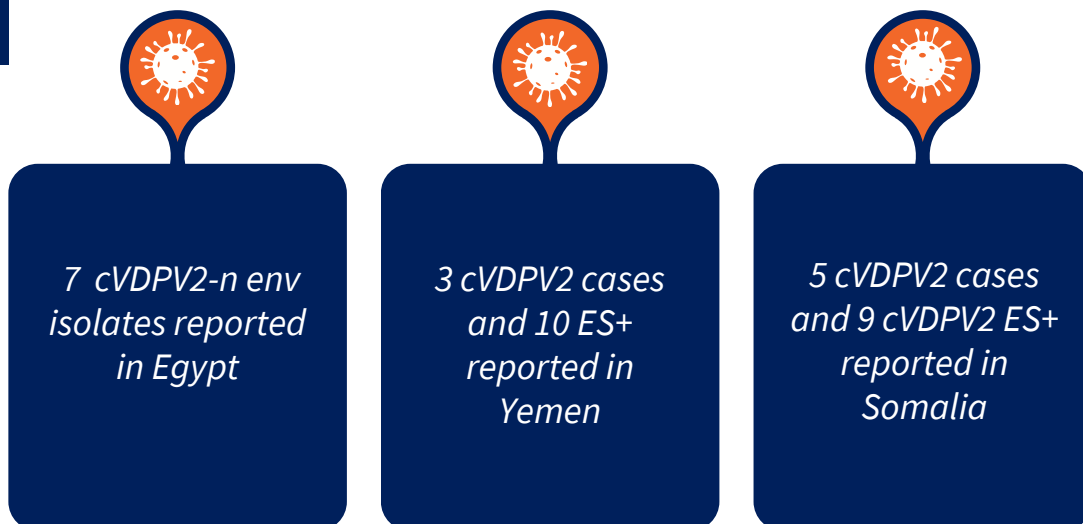
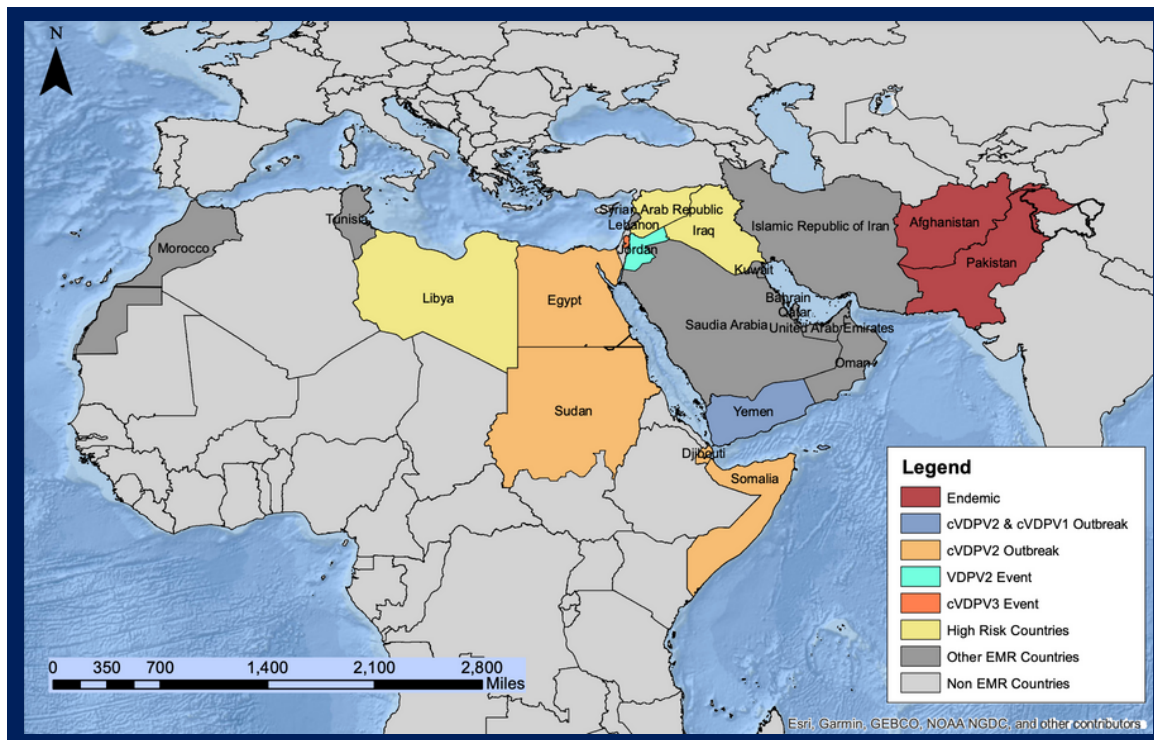


BY THE NUMBERS:



SITUATION UPDATE

- A breakthrough transmission occurred in North Sinai, **Egypt**, due to the detection of cVDPV2 from an environmental sample (ES) collected from the North Sinai governorate. The date of collection was more than 21 days from the first day of the second polio vaccination campaign. This brings the total number of cVDPV2-n isolates to seven, all of them from North Sinai.
- A total of 14 cVDPV2 isolates have been confirmed in **Somalia** in 2023 to date, as compared to 11 in 2022.
- Seven new cVDPV2 and one new VDPV2 isolate have been confirmed in **Yemen**. No polio case has been reported since the last sitrep. The most recent cVDPV2 case from Yemen was reported from Beni-Elharith district in Sana'a city (date of onset: 28 August 2023). Efforts continue to unlock access for vaccination with Sana'a leadership, and to raise demand for vaccination from the ground up.



Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) isolates:

	2022		2023	
	AFP	ES	AFP	ES
DJIBOUTI	0	12	0	0
EGYPT	0	6	0	7
SOMALIA	5	6	5	9
SUDAN	1	1	0	0
YEMEN	162	27	3	10



EPI AND SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

EGYPT



- Following the closure of the CHA-NDJ-1 emergence, there have been no further detections of cVDPV2 through either AFP surveillance or environmental surveillance.
- Seven cVDPV2-n isolates collected through environmental surveillance from North Sinai are all EGY-NOR-1 emergence. The first isolate was confirmed on 12 July 2023 and the most recent was on 13 November 2023.

SOMALIA



- To date in 2023, there have been five reported cases of cVDPV2. The most recent one, reported on 29 September 2023, was detected in Baidoa district, in Bay. This case is genetically linked to an earlier cVDPV2 case from Burhakaba district, with the virus showcasing 73 nucleotide differences. This recent virus has been classified as an orphan virus, indicating it does not match any currently known cVDPV2 strains within the Region.
- Additionally, nine cVDPV2 isolates have been reported this year through environmental surveillance. The latest two isolates found in ES samples collected on October 26, 2023, are from the Urobo2 and Karma ES sites in Banadir. These isolates are found to be genetically linked to the cVDPV2 sequence for a contact of an AFP case from Heliwa district of Banadir, having its date of paralysis onset on 3 Aug 2023.
- Eight PV2 are pending at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lab for final classification following whole genome sequencing. These include samples from two AFP cases, four contacts and two ES samples.

SUDAN



- Surveillance continues and a fourth shipment of AFP and ES samples has moved across Sudan and will be delivered to VACSERA by mid-December.
- An orientation on temperature monitoring for reverse cold chain for devices procured for the team by the CDC was held during two virtual sessions for the WHO Sudan Polio Team Lead, Public Health Officers, National Lab Coordinator, and team members from the VACSERA lab and EMRO.
- Monthly collections continue at selected environmental surveillance sites, while ad hoc samples were taken from additional sites.

YEMEN



- A total of 231 cVDPV2 cases have been reported since the start of the outbreak in 2021. The most recent case reported had onset of paralysis on 28 August 2023.
- As of week 51, Yemen reported 1260 AFP cases. The status as follows:
 - 1031 cases were discarded as they were negative for poliovirus.
 - 3 cases confirmed as cVDPV2 and one as VDPV2 (not circulatory).
 - 225 cases are pending final laboratory testing.
 - Of the 30 ES samples collected in 2023, the status is as follows:
 - 10 are positive for cVDPV2 and two are positive for VDPV2 (not circulatory)
 - 12 samples have been discarded as they were negative for VDPV or cVDPV.
 - 6 samples collected in October and November 2023 are waiting to be shipped.
- An external surveillance review carried out in Yemen from 1-5 September 2023 found that while Yemen's surveillance system is working, it is not capable of detecting low-level circulation. A report on the surveillance review has been published.
- The country has developed an action plan for implementation of surveillance review recommendations.



OUTBREAK RESPONSE UPDATE

EGYPT



- On 6 December 2023, the lab reported the isolation of cVDPV2-n from sewage water in North Sinai. The date of collection was more than 21 days from the second immunization response campaign, indicating breakthrough transmission.
- The Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt conducted field investigation in coordination with WHO and developed a plan of response which includes: community engagement, coordination with national security authority, coordination with sewage water department, implementation of two SNIDs for children aged under 5, conducted two weeks apart. The response also includes the delivery of health services in Hasanah district, including vaccination, through mobile clinics.
- Further efforts are planned for early 2024 in Egypt's frontier governorates to identify pockets of missed children to close immunity gaps.

SOMALIA



- The second national immunization days campaign for the year, which provided nOPV2, started on 3 November 2023. Due to the onset of heavy rainfall and riverine floods in areas of south and central Somalia, coupled with security and administrative challenges in Somaliland, the campaign unfolded in a staggered approach.
- The campaign concluded as scheduled on 5 November 2023 in Puntland, Galmudug, Banadir, and Hirshabelle states. Subsequently, the immunization drive commenced on 19 and 21 November in the South-West State and Somaliland, respectively. In Gedo, Jubaland State, vaccination efforts began on 3 December 2023 in five districts. There are 15 districts of the total 118 targeted where the campaign could not be conducted due to floods and security concerns. The country team is monitoring the situation to find an earliest opportunity for conducting the campaign in the remaining areas.
- The administrative coverage for the second round of NIDs exceeds 95%. The Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) assessment conducted in 73 designated lots across five states and Banadir administration—Banadir (17 lots), Galmudug (8), Hirshabelle (12), Puntland (12), Somaliland (15), and South-West (9)—revealed that 38 lots (52.2%) passed, 21 lots (28.8%) failed, and 14 lots (19.0%) achieved intermediate results.

SUDAN



- Although there has been some disruption to essential immunization activities, efforts are ongoing to ensure vaccines are replenished in all states and activities continue wherever possible. UNICEF has made special arrangements to bring in vaccines to replenish depleted stock levels using chartered flights and sufficient EPI vaccine stock is available until the end of the year. A measles and rubella campaign is planned in the coming months in a phased approach to respond to the ongoing measles outbreak.
- The planned second round, using nOPV2, has been paused until further notice, and the condition of the 3.29 million doses in country is precarious due to fuel shortages and the unpredictability of the conflict. The nOPV2 doses are in the national cold store in Khartoum, with temperature being maintained. These will be moved when feasible.

YEMEN



- Access to vaccinate children in the northern governorates continues to elude the programme. Robust, multi-channel advocacy efforts continue to get access for a multi-antigen vaccination campaign to respond to ongoing polio, measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases outbreaks.
- Two back-to-back nOPV2 vaccination rounds are planned in January and February in southern governorates targeting 1.3 million children under the age of five.

DJIBOUTI



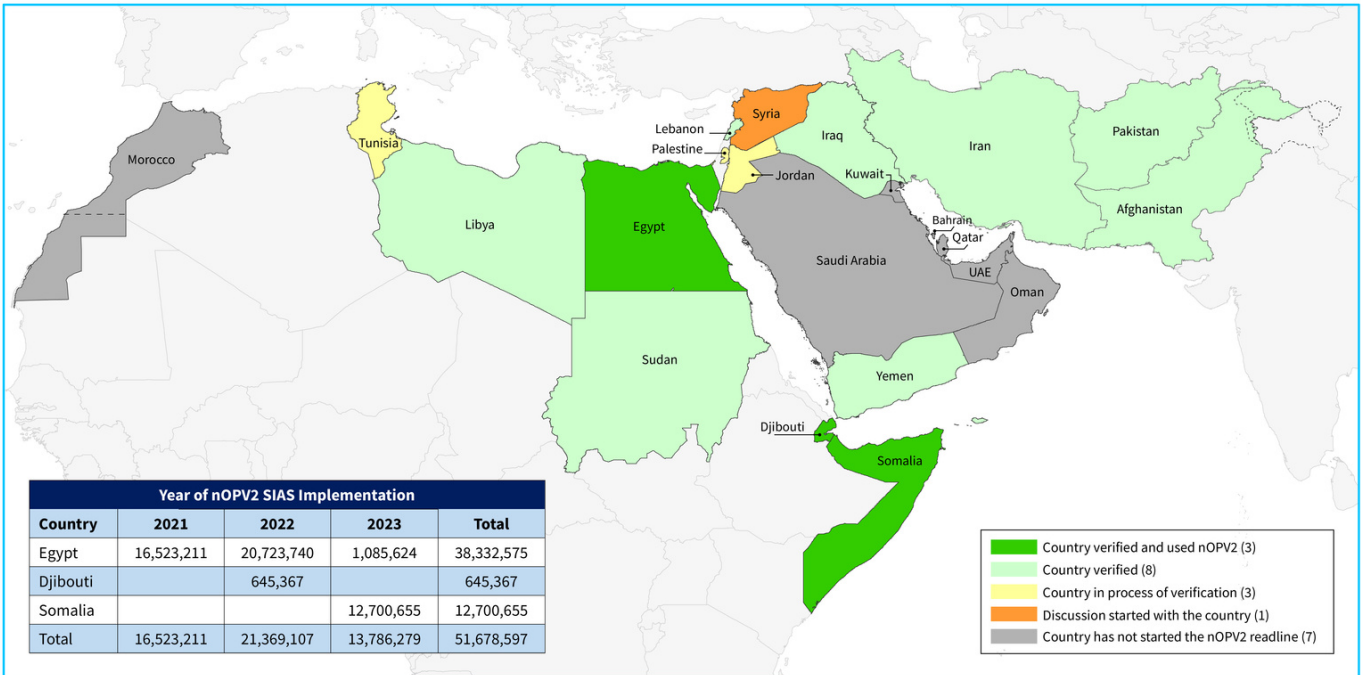
- In response to the Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) recommendations, the country team has developed a surveillance enhancement plan which is being finalized by the country team.



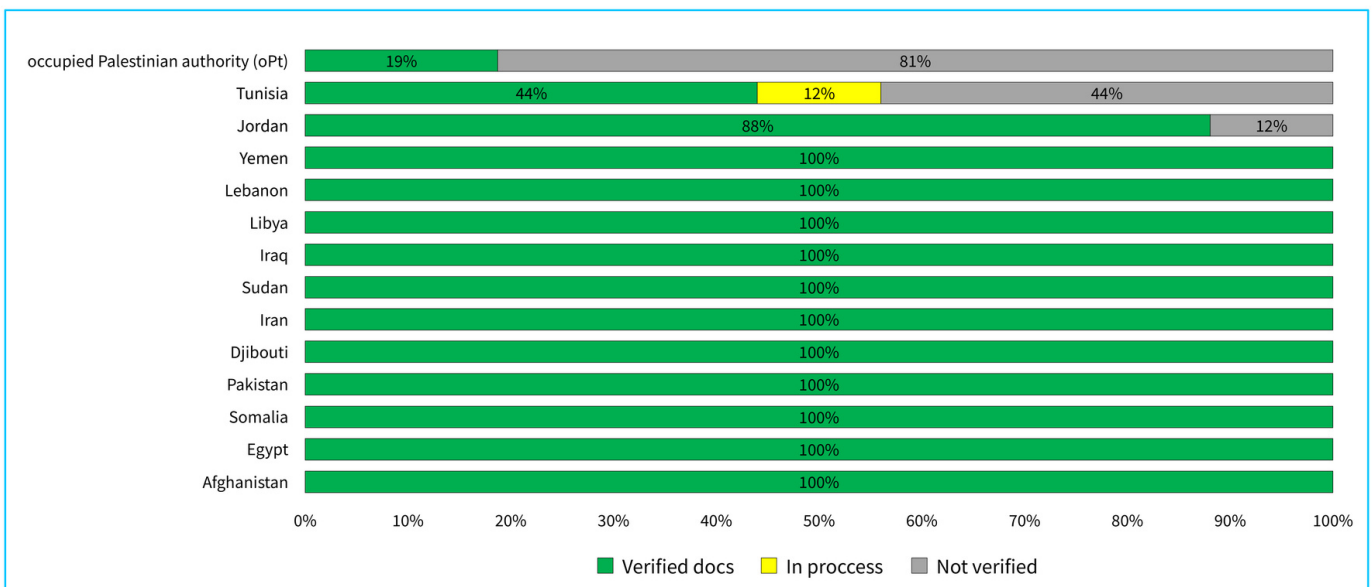
COORDINATION

Following an in-person meeting with the Outbreak Response and Preparedness Group in Amman in November, the Incident Management Support Team (IMST) facilitated the review and approval of plans for the first semester of 2024 in outbreak countries and associated surge budgets.

REGIONAL STATUS OF NOPV2 READINESS



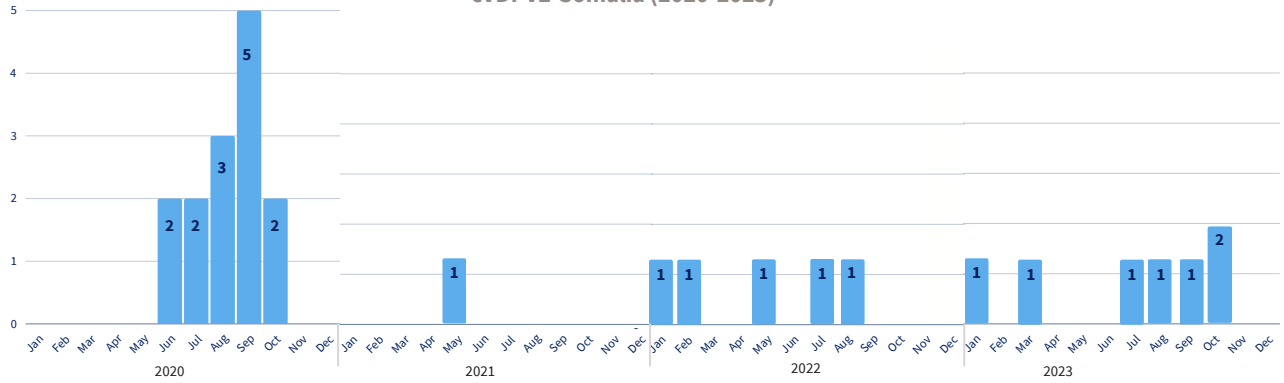
STATUS OF VERIFICATION OF NOPV2 READINESS BY COUNTRY (REGIONAL)



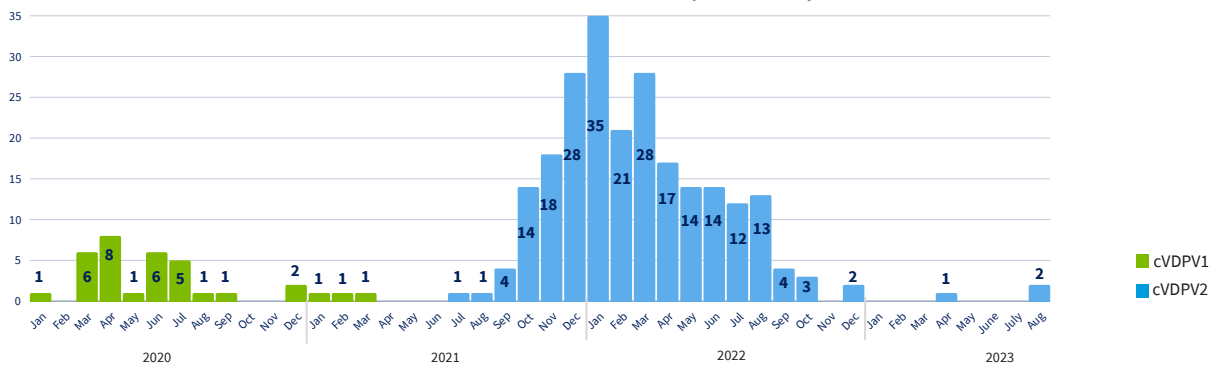


OUTBREAK EPI CURVES

cVDPV2-Somalia (2020-2023)

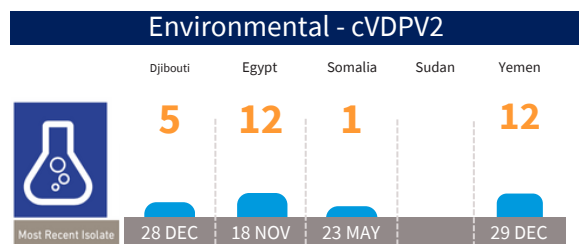


cVDPV1 & cVDPV2-Yemen (2020-2023)

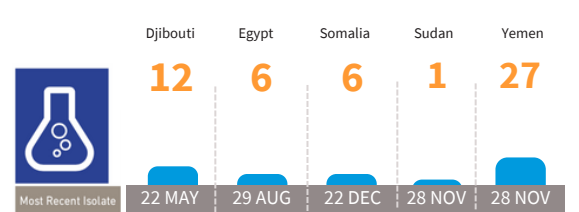
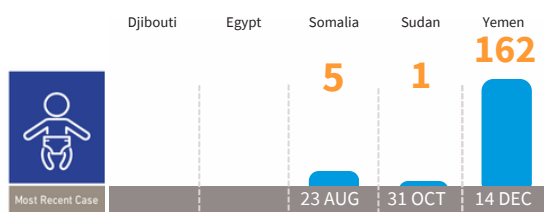


ALL cVDPV2 OUTBREAKS IN THE EMR

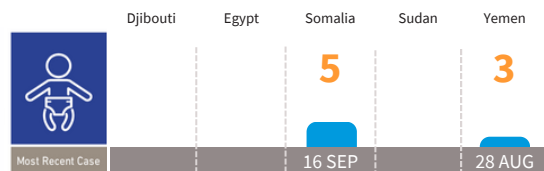
2021



2022



2023



Send questions to:

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Regional Outbreak Communications: gureshir@who.int

UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator: atsega@unicef.org

Regional Chief of Communications: amar@unicef.org

Relevant links:

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#)
- [Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026](#)
- [Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation](#)