Key highlights

- Seven (7) new cases of cVDPV2 have been confirmed this week —5 cases from Mayadeen and 1 from Boukamal districts, Deir Ez-Zor governorate, and 1 case from Thawra district (newly infected), Raqqa governorate. Isolates from some cases had been laboratory pending for some time. The most recent case, a child from Boukamal with no history of polio vaccination, had onset of paralysis on 5 August.

- The total number of cVDPV2 cases is 47.

- Poliovirus has been isolated from stool samples collected from a healthy child in Damascus, as part of screening in place for IPDs from Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa. The child, from Boukamal, Deir Ez-Zor, had samples collected on 19 August, the day of arrival. WHO and MoH will continue to take samples from healthy children in areas of Damascus with high numbers of IDPs, to ensure there is no wider circulation.

- Preparation for the second immunization round for Raqqa is ongoing. Newly accessible villages in Thawra district have been included in campaign plans.

- A series of meetings between partners to review outbreak response activities to date and to identify priorities for the next two months took place in Beirut 29-30 September.

Immunization response

- The national response plan currently includes two immunization rounds each in

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**Summary**

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 7
Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 47
Outbreak grade: 3

**Infected governorates and districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of cVDPV2 cases to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deir Ez-Zor</td>
<td>Mayadeen</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deir Ez-Zor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boukamal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raqqa</td>
<td>Tell Abyad</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thawra</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homs</td>
<td>Tadmour</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Index case**

Location: Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate
Onset of paralysis: 3 March 2017, age: 22 months, vaccination status: 2 OPV doses/zero IPV

**Most recent cases (by date of onset)**

**Deir Ez-Zor governorate**
Location: Boukamal district
Onset of paralysis: 5 August 2017, age: 30 months, vaccination status: zero OPV/zero IPV

**Raqqa governorate**
Location: Thawra district
Onset of paralysis: 16 June, age: 155 months, vaccination status: 6 OPV/2 IPV

**Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases**
Median age: 16 months, gender ratio male-female: 5:8, vaccination status:
- IPV: 9 cases (19%) received IPV
- OPV: 34% zero dose, 45% have received 1-2 doses

**Distribution of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV2), Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gov.</th>
<th>Deir Ez-Zor</th>
<th>Raqqa</th>
<th>Homs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mth.</td>
<td>NPAFP cVDPV2</td>
<td>NPAFP cVDPV2</td>
<td>NPAFP cVDPV2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of 3 October 2017
Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate. The first and second rounds for Deir Ez-Zor have been completed (22-26 July, 22-28 August), as well as the first round for Raqqa (12-17 August).

Raqqa

- Preparation for the second immunization round for Raqqa is ongoing. Newly accessible villages in Thawra district have been included in campaign plans.
- Due to high levels of population movement, WHO has developed a contingency plan to cover an additional 30,000 children not included in campaign micro-plans. An additional 60 vaccination teams are on standby for contingency activities.
- Aqua Tabs will be offered to families together with vaccination.
- Cold chain has been enhanced in Tell Abyad with the installation of two deep freezers and supply of 50 additional vaccine carriers.
- Community leaders in Raqqa have been engaged in all districts to assist in the monitoring of vaccination activities and to help facilitate access of vaccination teams.

Deir Ez-Zor

- IPV vaccination for children missed in the second Deir Ez-Zor round continues through local health centers. IPV is also being administered to IDP children from Deir Ez-Zor in all governorates.

Other governorates

- IPV campaign activities aiming to reach children aged between 2-23 months in accessible areas of Aleppo and Idlib governorates have started.

Regional response

- IPV vaccination continues at border points and at UNHCR registration points for unvaccinated children crossing from Syria into Lebanon. Plans are being finalized to administer IPV to children in informal settlements and in high risk sub-districts of Lebanon.
- IPV is being provided to travellers without proof of vaccination moving between Turkey and Syria via Bab el Salam and Bab el Hawa border crossings.
- The bOPV-IPV campaign in Anbar governorate, Iraq, has concluded.

Coordination and surge support

- A series of meetings between outbreak response partners took place in Beirut 29-30 September. Objectives were to review and discuss progress to date and implementation of the response in terms of vaccination, surveillance, communications, coordination and EPI activities; challenges and actions taken; and the risk reduction strategy. Partners also documented lessons learned, agreed on priorities for the next two months, strategized activities and identified additional resource requirements.
- WHO and UNICEF have deployed additional human resources (surge support) to both hubs since the start of the outbreak. WHO-UNICEF joint EOCs in both Damascus and Gaziantep hubs in collaboration with partners continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response. Since the start of the outbreak, Regional Offices of both organizations have held weekly calls with hubs to ensure coordination at all levels.
Communications for Development (C4D) and social mobilization activities

- Local bakery and megaphone announcements continue, to sensitize communities ahead of the second Raqqa round.

Surveillance summary

- Poliovirus has been isolated from stool samples collected from a healthy child in Damascus, as part of screening in place for IPDs from Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa. The child, from Boukamal, Deir Ez-Zor, had samples collected on 19 August, the day of arrival. WHO and MoH will continue to take samples from healthy children in areas of Damascus with high numbers of IDPs, to ensure there is no wider circulation.

Although detection of cVDPV2 in children recently leaving the outbreak affected areas is not unexpected, mitigation measures are in place to prevent further spread of the virus. Routine IPV coverage in Damascus is high, at 82%. Two doses of IPV are given to children in Syria as part of the routine immunization schedule. MoH has recently conducted IPV catch-up campaigns in high risk areas to boost immunity levels of vulnerable children.

- Of the infected governorates, Raqqa and Homs are currently meeting global standards for AFP surveillance. Deir Ez-Zor governorate meets the primary indicator for surveillance sensitivity, however, has an adequate specimen rate of 76%, which is below the minimum accepted standard for this indicator (80%).

- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 138 (104 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 24 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 16 AFP cases (5 from Raqqa, 10 from Tell Abyad, and 1 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 34 AFP cases (17 from Homs city, 14 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 2 from Talkalakh districts).

Left and above: Micro-planning for Raqqa Round 2.
Photos: WHO Syria
EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 3 October 2017)

Syria
- Raqqa Round 1 mOPV2
- DZ Round 1 mOPV2
- DZ Round 2 mOPV2 & IPV

Deir Ez-Zor
- DZ Round 1 mOPV2
- DZ Round 2 mOPV2 & IPV

Raqqa
- Raqqa Round 1 mOPV2

Homs
Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 3 October 2017)

Relevant links

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

For more information:

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Data as of 3 October 2017