

Syria cVDPV2 outbreak Situation Report # 8

8 August 2017

cVDPV2 cases 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

Key highlights

- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 30 (29 cases are from Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate, and 1 case from Tell Abyad district, Raqqa governorate).
- Poliovirus type-2 (PV2) has been isolated from an additional 10 stool samples, in total, collected from acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases from Deir Ez-Zor (9) and Homs (1). These samples have been sent to polio reference laboratories for further testing and sequencing. The six isolates reported last week are included and are still pending.
- Preparations are underway for the second round in Deir Ez-Zor governorate, scheduled for 19-23 August.
- The first round in Raqqa is expected to commence this week. mOPV2 stocks have reached Tell Abyad and Thawra, and pre-campaign monitoring has begun.
- IPV for use in the second rounds in both governorates is scheduled to arrive in Damascus on 8 August.
- Following completion of the first round in Deir Ez-Zor, an informal review of activities was held in Damascus. UNICEF conducted an internal review of social mobilization activities and vaccine management in Beirut.
- The Eradication and Outbreak Management Group (EOMG) met last week to discuss the release of additional doses of IPV to cover high risk population groups in northwest Syria, Turkey and Lebanon.

Summary

New cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
 Total number of cVDPV2 cases: 30
 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/zero IPV

Most recent cases

Mayadeen district, Deir Ez-Zor
 Onset of paralysis: 16 June 2017, age: 16 months, vaccination status: zero OPV/zero IPV

Tell Abyad district, Raqqa
 Onset of paralysis: 3 May 2017, age: 14 months, vaccination status: 4 OPV/1 IPV

Affected districts

Mayadeen and Tell Abyad districts

Immunization response

Two rounds each planned for Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. First round in Deir Ez-Zor was held 22-26 July.

Characteristics of the cVDPV2 cases

- Median age: 15 months
- Gender ratio male-female: 1:2
- Vaccination status of the cases:
 - IPV: 5 cases (17%) received IPV
 - OPV: 33% zero dose, 43% have received 1-2 doses

Distribution of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type-2 (cVDPV2), Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates, 2017

| Gov. | Deir Ez-Zor | | Raqqa | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | NPAFP | cVDPV2 | NPAFP | cVDPV2 |
| Jan | 2 | | 2 | |
| Feb | 11 | | 3 | |
| Mar | 5 | 2 | 1 | |
| Apr | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| May | 12 | 16 | 2 | |
| Jun | 13 | 6 | 3 | |
| Jul | 13 | | 2 | |
| Total | 63 | 29 | 14 | 1 |

- The total number of AFP cases detected in Deir Ez-Zor governorate since the beginning of 2017 is 92 (70 from Mayadeen, 10 from Deir Ez-Zor, and 12 from Boukamal districts). Raqqa governorate has reported 15 AFP cases (5 from Raqqa, 9 from Tell Abyad, and 1 from Thawra districts).

Immunization response

- The national response plan includes two immunization rounds each in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. Deir Ez-Zor activities include the southern part of Shadadi district in Hasakah governorate.
- The first round in Deir Ez-Zor, held between 22-26 July, achieved 79% administrative coverage (88.4% coverage via third party post-campaign monitoring). Preparations are underway for the second round, scheduled for 19-23 August.
- The first round in Raqqa is expected to commence this week. mOPV2 stocks have reached Tell Abyad and Thawra and pre-campaign independent monitoring has begun.
- The Eradication and Outbreak Management Group (EOMG) of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative met last week to discuss the release of additional doses of IPV to cover populations in areas surrounding the immediate outbreak zone. Approximately 464,000 doses of IPV have been requested to support priority immunization activities in northwest Syria, Turkey and Lebanon. Operational plans are being finalized. The ultimate goal of prospective activities will be to mitigate the risk of further spread of cVDPV2 from the immediate outbreak zone in Syria to neighbouring areas and countries.

First round monitoring, Deir Ez-Zor

- Pre-campaign activities included: checking vaccine batch and quality at points of receipt; checking readiness of team supporting centers (TSCs) and inspecting cold-chain; and evaluating social mobilization activities related to the response.
- Post-campaign monitoring assessed campaign coverage, identifying poorly covered and missed areas for corrective action.
- Third party independent monitoring results have been received for the first round in Deir Ez-Zor.

Findings

- Overall, the three districts (Deir Ez-Zor, Mayadeen and Boukamal) were well-equipped with sufficient quality and quantity of cold-chain tools and vaccine. Some shortages of ice and thermometers were noticed in some TSCs.
- Social mobilization was strong and there were high levels of awareness of the campaign before implementation, in each district. Banners and brochures proved to be very effective in raising awareness.
- Vaccine management was strong with mOPV2 arriving at TSCs in good condition. Empty and used vaccine vials were carefully tracked and were largely accounted for.
- Verbal confirmation of vaccination (caregiver recall) was 88.4%.
- There were some refusals of vaccination in some villages.
- There is room to enhance microplanning in some villages for the second round.

Coordination and surge support

- Following completion of the first round in Deir Ez-Zor, an informal review of activities was held in Damascus. UNICEF conducted an internal review of social mobilization activities and vaccine management in Beirut.
- WHO-UNICEF joint EOCs in both Damascus and Gaziantep hubs in collaboration with partners continue to monitor the outbreak situation, exchange information, and assist in the response.
- WHO and UNICEF have deployed additional human resources (surge support) to both hubs since the start of the outbreak.

Communications for Development (C4D) and social mobilization activities

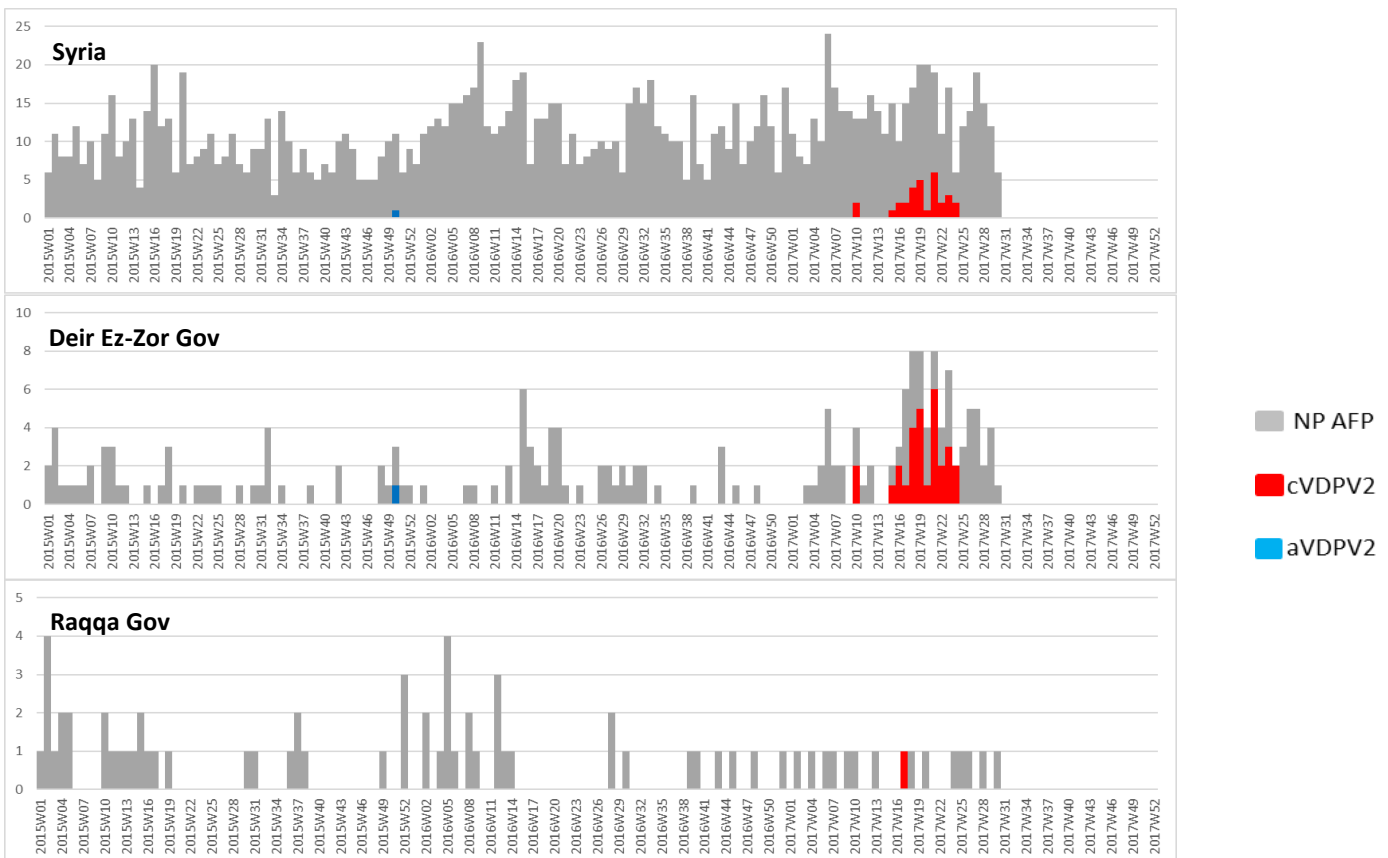
Raqqa

- Social mobilization activities started on 27 July across all the campaign target areas; 220 health educators and volunteers participated.

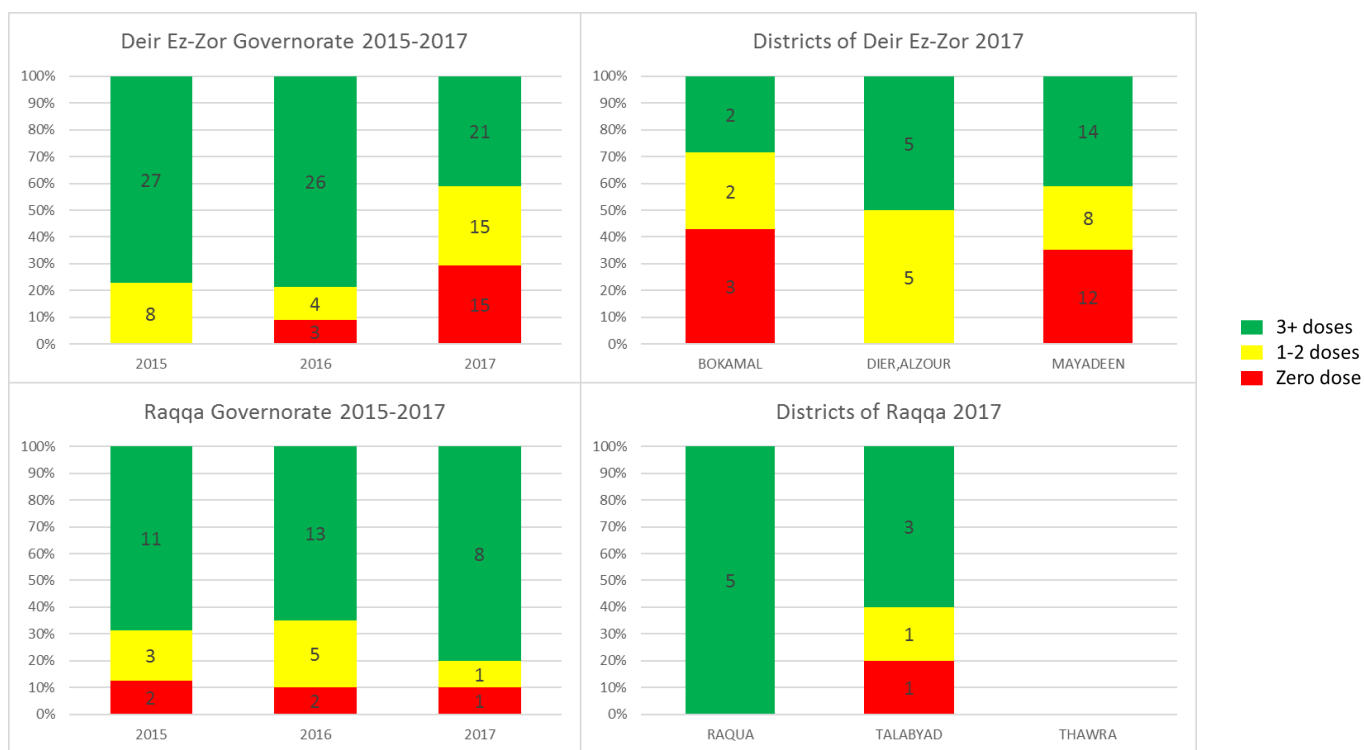


Banner in Jarneia, Raqqa, to raise awareness of the polio campaign

EPI Curve NPAFP and VDPV2 cases, 2015-2017 (up to 7 August 2017)



Vaccination status (OPV) NPAFP cases aged 6-59 months (up to 7 August 2017)



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](#)

For more information:

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