WHO EMRO | Situation reports on the polio outbreak in Syria

Vaccinators outside an informal tented settlement in Deir Ez-Zor administering polio vaccine to children, as part of the campaign. Photo: WHO

- **Situation update 27 March 2018**

- 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.
To eradicate polio, we need to stop all strains of the virus, including vaccine-derived polioviruses. This short animation explains how these rare virus strains emerge and how to stop them

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2018

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2017

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News

More than 355 000 children under 5-years old vaccinated against polio in hard to reach areas of Syria
18 August 2017

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Global Polio Eradication Initiative

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