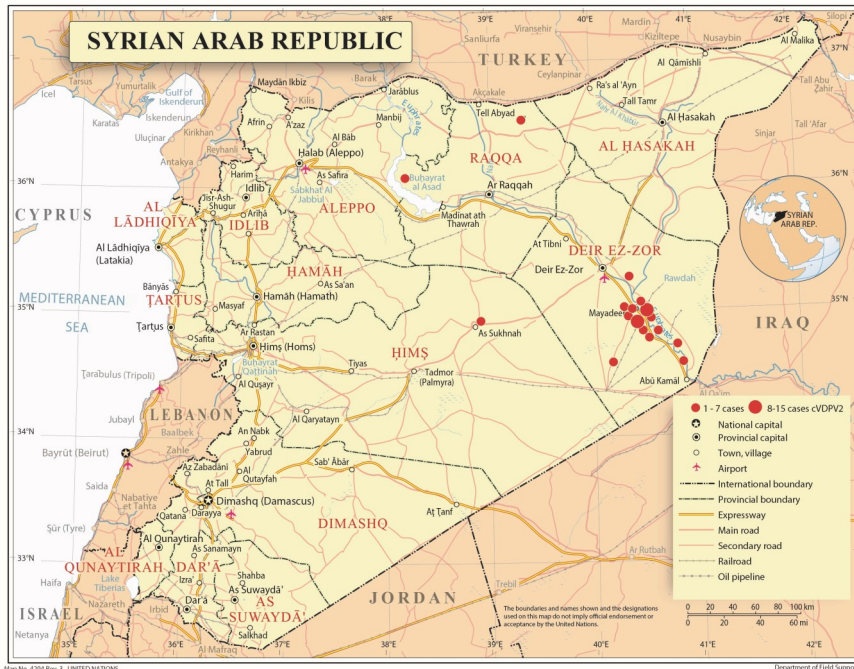


Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 26

12 December 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

- Four new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. Three cases were reported from Mayadeen district, one case from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate. The most recent case (by date of onset) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district.
- The total number of confirmed cVDPV2 cases is 74.
- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners continue to support the Syrian Ministry of Health with planning for the second phase of the outbreak response.
- A new environmental surveillance laboratory has been successfully established in Damascus this week. WHO has led the training of surveillance officers and staff from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water Resources.

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: 4
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 74
 Outbreak grade: 3

Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to
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	3	1	3	
Jul	8	9	2		8	1
Aug	13	22			6	
Sep	2	5	3		3	
Oct	2		4		8	
Nov	10		1		3	
Total	81	71	22	2	46	1

- Neighboring countries have utilized IPV in targeted vaccination activities, particularly in areas with high concentration of Syrian refugees, to boost immunity.

Risk mitigation strategies

- Planning continues for the second phase of the outbreak response, which will utilize additional doses of mOPV2 and IPV requested by the Syrian Ministry of Health. The request for additional doses of mOPV2 has been approved by WHO's Director-General.
- Microplanning continues for the upcoming vaccination activities in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Hasakah governorates. Microplans are being revised to ensure population movements in parts of Deir Ez-Zor are accounted for and newly accessible parts of Raqqa are included.
- A committee comprising Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Resources, and WHO staff, has been developed for the expansion of environmental surveillance in Syria. A new environmental surveillance laboratory is operational, staff have been trained and the first specimen has been collected and will be tested for poliovirus this week.
- Local authorities in Raqqa have agreed to carrying out IPV vaccination in Ein Esa camp, which was missed in earlier IPV vaccination activities.
- Contact sampling from all AFP cases and sampling of healthy children arriving from known infected areas and silent districts (districts that have not reported AFP cases in 2017) continues to complement AFP surveillance.

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 Centres (EOCs) in both hubs (Gaziantep and Damascus).
- UNICEF has deployed an Immunization specialist to the Gaziantep hub to support immunization activities.

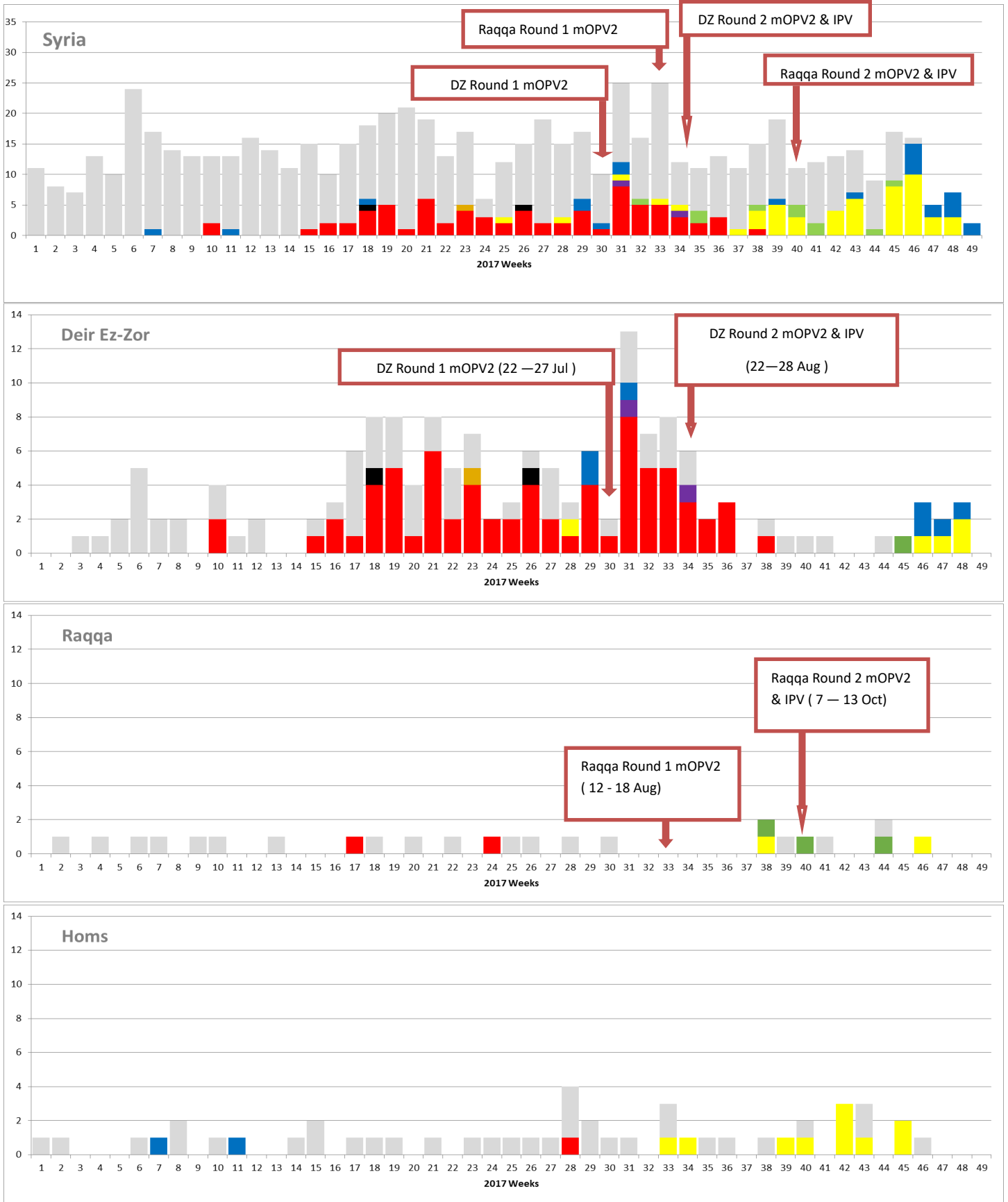
Surveillance summary

- 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 (76%), 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 152 (108 from Mayadeen, 18 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 26 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 24 AFP cases (10 from Raqqa, 12 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 47 AFP cases (23 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour and 3 from Talkalakh districts).
- There is one polio-virus type-2 isolate pending genomic sequencing this week.



A new environmental surveillance laboratory has been established this week in Damascus. WHO supported with training of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water Resources staff. Photo: WHO Syria

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 12 December 2017)



Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 12 December 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

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