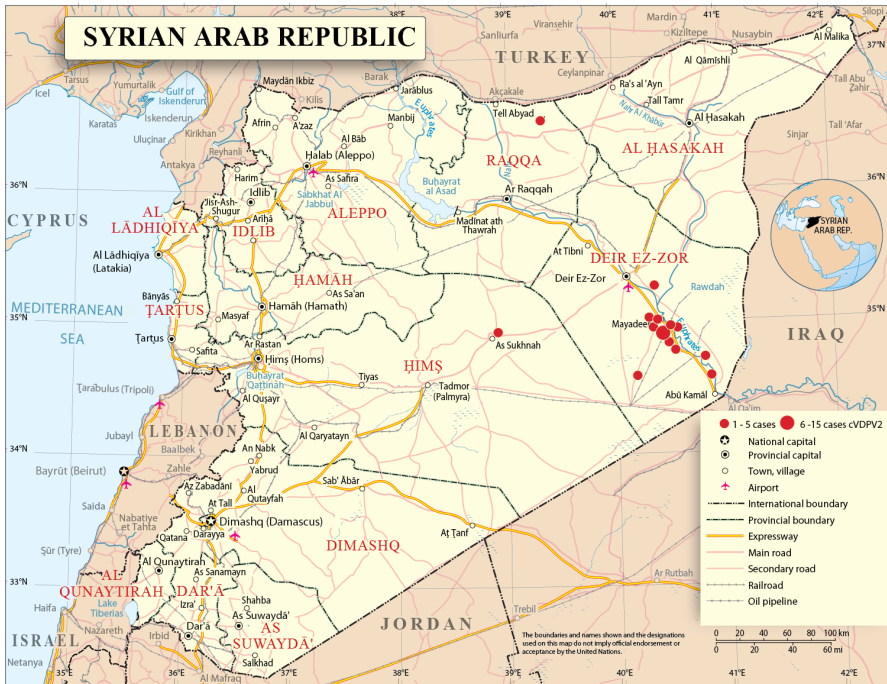


# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 11

29 August 2017

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



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

- Six (6) new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week: 4 cases are from Mayadeen district and 2 are from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate.
- The total number of cVDPV2 cases is 39. All confirmed cases to date have had onset of paralysis before 14 July 2017.
- Final lab results are pending for an additional 5 poliovirus type-2 (PV2) isolates (3 from Mayadeen and 1 from Boukamal districts, Deir Ez-Zor governorate, and 1 from Thawra district, Raqqa governorate).
- The second immunization round for Deir Ez-Zor started on 22 August and is ongoing due to high levels of population movement in and out of the governorate during the round.
- WHO has organized the redistribution of vaccines and mapping of population movements to increase reach. An additional 90,000 mOPV2 doses are being transported from Damascus to Deir Ez-Zor, to cater for population influxes from As-Sukhnah, Homs governorate, and Al-Qa'im in Iraq. Corrective measures are expected to extend the round by 2 days.
- Preparations for the second immunization round for Raqqa are underway.
- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 122 (91 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 21 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 28 AFP cases (12 from Homs city, 13 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 2 from

## Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 6  
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 39  
 Outbreak grade: 3

## Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	33
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
	Boukamal	3
Raqqa	Tell Abyad	1
Homs	Tadmour	1

## 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 case

Location: Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate

Onset of paralysis: 13 July 2017, age: 4 months, vaccination status: zero OPV/zero IPV

## Immunization response

Two rounds each planned for Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. First rounds completed (Deir Ez-Zor 22-26 July, Raqqa 12-17 August). Second round in Deir Ez-Zor is ongoing.

## Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 16 months, gender ratio male-female: 5:9, vaccination status:

- IPV: 8 cases (21%) received IPV
- OPV: 28% zero dose, 49% 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	11	4		3	
Jul	14	3	2		7	1
Aug	25				2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>

Talkalakh districts).

## Immunization response

- The national response plan currently includes two immunization rounds each in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate.
- Active searches for additional cases in Tadmour have been conducted; there is no evidence of further poliovirus transmission.

### *Deir Ez-Zor—second round*

- The second immunization round for Deir Ez-Zor governorate started on 22 August and is ongoing. mOPV2 is being provided for children between 0-59 months of age, and IPV for children 2-23 months. In addition to polio vaccines, Aqua Tabs are being provided to families for water purification. 2.5 tonnes of water purification tablets for 400,000 people have been disseminated at health centers.
- Mobile vaccination teams are informing caregivers of nearest health center locations to take their children to receive IPV. Teams are also providing routine vaccination cards for families.
- There has been a need for flexibility in campaign strategy, due to high levels of population movement in and out of Deir Ez-Zor during the round. Quick and unpredictable movements have caused vaccine management challenges. In spite of detailed micro-plans being developed using first round data, some villages have been found vacant and newly established tents and settlements have been discovered.
- WHO has organized the urgent redistribution of vaccines and mapping of population movements to increase reach. An additional 90,000 mOPV2 doses are being transported from Damascus to Deir Ez-Zor, to cater for population influxes from As-Sukhnah, Homs governorate, and Al-Qa'im in Iraq. Corrective measures are expected to extend the round by 2 days.
- As done in the first round, cold chain teams have engaged the support of local ice cream factories for the freezing and re-freezing of ice packs for vaccinator cool boxes.
- Generator failure in Sour has led to vaccine vial monitor (VVM) changes in some vaccines, which have been discarded (27 mOPV2 vials). Discarded stock is being transferred to Boukamal cold room to be destroyed. Vaccines for Sour are now being transported daily by car from a vaccine distribution center in Boukamal.
- Vaccination teams have reported 2 AFP cases during the round from Tayana village, Mayadeen, and Salhieah village, Boukamal. Both cases are under investigation.

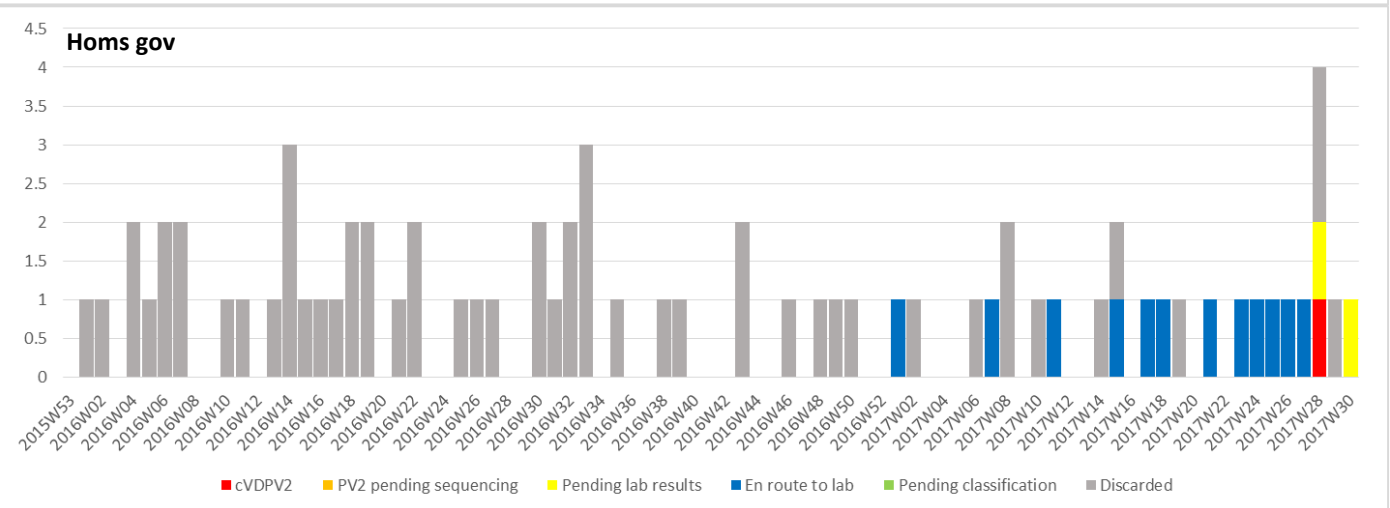
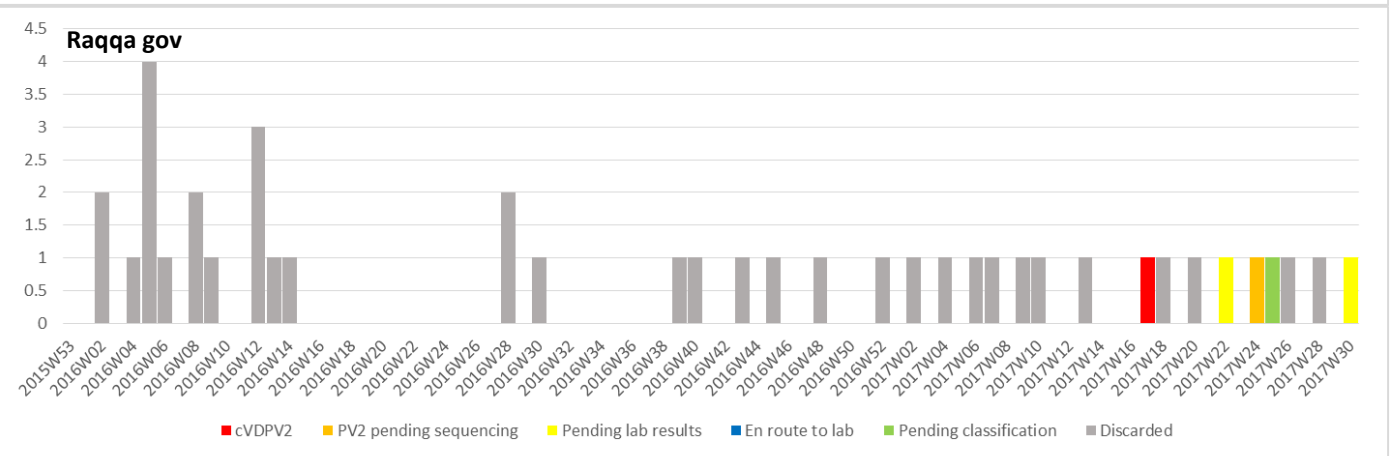
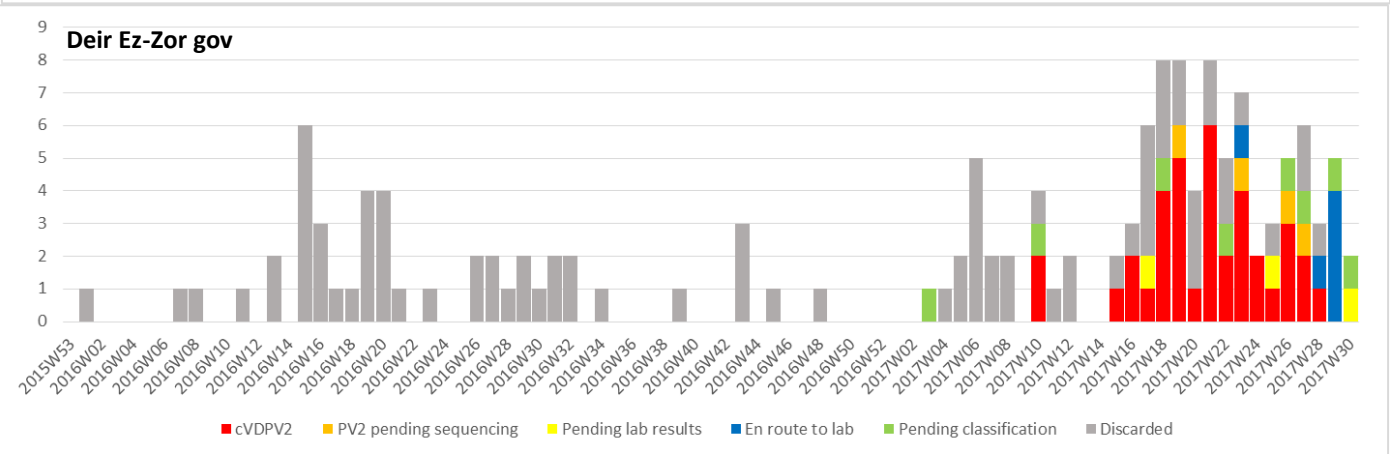
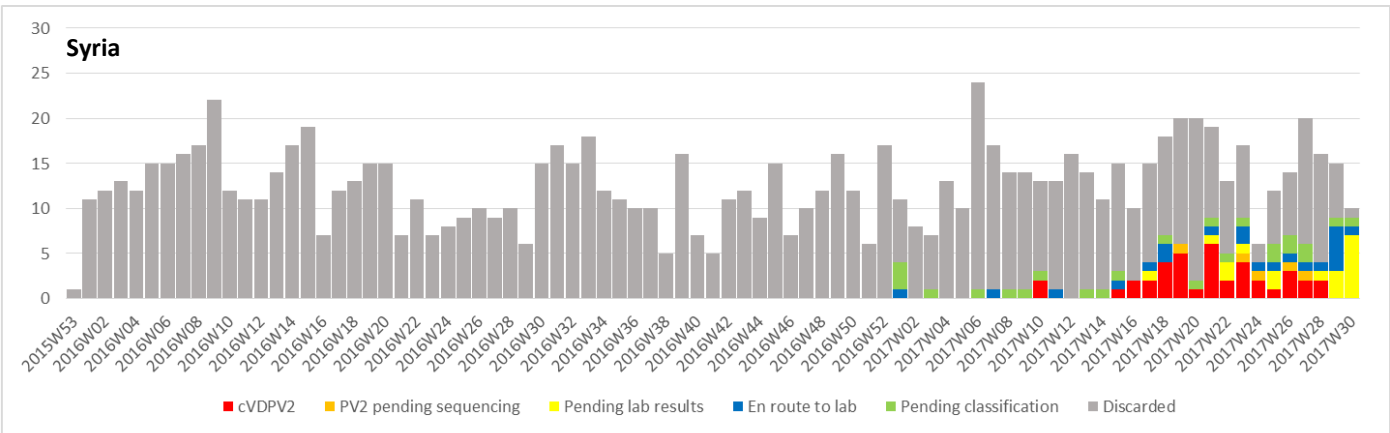
## Communications for Development (C4D) and social mobilization activities

- Communication activities started on 19 August in all operational areas. Mullahs have been engaged to announce campaign messages through mosques. Communication officers have intensified activities in areas where this has not been possible.
- A total of 189 health educators and 18 team leads are engaged in social mobilization activities. Pre-campaign orientation sessions on social mobilization were held at key locations across Deir Ez-Zor. Pre-campaign social mobilization activities were not possible due to security and logistical limitations and population movement.
- Health educators initiated an activity during Friday prayers where caregivers attending mosques were able to check vaccine cool boxes and discuss vaccine related matters.

## Coordination and surge support

- 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.

EPI Curve NPAFP and VDPV2 cases, 2015-2017 (up to 28 August 2017)



## Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 28 August 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:

### WHO

Thomas Moran — Syria Polio Outbreak Response  
World Health Organization

E: morant@who.int | T: +962 7 9088 1568

Joseph Swan—Communications Officer, Polio

World Health Organization, EMRO

E: swanj@who.int | T: +962 7 9048 4637

### UNICEF

Dr Fazal Ather—Regional Polio Coordinator  
UNICEF MENA

E: father@unicef.org | T: +962 7 9810 0579