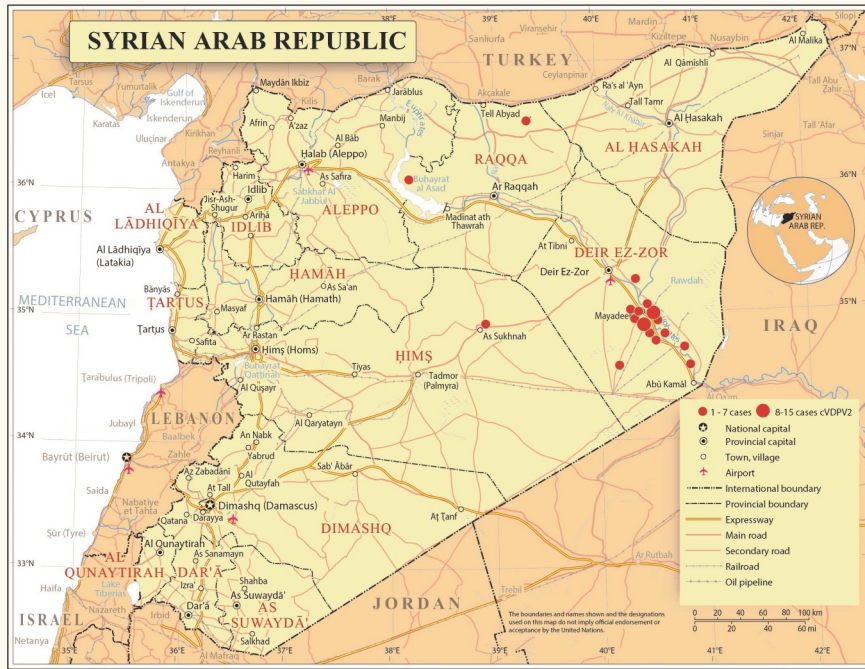


Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 24

28 November 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

Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 70
 Outbreak grade: 3

Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	55
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
Raqqa	Tell Abyad	11
	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 case (by date of onset)

Location: Mayadeen, Deir Ez-Zor governorate
 Onset of paralysis: 9 September 2017, age: 9 months, vaccination status: 2 OPV/zero IPV

Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 15 months
 Gender: two third of the cases are females
 Vaccination status of the cases:
 - IPV: 10 cases (14%) received IPV
 - OPV: 39% zero dose, 44% 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	3	1	3	
Jul	8	9	2		8	1
Aug	14	21			6	
Sep	5	2	2		3	
Oct	2		4		8	
Nov	2		1		2	
Total	77	67	21	2	45	1

Key highlights

- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The most recent case (by date of onset) is 9 September 2017 from Mayadeen district.
- The total number of confirmed cVDPV2 cases remains 70.
- Outbreak response teams continue to use IPV strategically to boost immunity and additional vaccines are being prepositioned as part of ongoing contingency planning to ensure that the programme is able to respond quickly in areas where there has been recent evidence of virus transmission. Activities will be carried out when the security situation allows.
- 7,751 children aged 2-23 months were reported vaccinated with IPV in Damascus (representing 86% of the administrative target), as part of a sub-national campaign aiming to reach children with bOPV and IPV. The campaign also reached more than 14,000 children aged 2-23 months from five IDP camps in Hasakah governorate, hosting populations from Deir Ez-Zor.
- WHO continues to support the strengthening of active AFP surveillance in outbreak areas. In Ein Eisa IDP camp, Raqqa governorate and Al-Arysha IDP camp in Hasakah governorate, orientation sessions on reporting of AFP cases are being conducted for physicians operating out of camps.

Immunization response

- Since confirmation of the outbreak, World Health Organization and UNICEF has coordinated with the Government of Syria and local authorities to carry out two mass vaccination rounds in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates, reaching resident, refugee and internally displaced children. More than 350,000 children have been reached with mOPV2 through these activities.
- In addition to focused mOPV2 campaigns, a single dose of IPV has been offered to children aged 2-23 months in infected and high risk areas to boost immunity. Since the start of the outbreak response 317,663 children were reported vaccinated with IPV in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa, Aleppo, Idleb and Hama governorates.
- IPV has been combined with the bOPV sub-national immunization days in 15 districts in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Raqqa governorates, accessible areas of Deir Ez-Zor city and in 5 IDPs camps in Hasakah governorate where families from outbreak zones have moved to during the outbreak response.
- Initial data reports a total of 7,751 children aged 2-23 months were vaccinated in Damascus, representing 86 per cent of the administrative target. In addition, more than 14,000 children aged 2-23 months residing in IDP camps in Hasakah Governorate have also been reached by IPV through the campaign.
- Since the start of the outbreak neighboring countries have utilized IPV in targeted vaccination activities, particularly in areas with high levels of population displacement and movement. More than 260,000 doses have been mobilized to reach at risk children in Lebanon and Turkey and additional IPV campaigns have taken place in Iraq.

Additional risk mitigation strategies

- Outbreak response teams continue to use IPV strategically to boost immunity and additional vaccines are being prepositioned as part of ongoing contingency planning to ensure that the programme is able to respond quickly to potential breakthrough cases in known outbreak zones or spread of virus to new areas of the country.
- An additional sub-national campaign is taking place this week in areas of Deir Ez-Zor accessible from Hasakah governorate. 10 mobile teams from Hasakah will conduct the campaign. Outbreak response teams are supporting the mapping of populations living in previously inaccessible areas, accessible road networks for transport of vaccines, and vaccination team members residing in the area.
- A meeting to discuss GAVI's grant to support the provision of vaccines in Syria in 2018 and to assess cold chain capacity in Syria was held in Beirut on 24 November. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO. The meeting also discussed the progress made during the outbreak response and next steps for stopping circulation of virus. Vaccine needs for Syria were also finalized during this meeting.
- Efforts to further improve AFP surveillance sensitivity continue across the country. WHO is supporting the strengthening of active AFP surveillance in Ein Eisa IDP camp, Raqqa governorate and Al-Arysha IDP camp in Hasakah governorate with orientation sessions on reporting of AFP cases for physicians operating in the camps. 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).

Coordination and surge support

- Human resources from both WHO and UNICEF continue to deploy (surge support) to both hubs (Gaziantep and Damascus).
- WHO-UNICEF joint Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in both 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 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 (77%), Raqqa (75%), 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 144 (106 from Mayadeen, 12 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 26 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 23 AFP cases (10 from Raqqa, 11 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 46 AFP cases (23 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 2 from Talkalakh districts).
- Five polio-virus type-2 isolates are currently pending genomic sequencing.



A mobile vaccination team arrives in Al-Arysha IDP camp, Hasakah governorate during the sub-national immunization campaign. Photo: WHO Syria



Social Mobilisers inform displaced families at Al-Arysha IDP camp, Hasakah governorate, about the importance of vaccination during the sub-national immunization campaign in November. Photo: WHO Syria

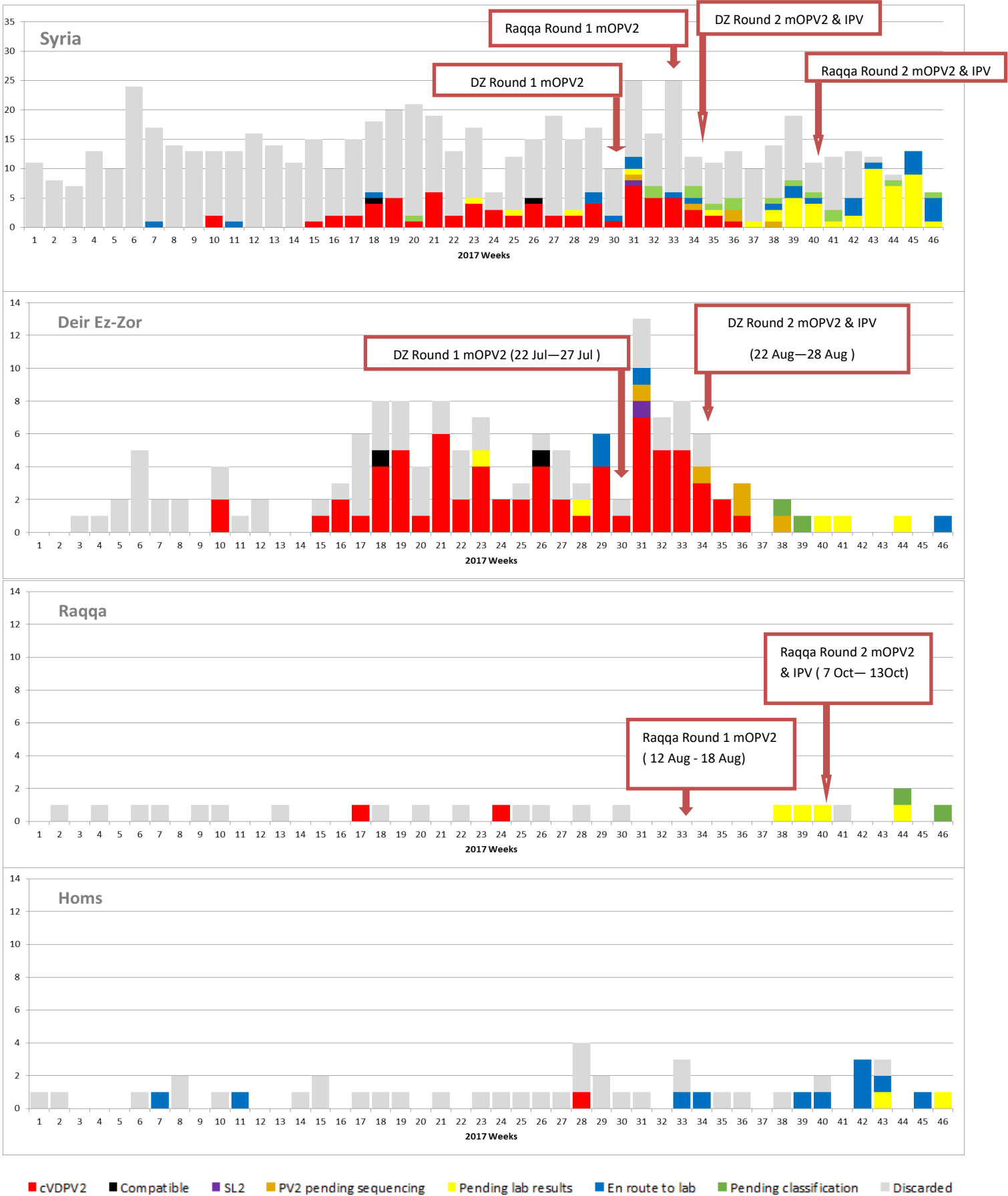


A physician receives an AFP surveillance orientation session at a WHO-supported clinic in Ein Eisa IDP camp, Raqqa governorate. Photo: WHO Syria



People line up outside a WHO-supported clinic in Ein Eisa IDP, Raqqa governorate for access to health services, including polio vaccination. Photo: WHO Syria

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 28 November 2017)



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

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