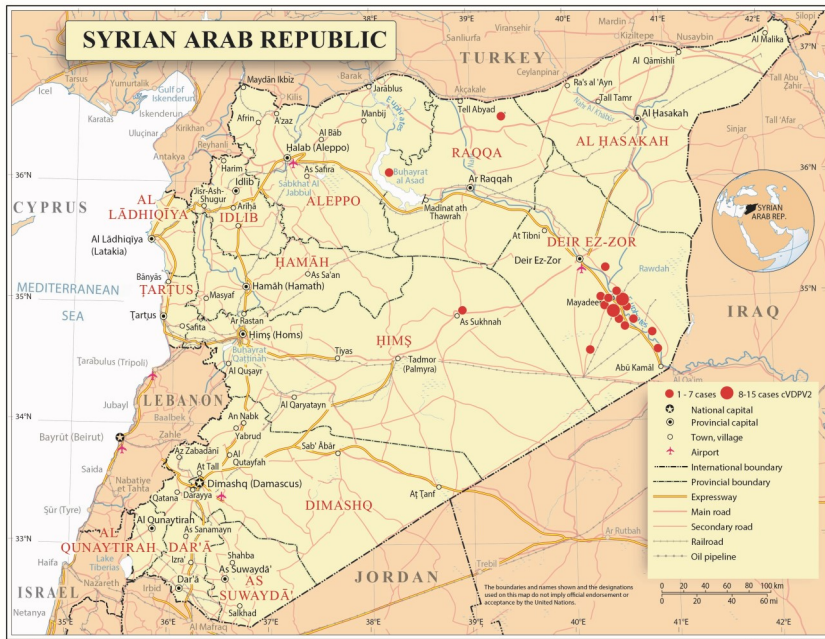


# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 35

20 February 2018

Distribution of cVDPV2 cases in Deir Ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs governorates, Syria, 2017 and 2018



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 74. The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate.
- An inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) immunization round has successfully concluded in Damascus, Hasakah, parts of Aleppo governorates, and Jurmana district of rural Damascus as part of the second phase of the outbreak response. IPV vaccination is continuing in accessible parts of Aleppo governorate.
- Reportedly, a total of 233,518 children aged 2-23 months received IPV, representing 71% of the estimated target.
- Post campaign monitoring of the IPV campaign has concluded in Damascus, Hasakah and parts of Aleppo governorate that completed the implementation. Overall, post campaign monitoring indicates 81% vaccination rates by parental/caregiver recall and 77% by finger marking.
- Post campaign monitoring particularly focused on the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps; the data indicates 91% vaccination rates by parental/caregiver recall and 89% by finger marking.
- A nationwide immunization round utilizing bivalent OPV (bOPV) is planned for March. The campaign will target all children aged less than 5 years.

## Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0  
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 74  
 Outbreak grade: 3

## Infected governorates and districts

Governorate	District	Number of cVDPV2 cases to date
Deir Ez-Zor	Mayadeen	58
	Deir Ez-Zor	1
	Boukamal	12
Raqqa	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 2017-2018

Gov.	Deir Ez-Zor		Raqqa		Homs	
	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2	NPAFP	cVDPV2
Jan'17	2		2		2	
Feb'17	11		3		4	
Mar'17	5	2	1		2	
Apr'17	7	5	1	1	4	
May'17	13	16	2		3	
Jun'17	8	12	4	1	3	
Jul'17	8	9	2		8	1
Aug'17	12	22			6	
Sep'17	2	5	3		3	
Oct'17	2		4		8	
Nov'17	10		2		3	
Dec'17	9		3		3	
Jan'18	19		4		2	
Feb'18	3					
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>

## Immunization response

### *Phase one activities*

- In the first phase of the response, more than 350,000 resident, refugee and internally displaced children were reached with mOPV2 through two mass vaccination rounds in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Additionally, World Health Organization and UNICEF 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, Idlib, Hama and Homs governorates and areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hasakah.

### *Phase two activities*

- Two vaccination rounds (one of mOPV2 and IPV each) have been implemented as part of the second phase of the outbreak response. A total of 665,736 children aged less than five years were vaccinated with mOPV2 (representing 9% more than the total estimated target) in the first round of activities in Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Hasakah and Raqqa governorates.
- In the second round, a total of 233,518 children aged 2-23 months (representing 71% of the estimated target) were reached with IPV in Damascus, Hasakah and Aleppo governorates, and Jurmana district of rural Damascus. IPV vaccination continues in some areas of Aleppo that initiated the campaign late.
- Post campaign monitoring per governorate showed 85% vaccination rates by recall and finger marking in Hasakah, 81% by recall and 71% by finger marking in Aleppo, while Damascus showed 80% by recall and 76% by finger marking.

## Communication for Development

- Ahead the IPV round, trained community health workers and social mobilizers visited households, pediatricians, community leaders and influencers to ensure parents and caregivers received comprehensive information about the campaign.
- Through this outreach in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hasakah governorates a total of 285 pediatricians were visited, more than 1,000 influencers and community leaders were engaged, 40,170 caregivers were reached with key messages about polio and the campaign and more than 20,000 mothers participated in focused awareness sessions to ensure widespread support for the immunization activity.
- More than 170,000 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, which includes street banners, flyers and posters, were disseminated ahead of and during the campaign.
- Post campaign monitoring for the IPV campaign indicates overall 87% community awareness level; Governorate wise, it was 91% in Hasakah, 88% in Damascus and 85% in Aleppo.

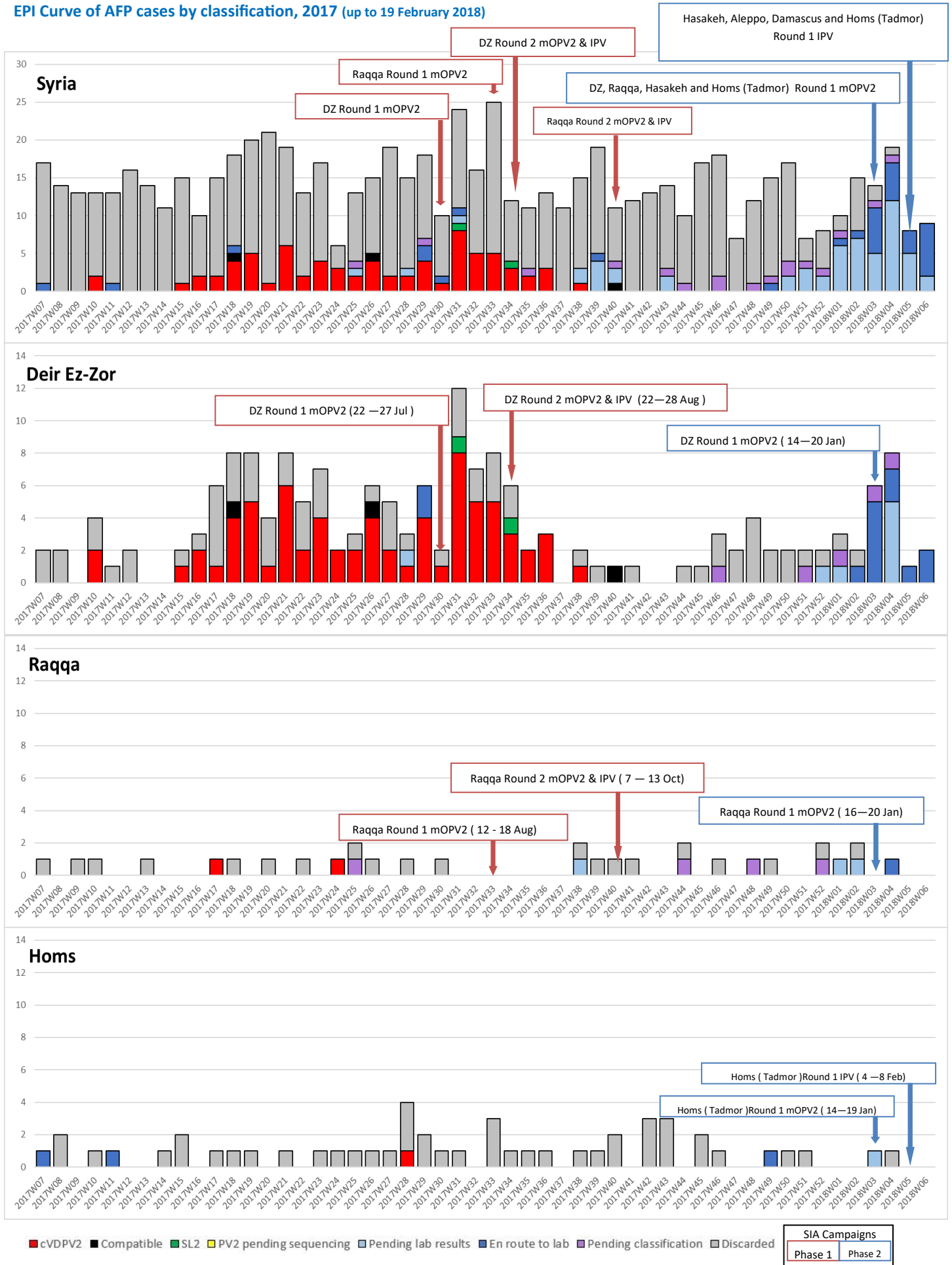
## Coordination and surge support

- WHO and UNICEF continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response through the joint Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in both hubs (Gaziantep and Damascus).
- UNICEF continues to provide Gaziantep hub with key Communications for Development support for immunization activities.

## Surveillance summary

- In 2017, all governorates in Syria but five 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 (76%), Raqqa (67%), Rural Damascus (76%), Quneitra (78%) 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 182 (116 from Mayadeen, 33 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 33 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 33 AFP cases (13 from Raqqa, 18 from Tell Abyad, and 2 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 52 AFP cases (27 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour, 1 from Moukahram and 3 from Talkalakh districts).
- AFP surveillance is being complimented by environmental surveillance (in Damascus, Deir Ez Zor, Homs and Aleppo) and healthy children stool sampling. Results are available for five environmental samples (four from Damascus and one from Deir Ez Zor) with no isolation of VDPV2.

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, 2017 (up to 19 February 2018)



**Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 19 February 2018) \*2018 cases not included**



**Relevant links**

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#), updated weekly
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses video](#)
- [Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video](#)
- [What is vaccine-derived polio?](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)

For more information:

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