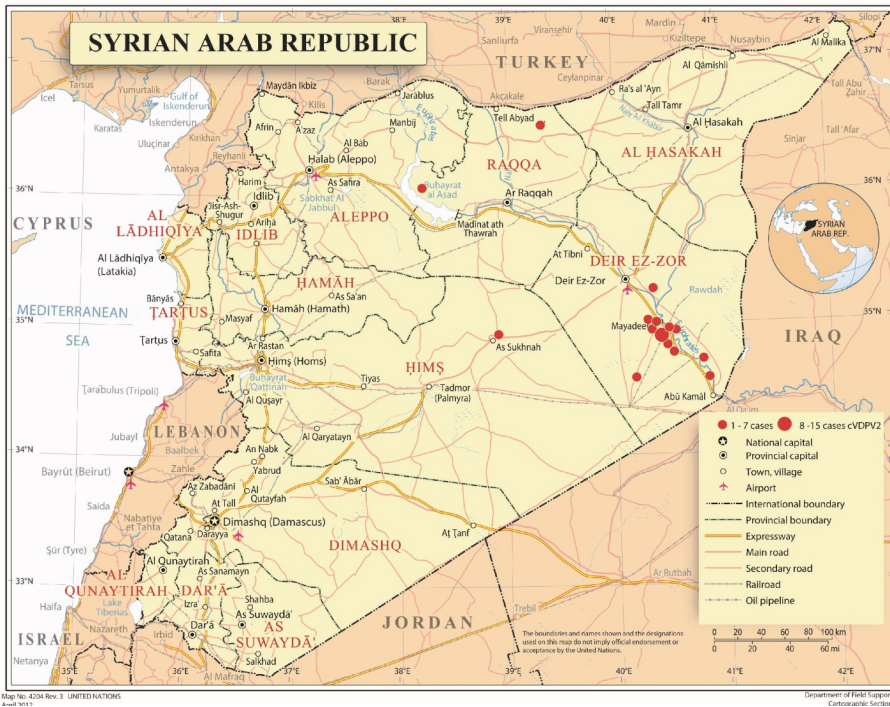


# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 19

24 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

- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 52. All confirmed cases to date have had onset of paralysis before 25 August 2017
- Two immunization rounds have now been completed in both Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates bringing the first phase of the outbreak response to a close. Post Campaign Monitoring results for the second Raqqa round are still being compiled into a final report. However, initial data reports 84% of children were reported as vaccinated through market surveys
- IPV campaign activities aiming to reach children aged between 2-23 months in 2 districts of Raqqa governorate (Raqqa and Thawra) have now concluded. Work is on ongoing to start this activity in Tell Abyad district as quickly as possible
- A review of the ongoing risks of continued polio transmission in Syria has been conducted and critical contingency planning is in development for any potential breakthrough cases in known outbreak zones or spread of virus to new areas of the country
- On World Polio Day (October 24) the polio programme thanks the dedicated vaccinators who work tirelessly to reach every child, the parents who demand the vaccine for their children and the donors who commit the funds necessary to finance eradication efforts

## Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0  
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 52  
 Outbreak grade: 3

## Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	42
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
Raqqa	Boukamal	6
	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 doses/zero IPV

## Most recent case (by date of onset)

Location: Mayadeen, Deir Ez-Zor governorate  
 Onset of paralysis: 25 August, age: 9 months, vaccination status: 1 OPV/zero IPV

## Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 16 months  
 Gender ratio male-female: 5:8  
 Vaccination status of the cases:  
 - IPV: 10 cases (19%) received IPV  
 - OPV: 33% zero dose, 46% 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

Mth	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	3	1	3	
Jul	10	6	2		8	1
Aug	29	8			6	
Sep	6		2		3	
Oct	1		2		2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>

## Immunization response

- Two immunization rounds have now been completed in both Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate. Vaccination teams from Hama governorate supported the second Raqqa campaign to reach new populations in West Rural Raqqa

### *Raqqa*

- Post campaign monitoring of the second immunization round for Raqqa was completed on 16 of October, 2017. These results are still being compiled into a final report. However, initial data reports 84% of children were reported as vaccinated through market surveys
- Post campaign monitoring was strengthened for this second round with community monitors mobilized to provide an additional set of data to assess the quality of the campaign
- IPV campaign activities aiming to reach children aged between 2-23 months in 2 districts, Raqqa and Thawra, have now concluded. Work is on ongoing to start this activity in Tell Abyad district as quickly as possible

### *Deir Ez-Zor*

- Active case search and stool collection from healthy children arriving from Deir-Ez-Zor is continuing

### *Other governorates*

- IPV campaign activities in Hama governorate are ongoing in high risk areas

## Regional response

- A two-day workshop was held at WHO offices Amman on the 15-16 October to review the ongoing risks of continued polio transmission in Syria and develop contingency plans for any potential breakthrough cases in known outbreak zones or spread of virus to new areas of the country. Draft plans developed outline the steps needed, if further polio transmission is detected, to ensure rapid and effective vaccination of Syrian children no matter where in the country they live. This was a key recommendation of a series of meetings to review the cVDPV2 outbreak response, held in Beirut on 30 September 2017
- Other recommendations include strengthening AFP surveillance and reporting network with a focus in known high risk areas; increasing AFP sensitisation activities for private/NGO sector in all IDP camps and screening points; continuing regular coordination between regional offices and hubs to ensure adequate coordination and tracking of response activities; development of joint supervisory plans for the effective monitoring of vaccine and logistics and implementation of communication activities; revision of micro-plans in all high-risk areas and revision of vaccine and cold chain status and ongoing requirement of cold chain equipment
- An independent post-campaign assessment of the bOPV-IPV campaign conducted between September 15-28 in 8 accessible districts of Anbar governorate, Iraq, showed an estimated coverage of 92%. Nearly 880 health workers vaccinated 223,963 children 0-59 months with bOPV and 94,401 children 0-23 months with IPV
- Additional IPV vaccination campaigns are planned for Hasakah governorate and four (4) areas in Damascus to boost the immunity among IDPs from Deir Ez-Zor who have been displaced. These campaigns are being planned for November 2017
- IPV vaccination activities continue at border points in Lebanon and Turkey. Lebanon is also continuing the use of targeted IPV vaccination for any child under five (5) entering Lebanon from Syria

## 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

## Surveillance summary

- In 2017, Syria and all governorates but three, 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. Raqqa (75%), Rural Damascus (71%) and Swida (67%) are missing the 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)
- In addition to ongoing contact sampling from all AFP cases, supplementary surveillance strategies are also being implemented to further strengthen surveillance sensitivity across the country. Stool samples are being taken from healthy children arriving from known infected areas as well as from silent districts – districts that have not reported an AFP cases in 2017. The collection of stool from healthy children has alerted the programme to intensify vaccination activities in Damascus following isolation of VDPV2 in a child arriving in Damascus from Deir Ez-Zor. Follow up samples from this child and other healthy child contacts have found no further evidence of local transmission in Damascus
- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 141 (106 from Mayadeen, 11 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 24 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 20 AFP cases (8 from Raqqa, 10 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 38 AFP cases (20 from Home city, 15 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 2 from Talkalakh districts)

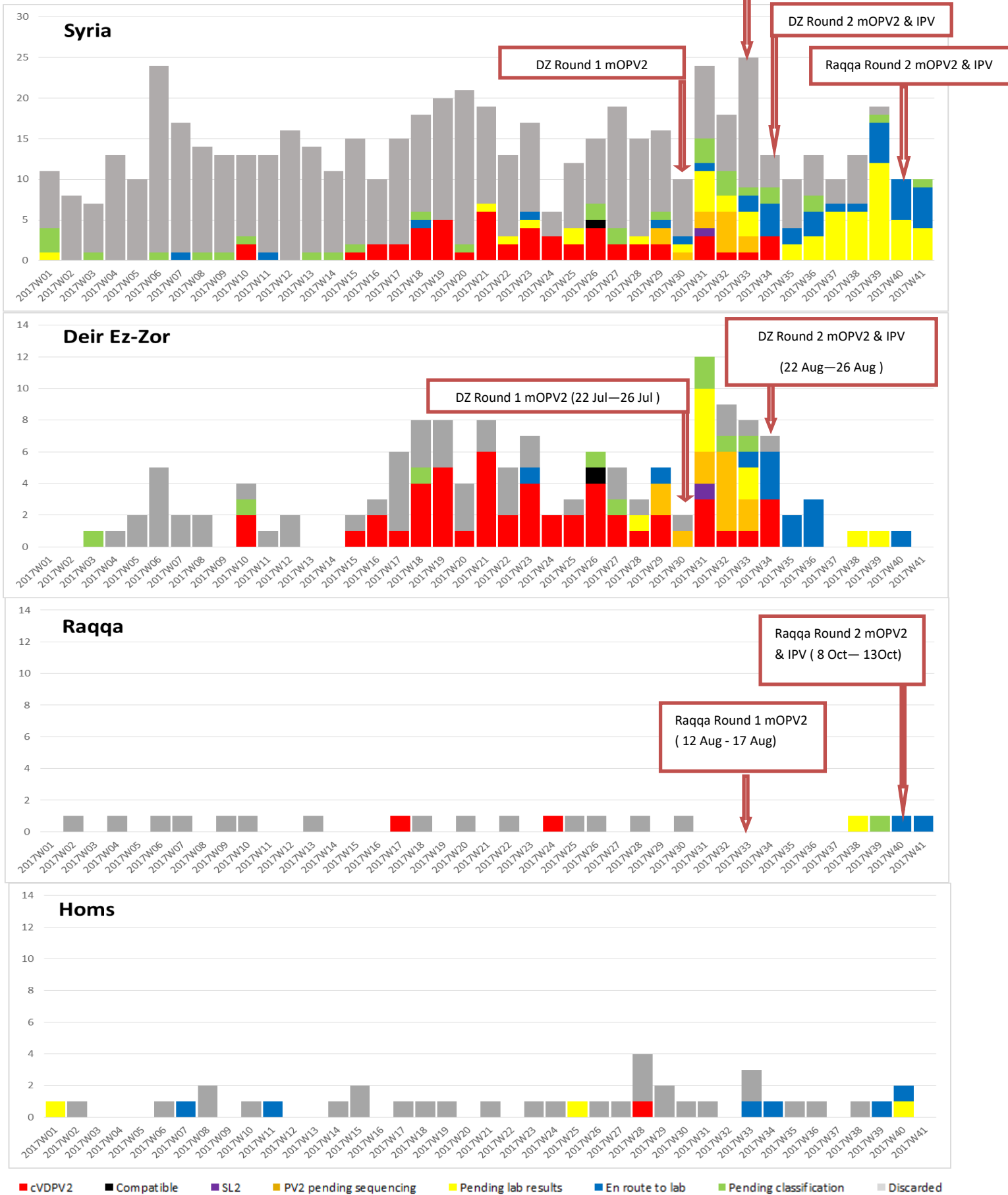


Four thousand children were vaccinated for the first time in Anbar province, Iraq (bordering Syria) in a bOPV-IPV campaign in September 2017. Photo: WHO Iraq



More than 90,000 children aged between 0-23 months received IPV in the September bOPV-IPV campaign, Anbar province, Iraq. Photo: WHO Iraq

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 24 October 2017)



## Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 24 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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