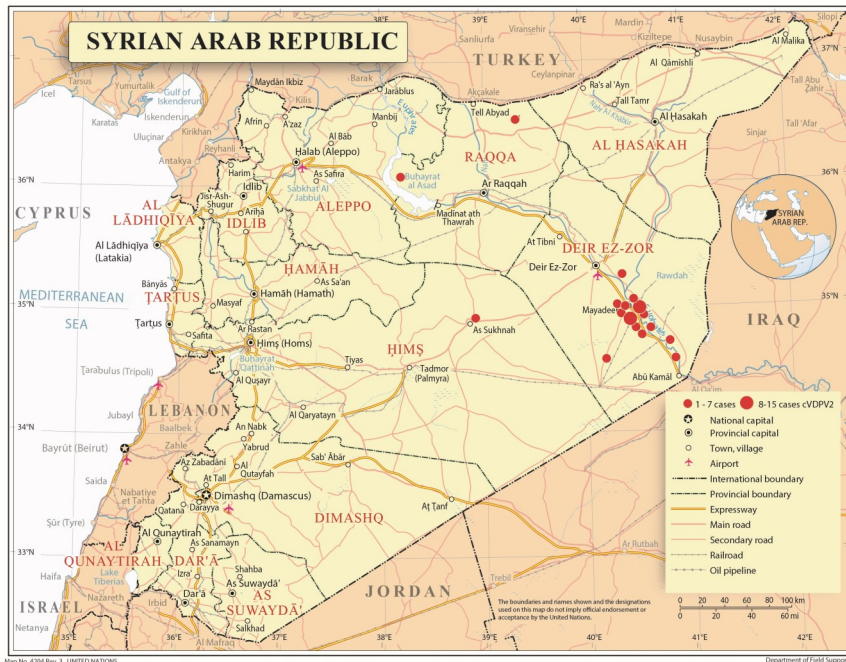


Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 38

27 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.
- An independent outbreak response Review of the cVDPV2 outbreak in Syria is taking place this week. 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.
- On 17 March 2018, representatives from the Lebanon and Syria Ministries of Health held the first joint cross border coordination meeting focused on acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance. Recommendations were made to ensure close coordination on AFP case detection, with focus on Syrian populations in Lebanon and consistent exchange of information on cross border notified AFP cases.
- A two day meeting to discuss progress of immunization in Syria in 2017 was held in Amman, Jordan on 21 – 22 March. Representatives from WHO, UNICEF and GAVI discussed all immunization activities and the cVDPV2 outbreak response, including future support opportunities.
- Four fixed site vaccination centres have been established to ensure internally displaced persons (IDPs) moving from Ghouta receive polio vaccine alongside all other antigens.
- A nationwide immunization round aiming to reach more than 2.4 million children aged less than 5 years with bivalent OPV (bOPV) has concluded.

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	6		2		2	
Total	124	71	33	2	58	1

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 two additional mass vaccination rounds were conducted. More than 655,000 children aged less than five years have been vaccinated with mOPV2 in Deir Ez-Zor, Hasakah and Raqqa governorates and Tadmour district of Homs governorate. In addition, more than 233,000 children aged 2-23 months have been reached with IPV in Damascus, Hasakah and Aleppo governorates, and Jurmana district of rural Damascus.
- Additional IPV immunization activities continue in newly accessible areas of Aleppo governorate and in Tell Abyad district in Raqqa governorate, which could not implement the planned IPV round during the first phase of the outbreak response. Available reports indicate that close to 5,000 children aged 2-23 months were vaccinated in Tell Abyad.

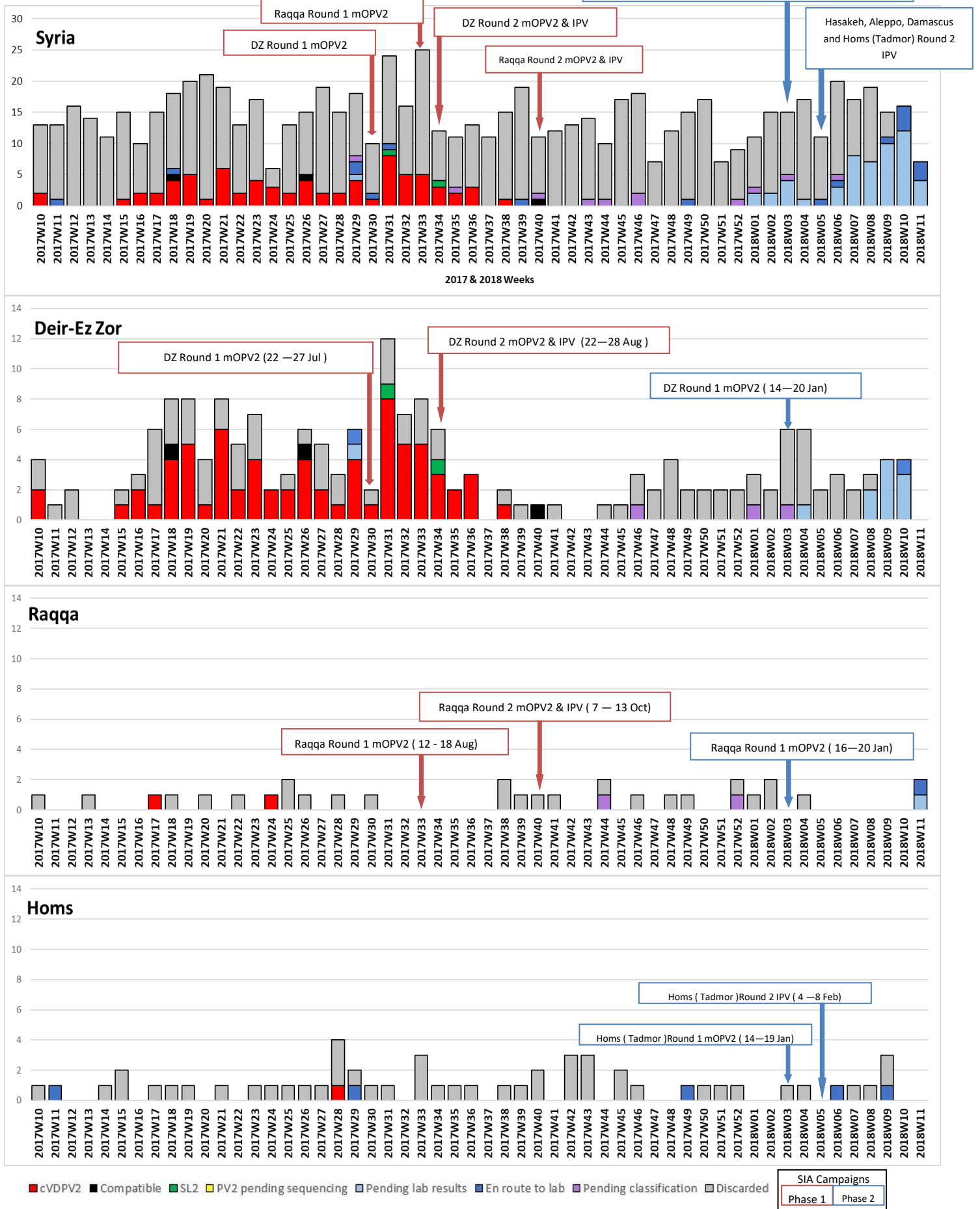
Coordination and surge support

- 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).
- Immunization specialist have joined the UNICEF team in Damascus who will contribute to polio and immunization efforts.

Surveillance summary

- In 2018, all governorates in Syria 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. (*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 195 (119 from Mayadeen, 42 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 34 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 35 AFP cases (14 from Raqqa, 19 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 Moukahrram 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. Fifteen (15) environmental samples have been taken, of which results are available for ten samples (six from Damascus, two from Deir Ez Zor, one from Homs and one from Aleppo) with no isolation of VDPV2. 485 healthy children have been sampled since the start of the outbreak (415 in 2017, 70 to date in 2018).

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, (up to 26 March 2018)



Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 26 March 2018)



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](#)

■ 3+ doses
■ 1-2 doses
■ Zero dose

For more information:

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