

Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 28

3 January 2018

cVDPV2 cases in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, Syria, 2017-18



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: Syrian Arab Republic, Administrative map, DFS, United Nations 2012

Key highlights

- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 74.
- The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate.
- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners continue to support the Syrian Ministry of Health as the planning process moves forward for the second phase of the outbreak response.
- The second phase of the outbreak response will utilize mOPV2 and IPV in two additional immunization rounds through house-to-house and fixed center vaccination strategy.

Immunization response

- More than 350,000 resident, refugee and internally displaced children have been reached with mOPV2 through two mass vaccination rounds in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates since the start of the outbreak.
- In addition, World Health Organization and UNICEF have coordinated with the Government of Syria and local authorities to reach children aged 2-23 months with IPV in infected and high risk areas of Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa, Aleppo, Idleb, Hama and Homs governorates and areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hasakah.

Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 74
 Outbreak grade: 3

Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	58
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
Raqqa	Boukamal	12
	Tell Abyad	1
Homs	Thawra	1
	Tadmour	1

Index case

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

Most recent case (by date of onset)

Location: Boukamal, Deir Ez-Zor governorate
 Onset of paralysis: 21 September 2017, age: 5 months, vaccination status: zero OPV/zero IPV

Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 15 months
 Gender: approximately two thirds of cases are female
 Vaccination status of the cases:
 - IPV: 11 cases (15%) received IPV
 - OPV: 41% zero dose, 42% 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

Gov.	Deir Ez-Zor		Raqqa		Homs	
	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2
Jan	2		2		2	
Feb	11		3		4	
Mar	5	2	1		2	
Apr	7	5	1	1	4	
May	13	16	2		3	
Jun	8	12	4	1	3	
Jul	8	9	2		8	1
Aug	12	22			6	
Sep	2	5	3		3	
Oct	2		4		8	
Nov	10		1		3	
Dec	4		1		1	
Total	84	71	24	2	47	1

- Senior Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) staff are working together with outbreak response teams to prepare for upcoming phase two vaccination activities. Teams are revising and updating microplans to ensure population movements are accounted for and newly accessible areas are included. There has also been mapping of roads for transporting vaccines and centers for vaccine distribution.
- Communication for Development (C4D) and social mobilization plans for the second phase of outbreak response are being finalized.
- Processing of the shipment of 815,000 doses of mOPV2 for the second phase of the response is underway.
- Routine immunization services are being re-established in Idleb, Aleppo, Hama and Raqqa governorates.
- UNICEF-supported cold chain inventory is completed for Aleppo, Idleb and Hama and is in process for Homs. As per the available information, a total of 159 health facilities were visited and 733 pieces of equipment were assessed.

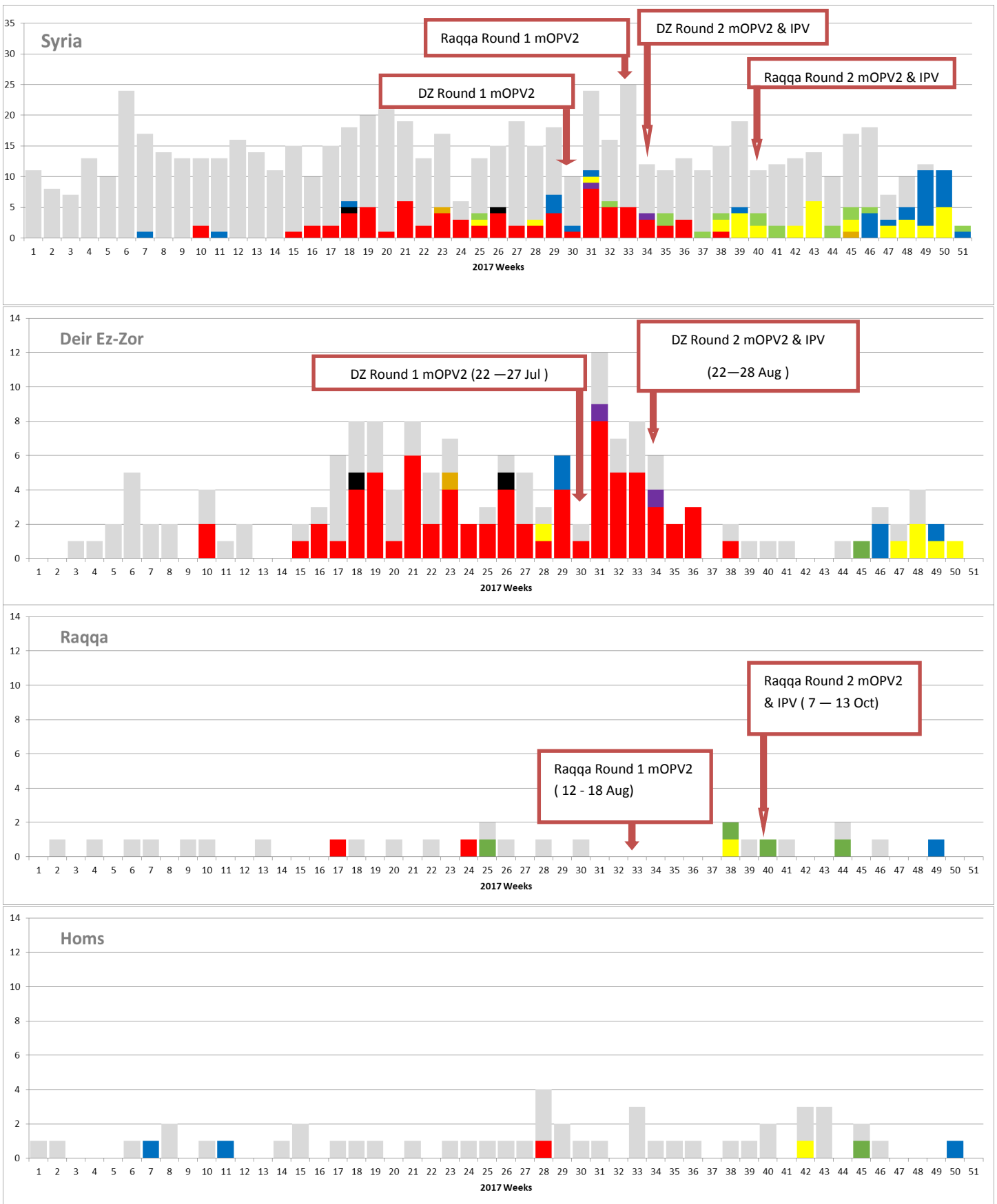
Coordination and surge support

- WHO and UNICEF continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response through the joint Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in both hubs (Gaziantep and Damascus).

Surveillance summary

- In 2017, Syria and all governorates but four are meeting both key indicators for AFP surveillance: 3* or more non-polio AFP cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens. Deir Ez-Zor (76%), Raqqa (71%), Rural Damascus (76%) and Swieda (63%) are missing the 80% target for stool adequacy. (*NB: In an outbreak setting, the target is 3 or more non-polio AFP cases per 100,000 children below 15 years).
- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 155 (108 from Mayadeen, 20 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 27 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 26 AFP cases (11 from Raqqa, 13 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 48 AFP cases (23 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour, 1 from Moukahram and 3 from Talkalakh districts).
- There are two poliovirus type-2 isolates pending for genomic sequencing – one each from Deir Ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates.
- Activities to strengthen AFP surveillance are ongoing. Contact sampling from all AFP cases continues and stool samples are being taken from healthy children arriving from known infected areas as well as from silent districts (districts that have not reported AFP cases in 2017). In addition, physicians operating in camps in Raqqa and Hasakah governorates are being sensitized on reporting of AFP cases.
- Following the establishment of the environmental surveillance laboratory in Damascus, initial environmental samples are being tested. The planning process continues for the expansion of environmental surveillance in Syria.

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 2 January 2018)



■ cVDPV2
 ■ Compatible
 ■ SL2
 ■ PV2 pending sequencing
 ■ Pending lab results
 ■ En route to lab
 ■ Pending classification
 ■ Discarded

Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 2 January 2018)



■ 3+ doses
■ 1-2 doses
■ Zero dose

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:

WHO

Dr Zubair Wadood — Syria Polio Outbreak Response
 World Health Organization, EMRO
 E: wadoodm@who.int | T: +962 7 9503 8835

Emma Sykes — Communications Officer, Polio
 World Health Organization, EMRO
 E: sykes@who.int | T: +962 7 90216115

UNICEF

Dr Fazal Ather—Regional Polio Coordinator
 UNICEF MENA
 E: father@unicef.org | T: +962 7 9810 0579

Juliette Touma—Chief of Communications
 UNICEF MENA
 E: jtouma@unicef.org | T: +962 7 98674628