

Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 16

3 October 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

- 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

Summary

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

Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	39
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
	Boukamal	4
Raqqa	Tell Abyad	1
	Thawra	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 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

Gov.	Deir Ez-Zor		Raqqa		Homs	
	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2
Jan	2		2		2	
Feb	11		3		4	
Mar	5	2	1	1	2	
Apr	7	5	1	1	4	
May	13	16	2		3	
Jun	8	12	3	1	3	
Jul	10	6	2		8	1
Aug	34	3			5	
Sep	4				2	
Total	94	44	14	2	33	1

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.

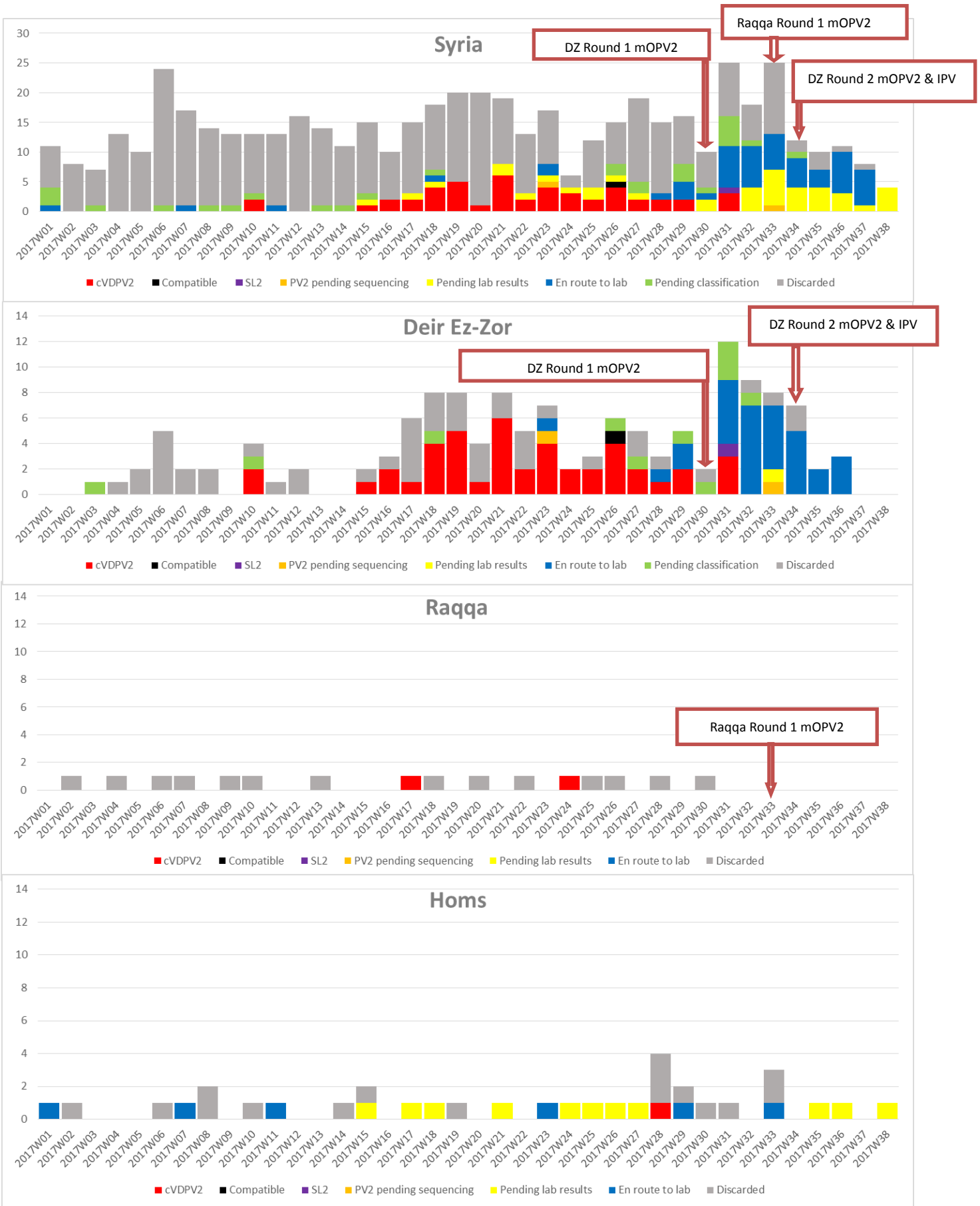
Although detection of cVDPV2 in children recently leaving the outbreak affected areas is not unexpected, mitigation measures are in place to prevent further spread of the virus. Routine IPV coverage in Damascus is high, at 82%. Two doses of IPV are given to children in Syria as part of the routine immunization 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)



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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