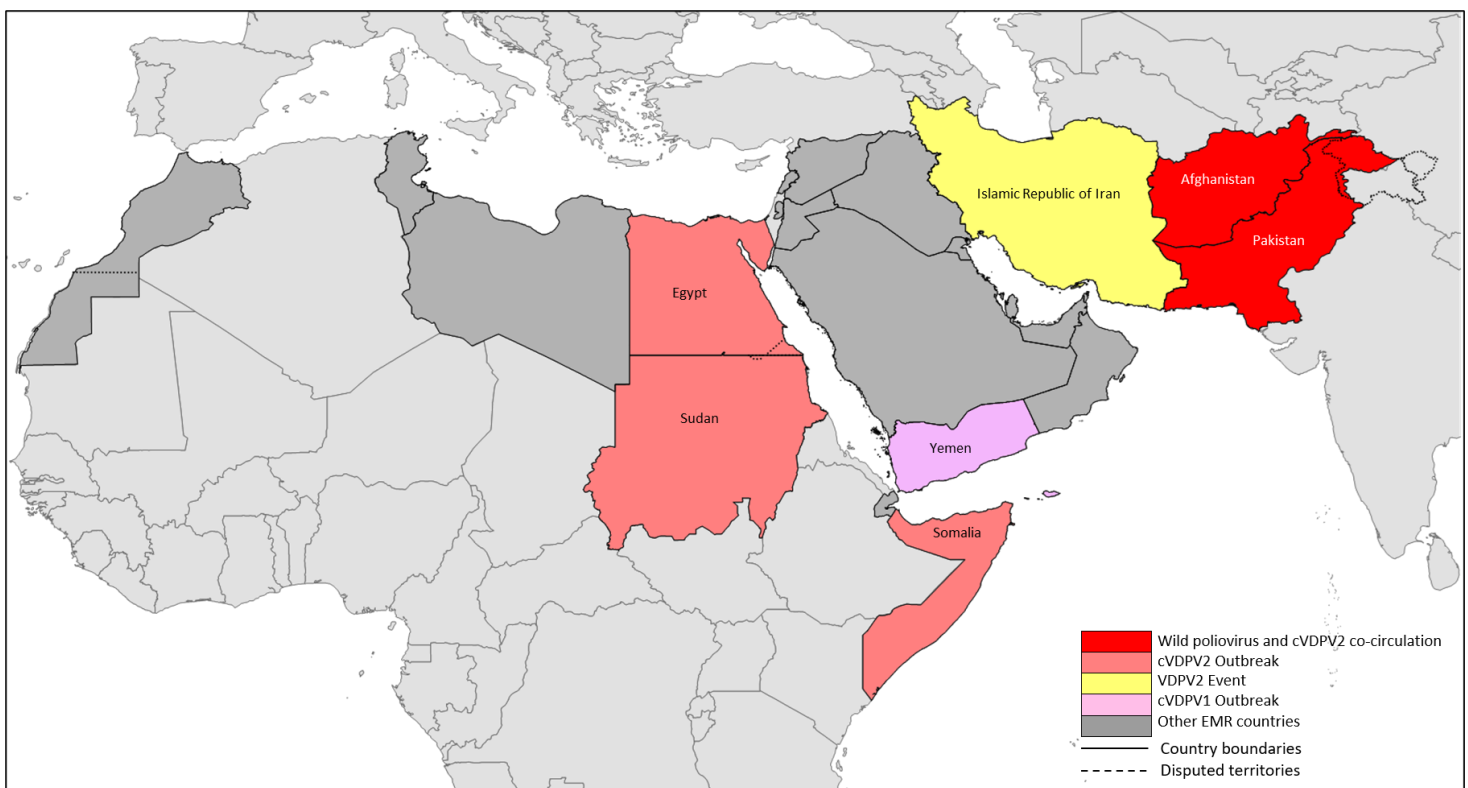




## SITUATION UPDATE

- The polio eradication programme continues to respond to multiple outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) in the region.
- **Egypt** has completed its first national response round with mOPV2 on 3 March with a coverage rate of 98%. A total of 16.6 million children under age five were vaccinated. In February, cVDPV2 was detected in environmental samples in Aswan and Qena provinces.
- **Iran** has completed its second response round using mOPV2 in 30 districts of four provinces following the detection of VDPV2 in three environmental samples in 2020. The date of collection of the last VDPV2 positive isolate from environment was 25 December 2020.
- No new cases of cVDPV1 have been detected in **Yemen**. The second integrated outreach campaign in Sa'adah governorate is ongoing. Dates for the next vaccination response round covering northern governorates are yet to be confirmed but is tentatively scheduled for 29-31 March.
- One new case of cVDPV2 in **Sudan** has been confirmed from 2020. The case from North Darfur had onset of paralysis on 13 December 2020.

Countries in WHO's EM Region with WPV and cVDPV type-1 and type-2 circulation 2021



## Surveillance:

### Sudan:

- Since the last situation report (Week 7, 2021), one new cVDPV2 case was reported in Sudan, bringing the total number of confirmed cVDPV2 cases to 58 since the outbreak started in August 2020. The total infected states remains at 15 and total infected districts at 44.
- The AFP surveillance system in Sudan remains sensitive to detect transmission of polioviruses. WHO surveillance officers and state-level consultants continue to collaborate on efforts to enhance surveillance.

### Yemen:

- No new cVDPV1 cases were reported: total confirmed cases remains 29 in 2020 and 1 in 2019. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 25 September 2020. All cases are confined to Sa'adah governorate except for one case reported from Asabeen district of Sana'a City; the case however is genetically and socially connected to Sa'adah.
- The surveillance system in Yemen maintains high sensitivity in terms of timeliness of detection of AFP cases and stool adequacy rates. At the national level, the detection rate is 4.8 and the adequacy rate is 93%.
- Teams continue to investigate clustering and zero-dose reported AFP cases in all districts.

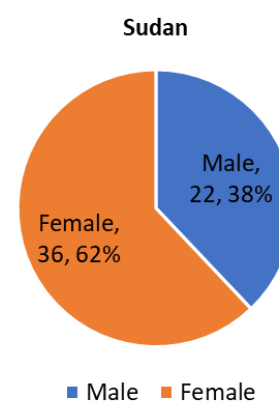
### Iran:

- Iran continues to enhance surveillance measures for polioviruses, including increasing the frequency of active surveillance visits, and training non-Iranian community leaders on reporting AFP cases.
- WHO has supported the Ministry of Health to recruit six surveillance officers in high-risk areas to expand active search of AFP cases, increase communication with community leaders and supervise environmental surveillance sample collection, in addition to supporting the vaccination of non-Iranian populations with IPV.
- Environmental surveillance is carried out across five sites in Sistan and Balouchistan province, once per month. Plans to expand environmental surveillance collection in areas not covered by the recent vaccination (mOPV2) campaign is under discussion.
- Sabin-like type-2 has been detected from environmental samples and AFP stool samples, showing the impact of the first outbreak response (conducted 13 February). Sabin-like strain is expected to be detected following the use of oral polio vaccine.

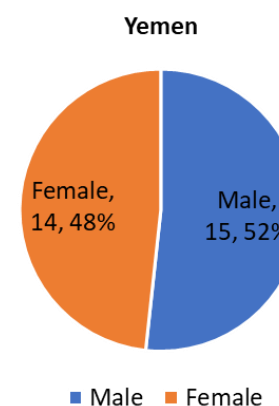
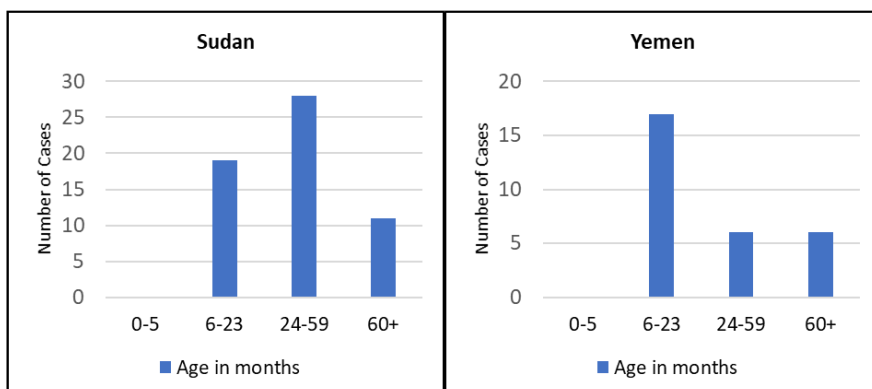
### Details of the most recent cVDPV cases: Sudan and Yemen

	Sudan: cVDPV2	Yemen: cVDPV1
<b>Date of onset of paralysis</b>	18 December 2020	25 September 2020
<b>Location</b>	South Darfur state	Sa'adah governorate
<b>Child age</b>	31 months	84 months
<b>Sex</b>	Male	Male
<b>Known immunization status</b>	Routine (OPV): 1 SIA (OPV): 1 IPV: Unknown	Routine (OPV): 0 SIA (OPV): 0 IPV: 0

### Sex distribution of confirmed cases



### Age distribution of confirmed cases



## Egypt:

- A total of eight VDPV2 positive environmental samples have been confirmed from six environmental surveillance sites across Egypt.
- The most recent sample was collected from Qena district, Qena province on 23 February.

## Case Response Preparedness and Implementation update:

### Sudan:

- West Darfur conducted its second response round between 22-25 February 2021. Despite the delay, a good quality round was achieved with proactive leadership from state government and departments of health. The coverage data and final report are pending.
- Coordination between the WHO Country offices in Sudan and Chad continues in regard to the Sudanese refugee. WHO Country offices in Sudan and Chad continue to coordinate the outbreak response. Chad is focusing on strengthening routine immunization at refugee camps bordering Sudan, where Sudanese refugees from West Darfur are registered.
- A post-campaign review meeting was convened in week 10. Outcomes of the review are awaited.

### Yemen:

- The second outbreak response round, planned to cover all northern governorates except Sa'adah, is tentatively scheduled to take place from 29-31 March.
- The second round of integrated outreach activities in Sa'adah governorate has started and will be completed in two phases. Phase one, which began in high-risk districts commenced on 1 March. The second phase will begin in mid-March.

### Iran:

- The second mOPV2 response round concluded on 10 March 2021 in 30 districts of four provinces. 531,385 million children were vaccinated/ targeted (98 % of the target) during the campaign. A total of 43,314 of all children reached were non-Iranian.
- The budget for the cVDPV2 response has been approved by the GPEI's Outbreak Preparedness and Response Task Team (OPRTT), enabling further surveillance strengthening work to continue and a post-campaign assessment to be completed.

### Egypt:

- Health workers vaccinated a total of 16.6 million children (coverage rate of 98%) with mOPV2 during the first response round, which concluded on 3 March.
- All children under the age of five, regardless of their immunization history or nationality were vaccinated in the campaign. Special consideration was made to ensure non-Egyptian children were included in microplanning to receive vaccination.
- Additional focus was placed on reaching children along the Sudanese-Egyptian borders.
- Vaccinators administered polio vaccines in 5,400 fixed health offices and medical centers, at train and bus stations, and next to mosques, churches, clubs, markets. round 2,000 ambulances were also used to reach children, especially in remote areas.
- National monitors validated the returned mOPV2 vials and started destruction of the vials, as per GPEI standard protocols, on 6 March.
- The next vaccination campaign with mOPV2 will start on 28 March.



*The Minister of Health Egypt inaugurated the response campaign on February 28, 2021.*



*A Sudanese child is vaccinated on a bus in Egypt before traveling to Sudan.*

## Regional Coordination

- The regional polio Incident Management Support Team (comprising WHO and UNICEF) continues to coordinate and support countries responding to the outbreaks.
- WHO's Regional Director of the Eastern Mediterranean Region Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari convened [the first meeting of Regional Subcommittee on Polio Eradication and Outbreaks](#) on 16 March. The forum brings Member States across the Region to the same table with the aim of bringing about the focus, regional solidarity and commitment needed to achieve eradication. Its creation was formally adopted by the Members States through a Resolution at the 67<sup>th</sup> Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean Region in October 2020.

## REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- A change in the risk categorization of countries is underway, based on recent developments in epidemiology. Member States have been alerted to the evolving situation and risks of spread posed.
- Considering ongoing risk analyses, two mOPV2 nationwide vaccination campaigns in Djibouti have been approved by global advisory body; MOH in coordination with the GPEI is strategizing implementation of these SIAs.
- As part of the global strategy to target cVDPV2 outbreaks, the programme will roll out a new oral vaccine designed to tackle vaccine-derived outbreaks, novel OPV2 (nOPV2). Several Member States in the EMR region are now preparing for the introduction of this new vaccine in 2021.
- The continued detection of cVDPV2 in Somalia reflects a significant population immunity gap primarily due to the large number of inaccessible children in areas controlled by non-state armed groups. However, following careful analysis of available data, Somalia's cVDPV3 outbreak has been declared closed.

### Health and Humanitarian context:

- As of 27 February, 13 countries in WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region are reporting an increase in COVID-19 cases, approximately 19% higher than the previous two weeks, highlighting the critical situation faced by many countries in the region (source: WHO EMRO biweekly situation report #4).
- COVID vaccination campaigns have been ongoing in 9 countries of the Region since the beginning of the year, with over 2.9 million doses of various vaccines administered in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar and recently in Morocco.
- The Government of Sudan has officially announced a new currency exchange rate at par with or above black market rates. The impact of this on budgets is under review.

### Other cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR:

## 2020



## 2021

