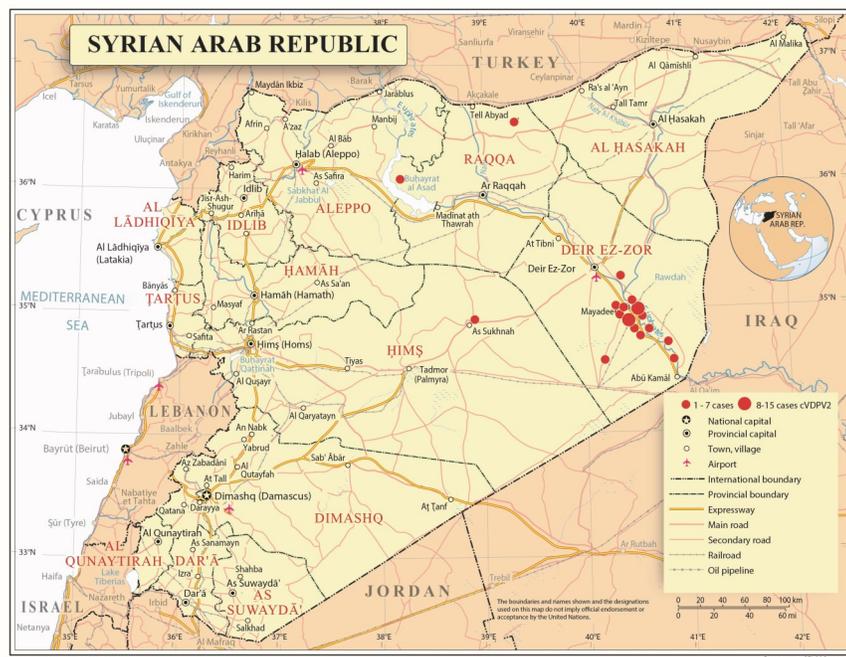


# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 39

May 2018 issue

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 assessment (OBRA) of the cVDPV2 outbreak in Syria concluded in April. The actions taken to control transmission of the virus in Syria and to document evidence of the sensitivity of surveillance and increasing quality of response SIAs were commended by the review team.
- The OBRA team emphasized on close follow up on the implementation of the recommendations and proposed a systematic follow-up during the second half of 2018. A detailed report is being finalized.
- Internal surveillance reviews in Aleppo and Raqqa governorates and further sensitization of healthcare providers on detecting and reporting AFP cases are underway.
- IPV vaccination continued in Raqqa governorate in April as part of the outbreak response. A total of 9,257 children aged 2-23 months that were not covered in the February round due to unavailability of skilled vaccination teams were vaccinated in Tell Abyad district.
- In addition, Raqqa city was accessed for the first time with IPV. A total of 7,215 children aged 2-23 months were vaccinated, representing 95% of the total target.

## 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	18		4		2	
Feb'18	12		1		4	
Mar'18	10		8		5	
Apr'18	7		2		4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>

## Immunization response

- The Ministry of Health in coordination with World Health Organization, UNICEF and other partners have successfully implemented two phases of the outbreak response, reaching resident, refugee and internally displaced children under 5 with mOPV2 and children aged between 2-23 months with IPV in key districts and governorates in the outbreak zone.
- A total of three mass immunization rounds utilizing mOPV2 have been implemented in Deir Ez-Zor, Hasakah and Raqqa governorates and Tadmour district of Homs governorate and additional targeted immunization activities with IPV 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.
- Newly accessible areas of Aleppo and Raqqa governorates were also able to implement IPV vaccination activities in 2018, which were not reached during the first phase of the outbreak response.
- A sub-national immunization round reaching a total of 773,597 children aged less than 5 years with bivalent OPV (bOPV) in 7 governorates (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Hasakah, Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa) was also implemented in April 2018. Moreover, estimated over 700,000 children aged less than five years are currently being targeted with bOPV in Aleppo, Idleb and Hama.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

- UNICEF continues to coordinate communication and social mobilization activities in the lead up to polio immunization rounds in Syria. Activities include advocacy with community and religious leaders, household visits, public announcements via megaphones, mosques and VHF systems.
- Forty-five communications for development trainings were conducted in Damascus by the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF. 10 trainings will be conducted by end of May as planned.
- UNICEF conducted an orientation session for 25 journalists on polio and routine immunization covering information on polio outbreaks, dealing with rumors and professional reporting on immunization issues.
- In addition, two sensitization meetings with pediatricians and medical doctors were conducted on polio and routine immunization in Syria. 35 medical consultants attended the interactive sessions and showed their willingness to support during supplementary immunization activities.
- UNICEF continues to support the social mobilization micro-planning process. Sixty-two micro plans have been drafted and work is ongoing.

## Cold Chain and Vaccine Management

- UNICEF coordinated a training-of-trainers workshop on the installation of solar direct drive refrigerators from 1-3 May 2018 to improve the quality of immunization services and the vaccine cold chain in northern Syria.

## Support to Expanded Programme on immunization

- WHO and UNICEF are working with Ministry of Health on strengthening routine immunization and updating the National Polio Outbreak Preparedness and Response Plan.
- In April, coinciding with World Immunization Week (April 22-30), the MoH with the support of UNICEF and WHO reached more than 300,000 children with measles vaccine. Moreover, children were checked for completeness of routine immunization in all health facilities in 12 governorates. A total of 57,208 missed children were vaccinated with IPV.
- UNICEF has procured 400,000 doses of IPV for routine immunization, due to arrive in May 2018; and continues to support MoH with their request for 2019 quarter 1 vaccines.

## Coordination and surge support

- WHO and UNICEF continue to provide technical and human resource support to the outbreak response through the joint Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in both Damascus and Gaziantep hubs.

## Surveillance summary

- In 2018, all governorates in Syria, but one 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). Raqqa (67%) is missing the 80% target for stool adequacy.

- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 207 (125 from Mayadeen, 46 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 36 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 44 AFP cases (19 from Raqqa, 20 from Tell Abyad, and 5 from Thawra districts). Homs governorate has reported 66 AFP cases (40 from Homs city, 20 from Rastan, 1 from Tadmour, 1 from Moukahrram and 4 from Talkalakh districts).
- Environmental surveillance and healthy children stool sampling continues to complement AFP surveillance across the country. Environmental surveillance sites have been established in Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor, Aleppo, Raqqa and Homs. Of the 22 environmental samples that have been taken, of which results are available for 21 samples (ten from Damascus, four from Deir Ez Zor, three from Homs, three from Aleppo and one from Raqqa), there has been no isolation of VDPV2. 542 healthy children have been sampled since the start of the outbreak (415 in 2017, 127 to date in 2018).
- WHO facilitated an AFP surveillance training workshop on detecting and reporting AFP cases, in Ein Al Arab (Kobani). Processes are being streamlined (through assigning a dedicated focal person) for transmission of AFP reports to governorate and national levels and for transportation of stool specimens to the National Polio Laboratory. Moreover, orientation sessions were conducted in Aleppo governorate and in Damascus University Hospital. Arrangements have been made (including the allocation of budget) for the training of nurses and paramedical staff on stool specimens collection, handling and shipment procedures.
- Teams from WHO and the Ministry of Health are carrying out internal surveillance reviews in Aleppo and Raqqa governorates this week, as per the OBRA recommendations.

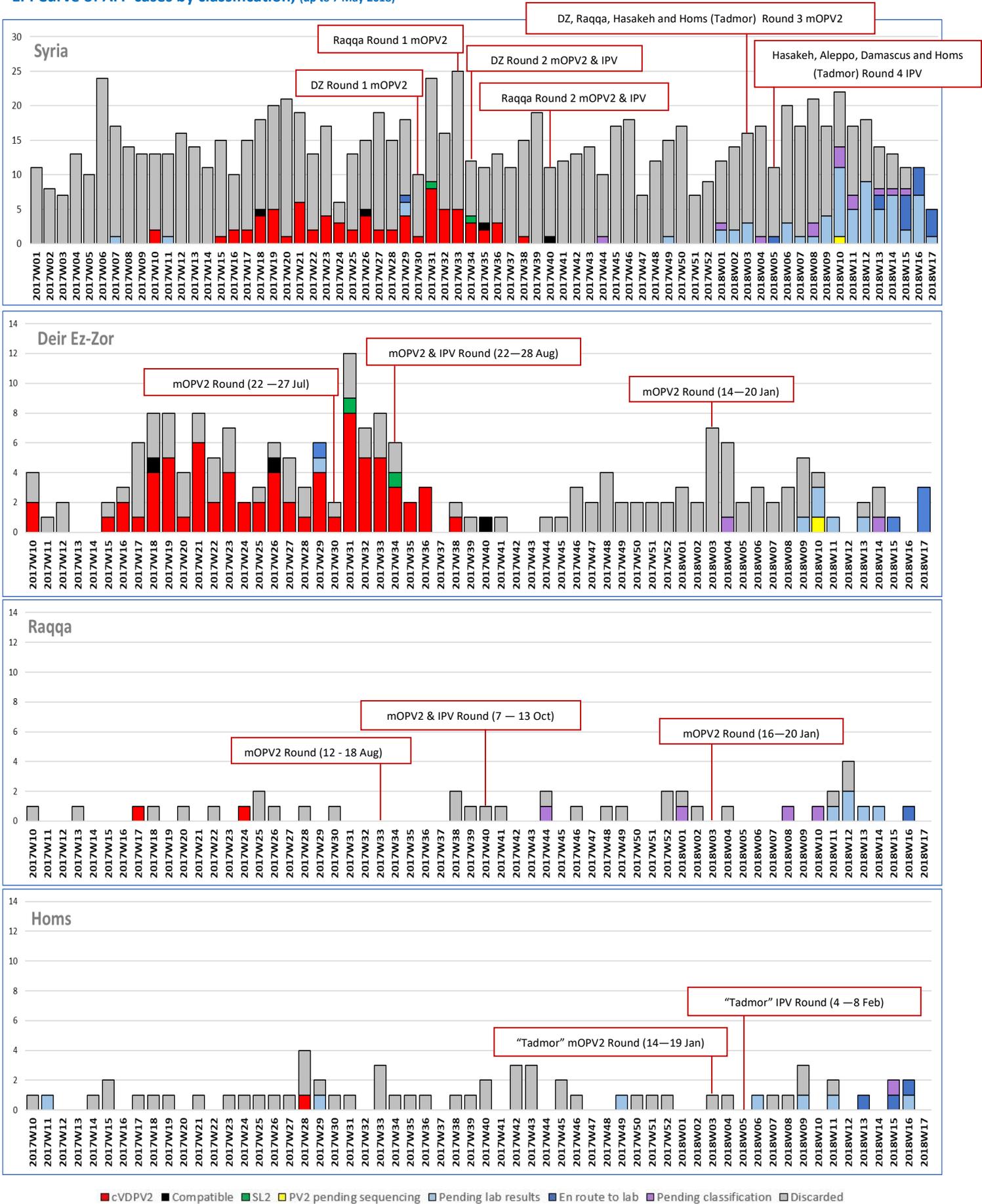


Banner display during vaccination activities in Aleppo governorate.



Families lined up at a health centre in Deir Ez-Zor during vaccination activities in International Immunization Week (April 22-30).

EPI Curve of AFP cases by classification, (up to 7 May 2018)



## Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 7 May 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](#)

For more information:

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