daily and feedback shared for corrective measures in real time.

There is one new poliovirus type-2 isolate pending for genomic sequencing with the lab from Boorancade village, Balanbale District, Galgadud.

Four environmental surveillance sites have been established in Banadir (Mogadishu) region. A total of 10 cVDPV2 positive samples and 7 cVDPV3 positive samples have been detected since sites were established in December, 2017.

WHO and UNICEF are working closely with the Government of Somalia to support the outbreak response in country and to coordinate on border areas involved in sub-regional outbreak response activities.
Immunization Response

cVDPV2

- Three large-scale immunization campaigns using monovalent oral polio vaccine (mOPV2) have been conducted in South and Central zones of Somalia since the initial detection of cVDPV2 isolates in December 2017.
- One additional mOPV2 campaign, synchronised with the border areas of Kenya and Ethiopia has been conducted, reaching more than 660,000 children under five. A second additional synchronized mOPV2 campaign is ongoing this week, aiming to reach 700,000 children under five.
- One round of IPV was conducted (alongside a targeted mOPV2 campaign) in Banadir, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle reaching more than 270,000 (90% of the total target) children aged between 2-23 months.

cVDPV3

- Two national immunization days (NIDs) rounds using bOPV have been conducted in Somaliland and South Zone and Central Zones (except Banadir, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions) in May 2018 and in Puntland in July 2018 reaching more than 1.3 million children under 5 years of age.
- A total of 479,348 children under five years (representing 99% of the target) received bOPV during a small-scale campaign in Banadir, Lower and Middle Shabelle regions.
- Planning continues for two immunization rounds using bOPV to be synchronized with Kenya and Somalia regions of Ethiopia, in September and October 2018 targeting all accessible districts of the country.

Communication for Development (C4D)

- An analysis of the seven poorest performing districts of Banadir region between May and July 2018 shows an improvement in OPV acceptance, namely through reduction in refusals and average increase of parents awareness.
- This can be attributed to several interventions: number of Community mobilisers and days worked both increased to allow for more house-to-house sensitisation; religious leaders engaged to support the campaign; and radio spots on national stations, especially those relaying BBC or VOA news increased.

Surveillance

- All regions but two are meeting both key indicators for AFP surveillance: 3* or more non-polio AFP (NPAFP) cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens. Banadir (2.9) and Lower Shabelle (2.8) are not meeting the NPAFP rate.
- Of the 23 zero-dose AFP cases reported in 2018, 12 have been reported from inaccessible districts, eight (8) from partially-accessible districts and two (2) from accessible districts (Warsheikh, Middle Shabelle region and Jaribanin, Mudug region).
- Efforts to enhance surveillance continue to focus on strengthening health facility-based surveillance, sensitization and orientation of health personnel, intensification of surveillance activities through active case searches in the community and health facilities and collection of stool samples from healthy children. In addition, further investigation is underway to identify potential areas of virus circulation.
- Environmental surveillance has been intensified to complement AFP surveillance. Four sampling sites established in Banadir (Mogadishu) are conducting weekly sampling.

Background

- Densely-populated Banadir region reported the highest number of cases (72 out of 199) in Somalia during the outbreak of wild poliovirus in the Horn of Africa in 2013-2014. The outbreak was stopped following a multi-country, multi-partner immunization response. Somalia has reported no cases of wild poliovirus since August 2014.
- Conflict and insecurity hindered access to children in central and south zones during polio immunization campaigns in 2017. Seventeen out of 115 districts remain inaccessible in Somalia. Approximately 240,000 children under five years of age have been reported as not accessible for more than a year.
Relevant Links

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website, updated weekly.
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses video
- Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video
- What is vaccine-derived polio?
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV

For more information:

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