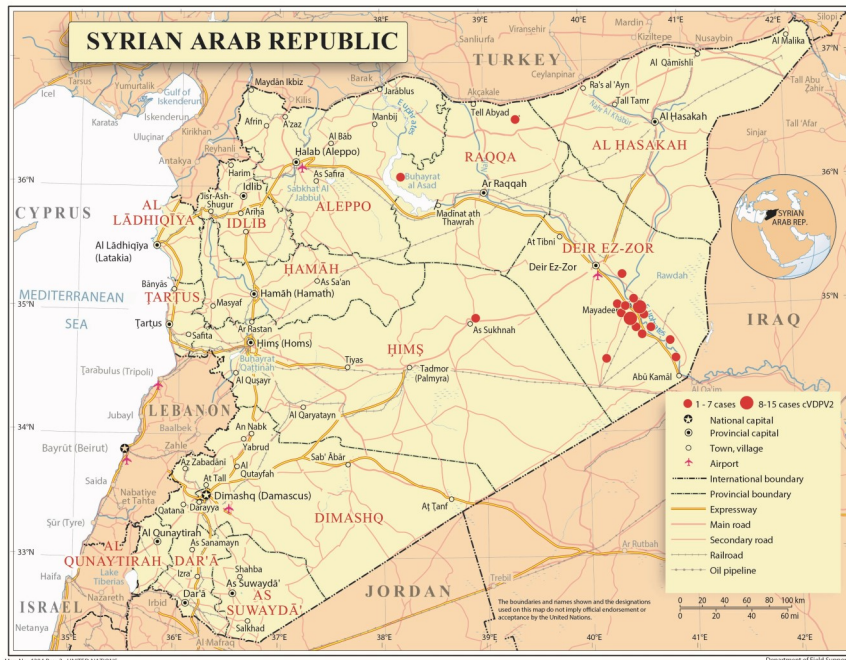


# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 37

13 March 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 have been reported in 2018. The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 74.
- A nationwide immunization round utilizing bivalent OPV (bOPV) is ongoing in 13 governorates in Syria. The campaign aims to reach 2.4 million children aged less than 5 years.
- Immunization activities utilizing inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) are ongoing in accessible areas of Aleppo governorate; a total of 5,427 children were reported vaccinated with IPV in Ein Arab district (Kobani). This is the first vaccination campaign to reach the area in two years.
- IPV immunization activities have commenced in Tell Abyad district, Raqqa governorate aiming to reach 6,500 children aged 2-23 months through fixed vaccination centers. Skilled vaccinator teams from Ein Arab are helping to implement the round. Moreover, a total of 1,458 children aged 2-23 months were reported vaccinated in Ein Eisa camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) during recent vaccination activities.
- Preparations are underway for an independent outbreak response review of the cVDPV2 outbreak in Syria. The review will look at the current epidemiological situation, the quality of immunization and surveillance response as well as the overall progress towards stopping the cVDPV2 transmission.

## 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
	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/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		4	
Jan'18	17		4		2	
Feb'18	12				4	
Mar'18	2				2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>58</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, Idleb, Hama and Homs governorates and areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus and Hasakah.

### Phase two activities

- In the second phase of the outbreak response an additional two mass vaccination rounds were conducted to reach resident, refugee and internally displaced children. Children aged less than five years have been vaccinated with mOPV2 in Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Hasakah and Raqqa governorates.
- Additionally, a total of 233,518 children aged 2-23 months have been reached with IPV in Damascus, Hasakah and Aleppo governorates, and Jurmana district of rural Damascus.
- IPV immunization activities continue in areas of Aleppo governorate as they become accessible for vaccination. Some areas have not been reached by immunization activities in more than two years.
- Tell Abyad district in Raqqa governorate, which could not implement the planned IPV round during the first phase of the outbreak response is currently implementing an IPV campaign to reach 6,500 children aged 2-23 months through fixed vaccination centers.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

- UNICEF supported C4D during IPV immunization activities in Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. Trained community health workers and social mobilizers met with pediatricians, mothers groups and community leaders and influencers to ensure parents and caregivers received comprehensive information about the campaign.
- More than 3,000 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, which includes street banners, flyers and posters, were disseminated ahead of and during the campaign.



Advocacy meetings were conducted with key influencers/community leaders in Ain Arab (Kobani) ahead of the IPV campaign. Photo: UNICEF Syria

## 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).

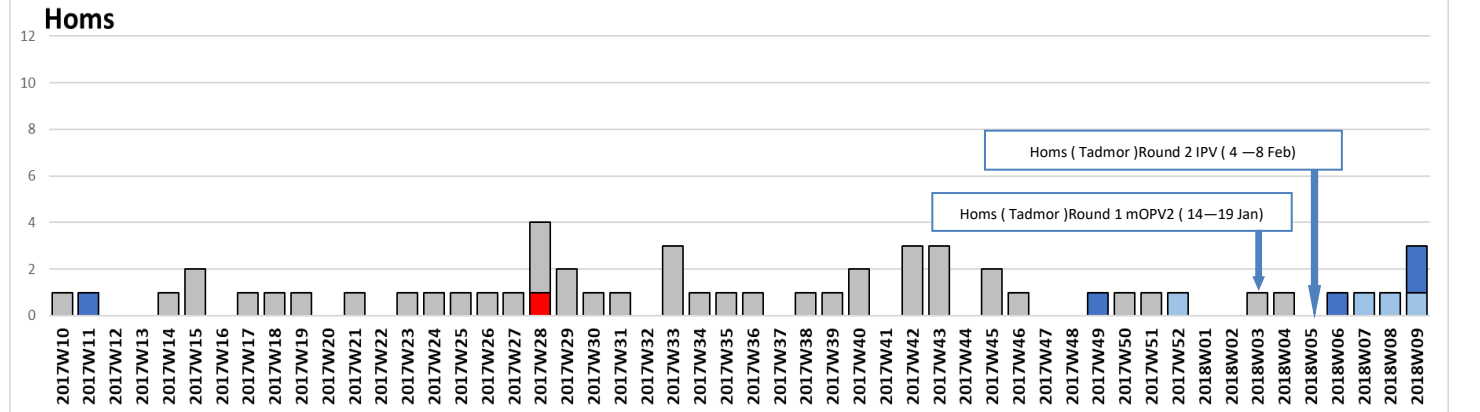
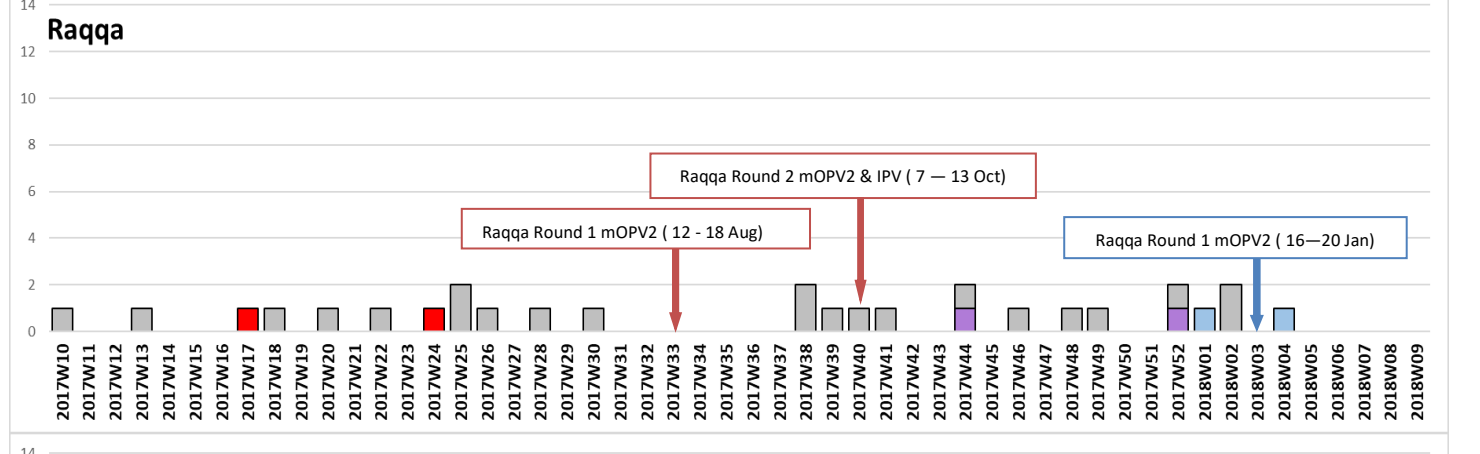
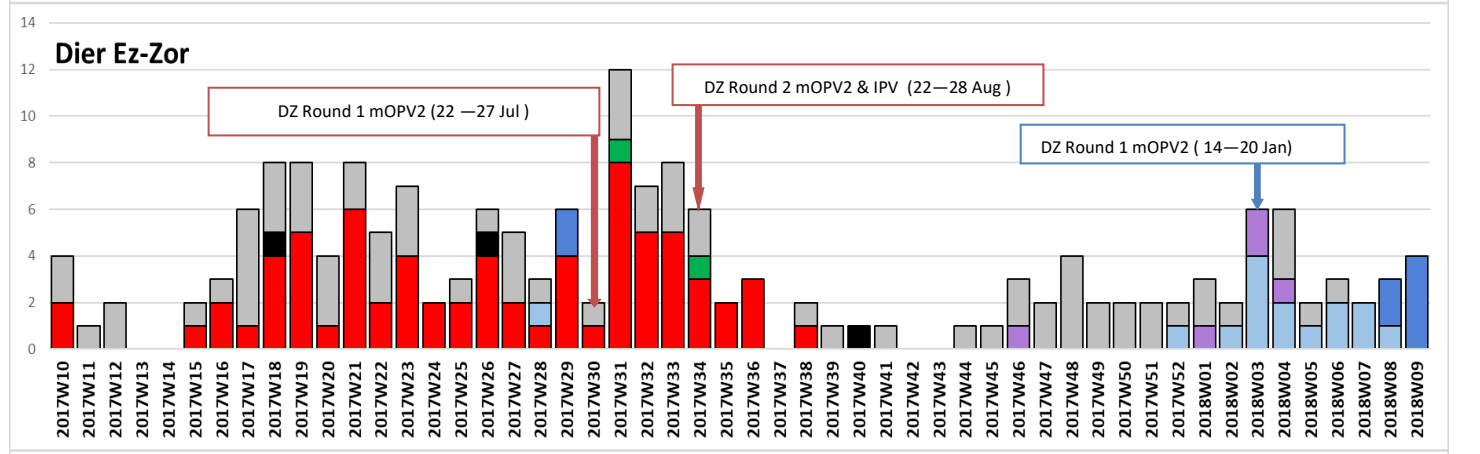
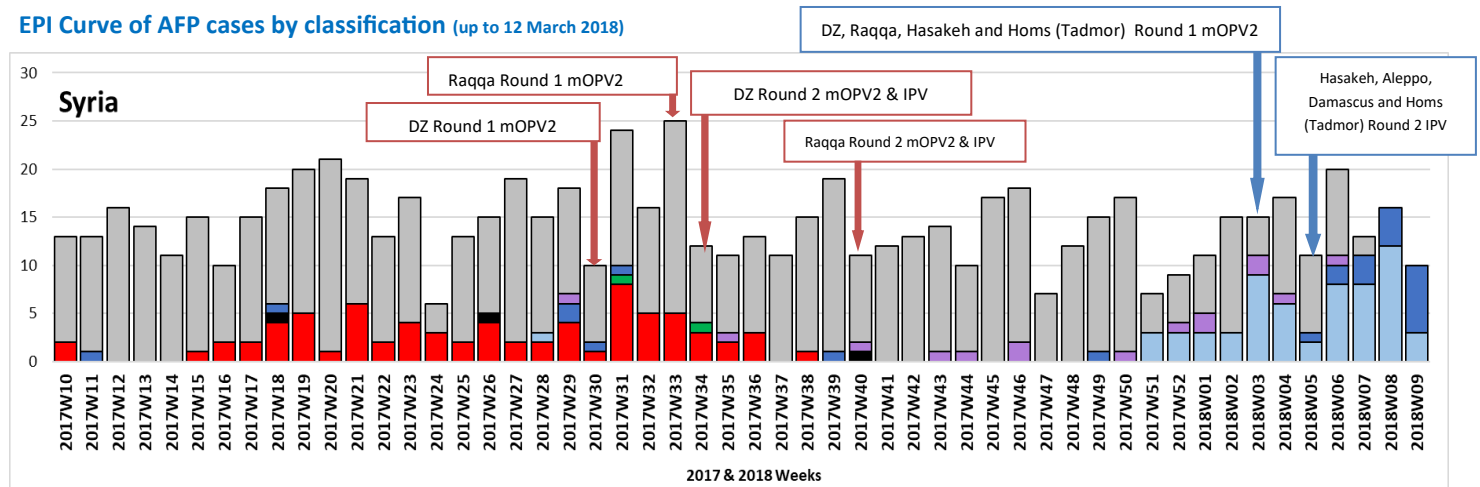
## Surveillance summary

- In 2017, all governorates in Syria but five are meeting both key indicators for AFP surveillance: 3\* or more non-polio AFP (NPAFP) cases per 100,000 children below 15 years of age, and 80 percent or above AFP cases with adequate specimens. Damascus (2.9) and Hama (1.9) governorates are not meeting the NPAFP rate. 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 191 (117 from Mayadeen, 40 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 34 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 58 AFP cases (34 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour, 1 from Moukahhram and 3 from Talkalakh districts).
- AFP surveillance is being complimented by environmental surveillance and healthy children stool sampling. Environmental surveillance sites have been established in Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor, Aleppo, Raqqa and Homs. Ten (10) environmental samples have been taken, of which results are available for five samples (four from Damascus and one from Deir Ez Zor) with no isolation of VDPV2. 482 healthy children have been sampled since the start of the outbreak (415 in 2017, 67 to date in 2018).



IEC materials explaining the IPV campaign on a water tank in Ein Eisa IDP camp. Photo: UNICEF Syria

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification (up to 12 March 2018)



■ cVDPV2 ■ Compatible ■ SL2 ■ PV2 pending sequencing ■ Pending lab results ■ En route to lab ■ Pending classification ■ Discarded

**SIA Campaigns**  
 Phase 1 Phase 2

## Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 12 March 2018)



**Key:** ■ 3+ doses  
■ 1-2 doses  
■ Zero dose

### 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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