

# Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 4

12 July 2017

## cVDPV2 isolates in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa 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

### Summary

New cVDPV cases this week: 0  
 Total number of cVDPV cases: 23\*  
 Outbreak grade: 3

### Index case

Onset of paralysis: 3 March 2017  
 Location: Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor  
 Age: 22 months  
 Vaccination status: 2 OPV doses  
 22 nt divergence from Sabin

### Most recent case

Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor  
 Onset of paralysis: 28 May 2017, age: 15 months, vaccination status: 1 OPV/zero IPV  
 26 nt divergence from Sabin

### Extent of outbreak

Mayadeen and Tell Abyad districts

### Immunization response

First round expected to commence 22 July

### Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

Median age: 14 months  
 Gender ratio male-female: 0.44  
 Vaccination status of the cases:  
 • IPV: 3 cases (13%) received IPV  
 • OPV: 39% zero dose, 43% have received 1-2 doses

## Background

- Twenty-three (23)\* cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV2) have been confirmed in Syria —22 cases are from Mayadeen (Al Mayadin) district, Deir Ez-Zor (Dayr Az Zawr) governorate, and 1 case from Tell Abyad district, Raqqa (Ar Raqqah) governorate. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 28 May.

\*Situation report #3, dated 4 July 2017, indicated a total of 24 cVDPV2 cases as part of this outbreak. Specimens collected from a Raqqa district AFP case have been retested as per standard practice and secondary testing showed negative results for poliovirus isolation. The case was thus discarded, bringing the total number of confirmed cases down to 23.

- The total number of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 81 (63 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 8 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 12 AFP cases (5 from Raqqa, 6 from Tell Abyad, and 1 from Thawra districts) since the beginning of the year.

## Key highlights

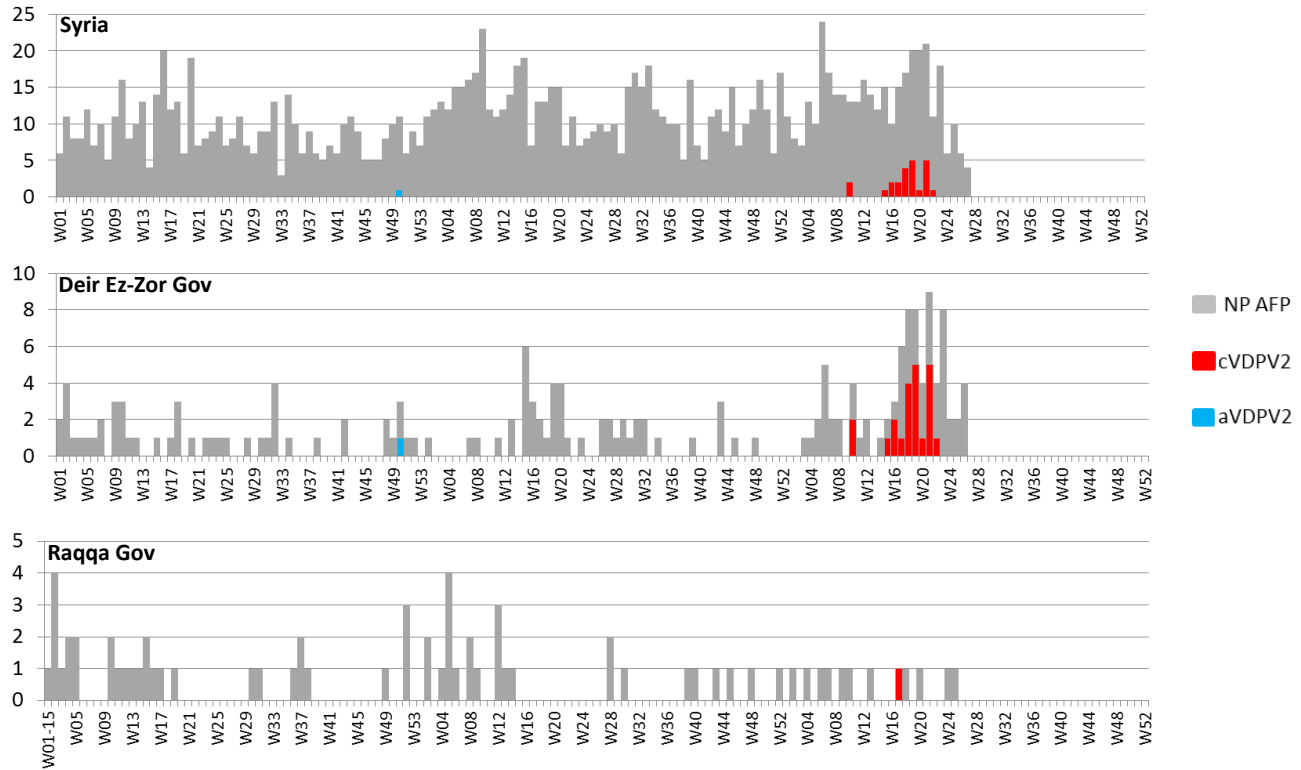
- Monovalent type-2 oral polio vaccine (mOPV2) was shipped to Deir Ez-Zor governorate on 11 July. The first immunization campaign round in Deir Ez-Zor is expected to commence 22 July.
- An mOPV2 campaign in affected areas of Raqqa governorate is now planned.

## Distribution of AFP and confirmed vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (VDPV2) cases, Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates, 2017

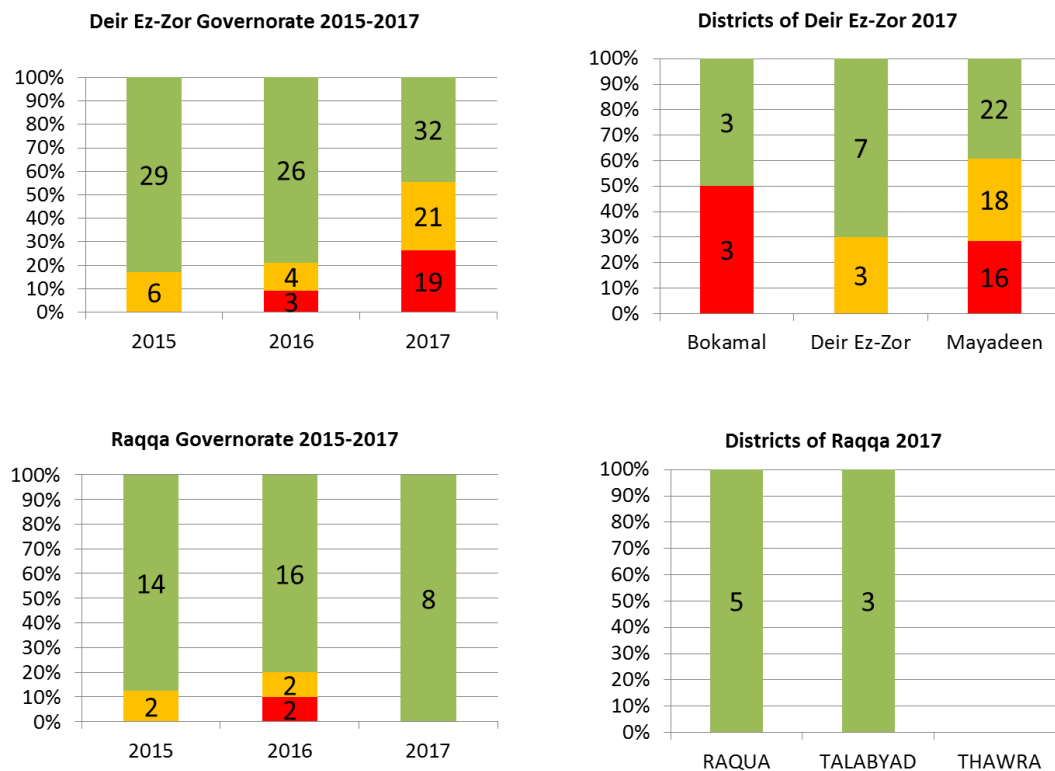
Month	Deir Ez-Zor		Raqqa	
	AFP	Confirmed VDPV2	AFP	Confirmed VDPV2
Jan	2		2	
Feb	11		3	
Mar	7	2	1	
Apr	13	5	2	1
May	29	15	2	
Jun	18		2	
Jul	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>

- MoH has dispatched 350 vaccine carriers to Deir Ez-Zor. UNICEF is providing two solar fridges to support vaccine cold chain during campaign implementation.
- A two-day training workshop for field staff from Raqqa will be conducted this week in Damascus, during which micro-plans and accessibility maps will be updated.
- Training for community mobilizers in Deir Ez-Zor is planned for 12-15 July.

**EPI Curve NPAFP & VDPV2 Cases, 2015-2017 (up to 10 July 2017)**



**Vaccination status (OPV+IPV) AFP cases\* aged 6-59 months (Up to 10 Jul 2017)**



\* VDPV2 cases are included      3+ doses      1-2 doses      Zero dose

## Immunization response activities

- Two immunization rounds are planned for mid-July and August targeting children <5 years of age in Deir Ez-Zor governorate and in the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate. The total target for mOPV2 is 328,000 (196,000 resident children and an estimated 110,000 refugee and IDP children in Deir Ez-Zor governorate, and 22,000 children in Shadadi).
- A total of 355 vaccination teams and 61 supervisors are on standby for this activity. Campaign strategy is house to house in the affected villages and fixed posts in other areas. There are 5 vaccine distribution centers with adequate cold chain in Boukamal, Hajien, Husienieh, Mayadeen, and Sor. These centers will distribute vaccine to all supervisors and collect empty vials on a daily basis. A special monitoring format has been developed to record vials distributed, used and empty vials returned. Forms will be completed at all levels on a daily basis and WHO will provide a daily summary to Damascus.
- An mOPV2 and IPV campaign in affected areas of Raqqa governorate is currently being planned. The target number of children <5 in Raqqa is approximately 120,000 for mOPV2 and 44,000 for IPV. Raqqa governorate is accessible except for Raqqa city and Ma'dan. IDPs from Raqqa city, who have moved towards Thawra and Tell Abyad, will be included in campaigns.
- WHO and UNICEF are working with neighboring countries to enhance immunization and surveillance activities in high-risk areas.

## Coordination and surge support

- Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) in both Damascus and Gaziantep hubs continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and coordinate preparations for the response.
- Documentation of vaccine delivery to Damascus is taking place and will continue throughout the response.
- Both WHO and UNICEF teams have deployed additional human resources (surge support) to both hubs since the start of the outbreak.

*WHO EMRO:* Two senior polio staff were deployed to Damascus to support the finalization of the national outbreak response plan. Staff have facilitated two training workshops for all governorates, reviewed micro-plans and are working to improve national polio lab data management. One regional polio consultant has been deployed to support the Gaziantep office for a period of two months.

*UNICEF MENARO:* A senior level mission was sent to Damascus to support outbreak response activities and a STOP consultant and C4D specialist recently completed surge missions in Gaziantep to support C4D planning. An immunization specialist from Jordan country office has been deployed to support the Gaziantep team for one month, and a senior C4D consultant will be deployed to Damascus to analyze lessons learnt in the first round and to monitor and address communications issues in the second round. UNICEF plans to send a mission to Gaziantep to support Raqqa response planning.

## Communications for Development (C4D) and social mobilization activities

- C4D activities are expected to commence in Deir Ez-Zor this week. Key messages and materials including leaflets and a radio public service announcement for the first round have been finalized. Approval for campaign message dissemination via public spaces has been obtained from authorities on the ground.
- Production of C4D material for the Raqqa response has commenced. Procurement of print and local radio broadcast spots in Tell Abyad and Ain Isa areas, accessed through Hasakah, has begun.
- Logistical and HR preparations in Deir Ez-Zor have continued. Car rental, positioning of campaign materials, and mobilizer recruitment has been completed. House to house visits by community mobilizers will be carried out in informal settlements of Bedouins in the desert of Badiya. Community visits, public meetings and health center visits will be conducted in other areas.

### 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](#)



Vaccines delivered by UNICEF in Damascus, 4 July 2017. Photo: UNICEF Syria Country Office

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