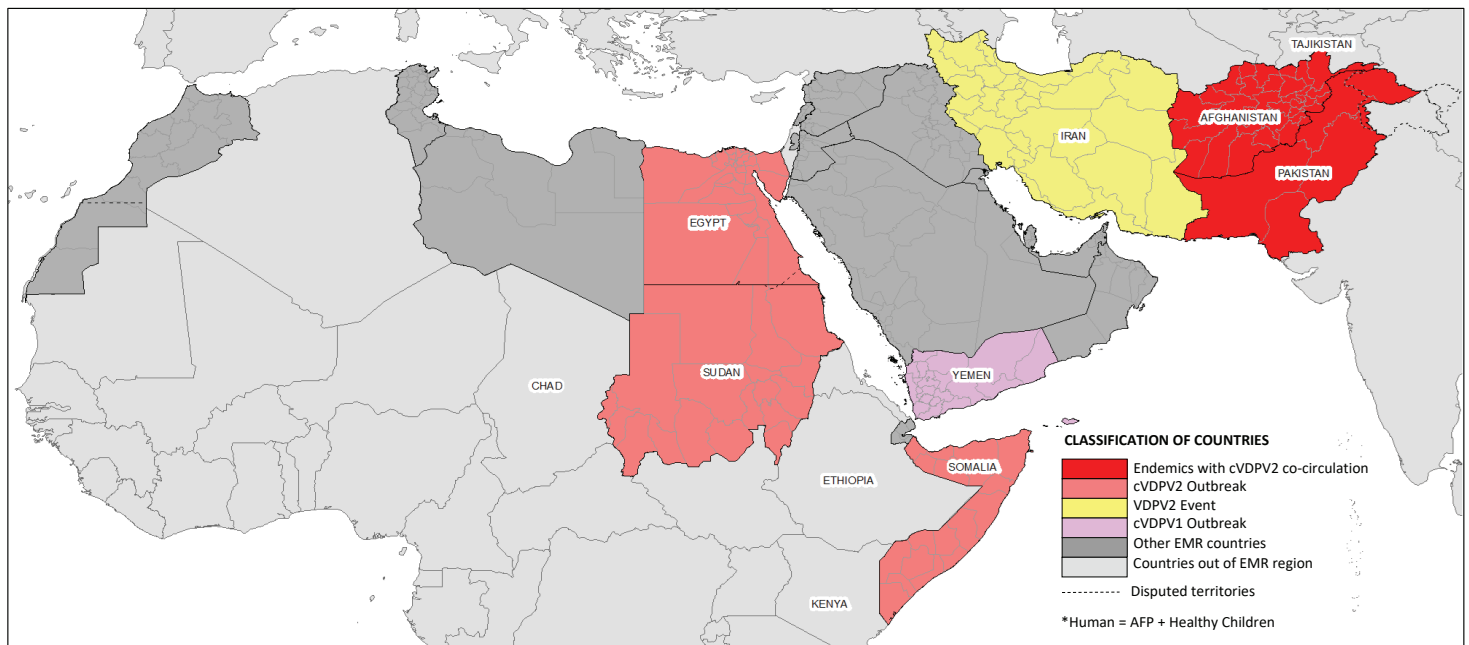


### Situation update

- Eight EMR-MENA countries continue to prepare for use of novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). Four countries have completed and verified all nOPV2 readiness requirements: **Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan and Somalia**; more details on the regional nOPV2 dashboard.
- **Egypt** continues to detect separate emergences of VDPV2 from environmental collection sites. The most recent confirmed isolates were reported from Asyut governorate on 9 November. A total of 67 VDPV positive samples have been collected from 26 sites across the country. None of the emergences are genetically linked to each other or any previous VDPV2 isolates.
- No cVDPV2 positive environmental samples have been detected in **Egypt** since the most recent detection on 8 June 2021. To date, 10 cVDPV2 samples have been isolated across six governorates.
- No cVDPV2 positive environmental samples have been reported in **Iran** since the most recent detection on 20 February 2021. However, two aVDPV2 isolates have been detected in Iran following the mOPV2 campaigns conducted in February and March 2021. To date, four confirmed environmental samples have been confirmed cVDPV2, all from Sistan and Balochistan (S&B) province.
- One cVDPV2 case was reported in **Somalia**, the first in 2021. The case, a 17-month-old female with onset of paralysis on 12 May 2021, is genetically linked to an environmental sample from Kenya (Garissa, Bouralgy site). The case was confirmed by KEMRI lab and notified on 7 October, at which time it was cross-notified to Somalia.
- No new cVDPV2 cases have been detected in **Sudan** since the most recent on 18 December 2020. Fifty-eight cases were reported in 2020.
- No new cVDPV1 cases have been detected in **Yemen**. A total of three cases, all from Sa'adah governorate, have been reported in 2021, the most recent on 25 March 2021.

### Countries in WHO's EM Region with WPV, cVDPV1 and cVDPV2 circulation 2021



**Egypt:**

- A total of 67 environmental samples collected from 26 of the country’s 27 governorates have confirmed separate emergences of VDPV2, with Asyut being the latest governorate to report a VDPV2 isolate, collected on 12 October 2021. The new isolates are not genetically linked to each other or any previous VDPV2 isolates.
- A total of 1,018 AFP cases were reported up to week 44. The non-polio acute flaccid paralysis (NPAFP) rate is three, while the stool adequacy rate is 89%. This reflects a well-functioning AFP surveillance system, which is supplemented by an extensive environmental surveillance (ES) network.

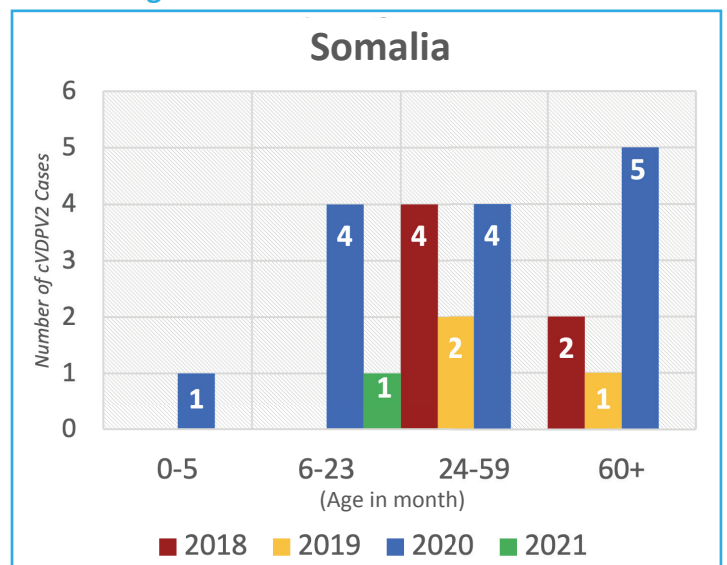
**Iran:**

- Two environmental aVDPV2 isolates have been reported from Iran on 10 July and 28 September 2021. Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, continue to enhance surveillance to investigate the possible source of VDPV2, whether from Iran or imported from neighboring countries and to mitigate any risk of conversion to cVDPV2.
- A total of 532 AFP cases were reported up to week 44. The NPAFP rate is 3.1, while the stool adequacy rate is 96.4%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system.

**Somalia:**

- In 2021 to date, cVDPV2 has been detected from one environmental sample collected on 23 May in Banadir (Kawma ES site, district Hamarwayne). It is genetically linked to an isolate from Kenya (Garissa, Bouralgy site) that belongs to the SOM-BAN-1 emergence.
- The recently confirmed cVDPV2 case, which was notified on 7 October, is a 17-month-old female with onset of paralysis on 12 May 2021. Detailed travel history investigations of the case confirmed that shortly after onset of paralysis, the family travelled to Dagahaley IDP camp in Kenya to seek medical care, delaying the collection of stool samples (collected on 22-23 June 2021). Several additional delays (including on logistics, shortage of lab supplies and backlog of other samples to be processed) led to confirmation through Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) laboratory on 7 October 2021, at which point the case was cross-notified to Somalia. This case is genetically linked to an environmental sample from Kenya (Garissa, Bouralgy site), showing cross-border circulation of the SOM-BAN-1 emergence.

Age distribution of confirmed cases



Although international indicators are being met, surveillance gaps remain in Somalia, particularly in inaccessible areas in the south and central parts of the country. Many of these areas have weakened or non-functioning health systems, and have had poor or no vaccination for many years.

## Sudan:

- The functionality of the National Polio Lab in Khartoum has been disrupted since 25 October 2021 due to insecurity. However, sample storage at the state and national levels is performing well with no reports of power outages.
- Of eight samples collected in September 2021, the lab confirmed one as non-polio enterovirus and the others negative for polioviruses.

A total of 465 AFP cases were reported up to week 44. The NPAFP rate is 2.8 and the stool adequacy rate is 94%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system.

## Yemen:

- Six environmental surveillance and 155 AFP samples collected between September and October are en route to the KEMRI and the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Oman, awaiting final clearance to be shipped.
- Ongoing discussions with health authorities to accelerate the approval process for this shipment has facilitated smoother clearance processes for the most recent shipment of samples, compared to the previous months.
- AFP surveillance training was conducted in Sa'adah and Al-Mahweet governorates from 31 October to 4 November 2021 to build the capacity of 205 health care workers.
- A total of 663 AFP cases were reported up to week 44, however 88 AFP cases are pending for lab results (24 in KEMRI and 64 in NPHL). The NPAFP rate is 5.04 and stool adequacy rate is 90%, reflecting a well-functioning AFP surveillance system.



All stool samples are sent from governorates to the Central Public Health Lab in Sana'a to ensure they are in good condition and labeled with ID numbers. Photo: WHO/ Omar Nasr



## Outbreak response update

### Egypt:

- The EMR's first use of nOPV2 is tentatively planned for the first week of December 2021. The Outbreak Response and Preparedness Group (ORPG) approved the allocation of 20 million nOPV2 doses for a national campaign.
- UNICEF MENA is identifying the fastest route to ship the nOPV2 vaccines from Indonesia to Egypt. The first expected arrival date is 25 November 2021 in two shipments.
- Phase 1 of preparations to run a high-quality nOPV2 vaccination campaign have been completed. During this phase, key staff from each governorate were invited to list all challenges in previous mOPV2 campaigns and identify geographic areas with sub-standard coverage. Focal points then addressed challenges.
- Weekly calls between regional and country offices have resumed to monitor the level of preparedness.

### Iran:

- As part of the high-risk event response plan, the country team continues to strengthen the surveillance activities, track any population movement from neighboring countries and vaccinate children from Afghanistan and Pakistan with IPV, especially in border areas. These activities are being conducted in response to the detection of VDPV2 from the environment in the outbreak response zone.

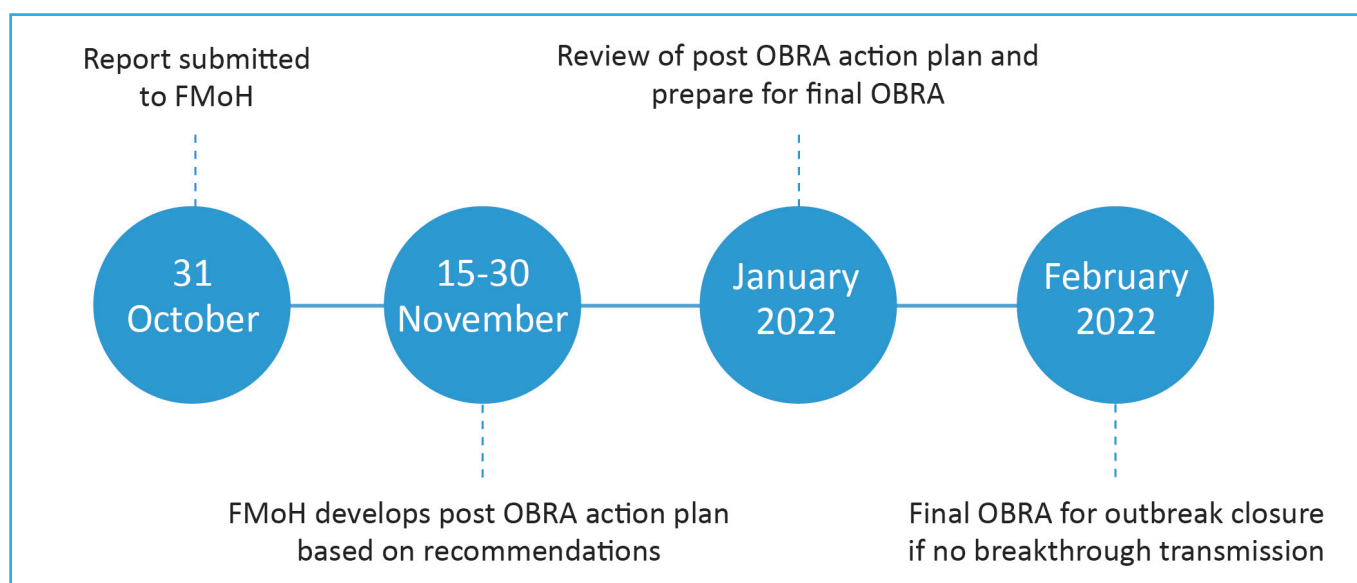
## Somalia:

- An outbreak response plan (covering December 2021 to June 2022) is under development in response to the first cVDPV2 case of 2021. A cross-border virtual meeting is planned for 17 November 2021 to coordinate a joint plan of action to strengthen the surveillance system with Kenya.

## Sudan:

- The Interim Poliovirus Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was completed. The assessment, conducted virtually from 20 September to 18 October 2021, concluded that the cVDPV2 response has been of good quality but noted that the risk of importation remains very high. The OBRA team recommended improving population immunity through routine immunization, with continued attention to special and high-risk groups, and strengthening AFP surveillance.
- A final OBRA will be conducted in January/ February of 2022 -- 12 months after the last detected isolate.

## Timeline for cVDPV2 Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) in Sudan



## Yemen:

- The programme's regional incident manager concluded a visit to Sana'a to support health authorities in response to the cVDPV1 outbreak and visited the Central Public Health Laboratory to review how AFP and environmental samples are handled and prepared for shipment. The incident manager commended the strong commitment by the health authorities and other partners to responding to the current outbreak despite challenges with other outbreaks, including rubella, measles and COVID-19.
- The fourth round of integrated outreach campaigns was conducted in Sa'adah governorate from 6-13 November 2021 to provide bOPV, measles, rubella, diphtheria vaccination, and nutrition services. Results from the campaigns are being compiled.

The first of three rounds of polio and measles and rubella (MR) vaccination in Sa'adah governorate has been postponed again and is now tentatively planned for the first week of December 2021. The site-to-site campaign aims to reach 206,482 children under age five with bOPV and 189,244 children aged six months to five years with MR vaccine.

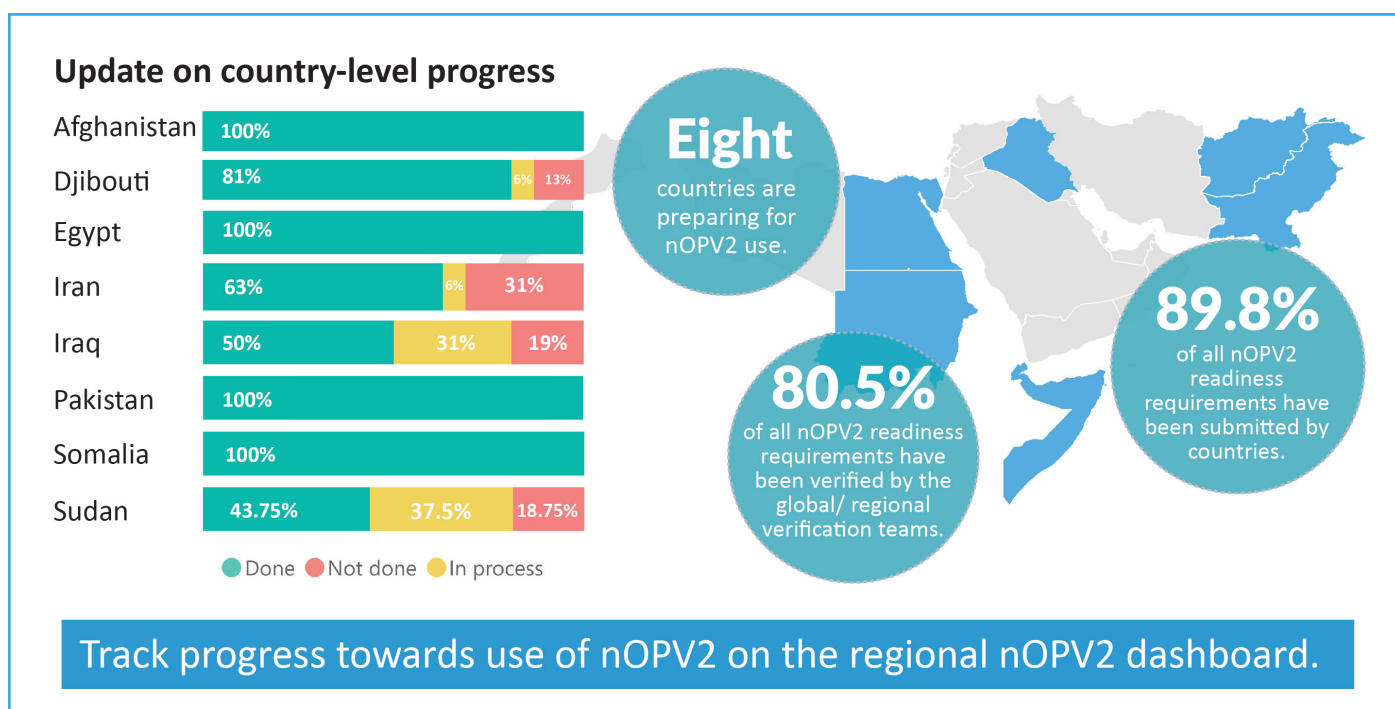
- A targeted measles and polio vaccination campaign to reach children in 147 IDP camps in Marib governorate took place between 31 October - 5 November 2021. The campaign aimed to reach more than 40,000 children aged 6-59 months with bOPV2 polio vaccine and around 95,000 children aged between 6 months to 15 years with measles vaccine.



## Health and humanitarian situation

- In the wake of recent security and political events in **Sudan**, the majority of polio programme activities came to a standstill, with communication and transportations still affected. The events are having an ongoing impact on the already fragile health system and is impeding different health programmes, including polio.
- More than 300,000 people have died of COVID-19 and more than 16.4 million people have tested positive in the Eastern Mediterranean Region since the beginning of the pandemic. Both new cases and deaths have decreased in the last few weeks across the Region. Efforts across the region are ongoing to ensure populations in high-risk countries have access to COVID-19 vaccines.

### nOPV2 progress update - up to week 44, 2021

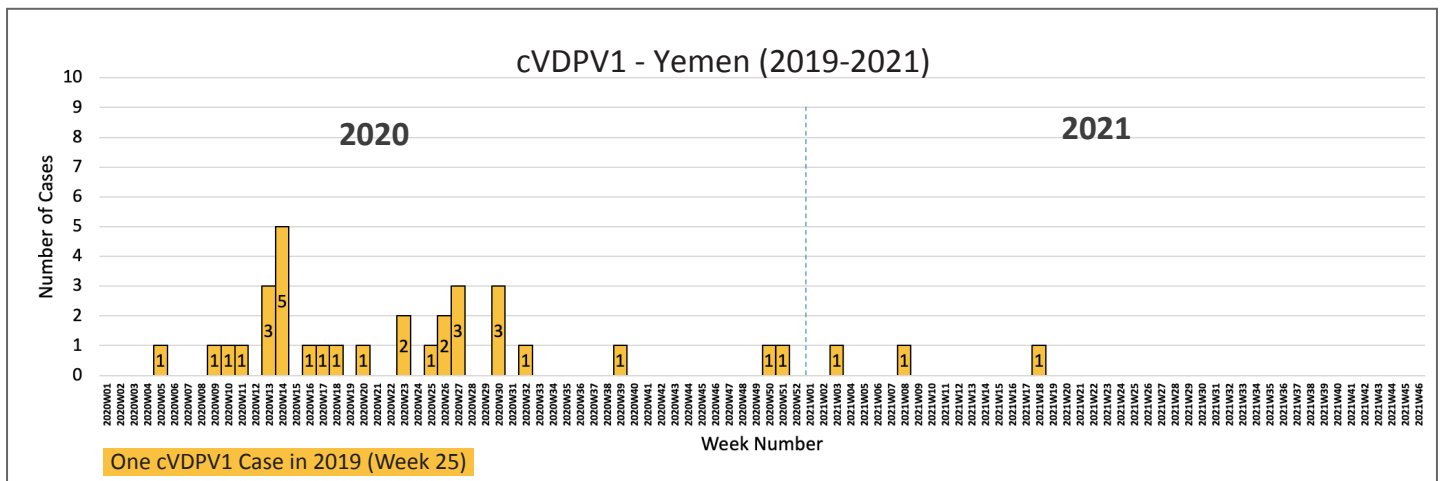
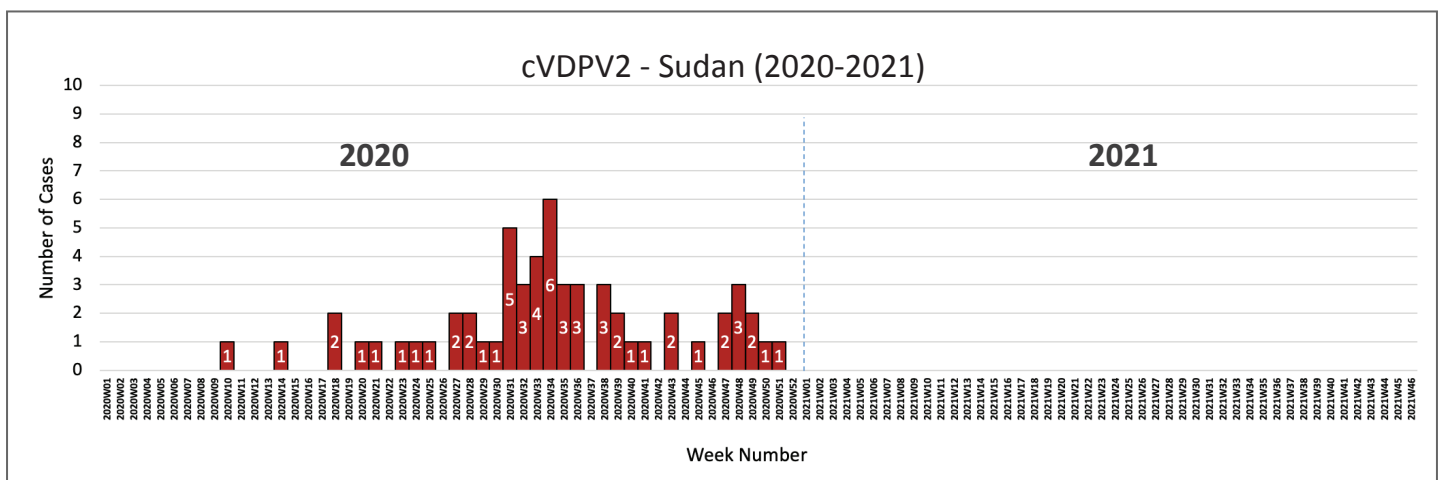
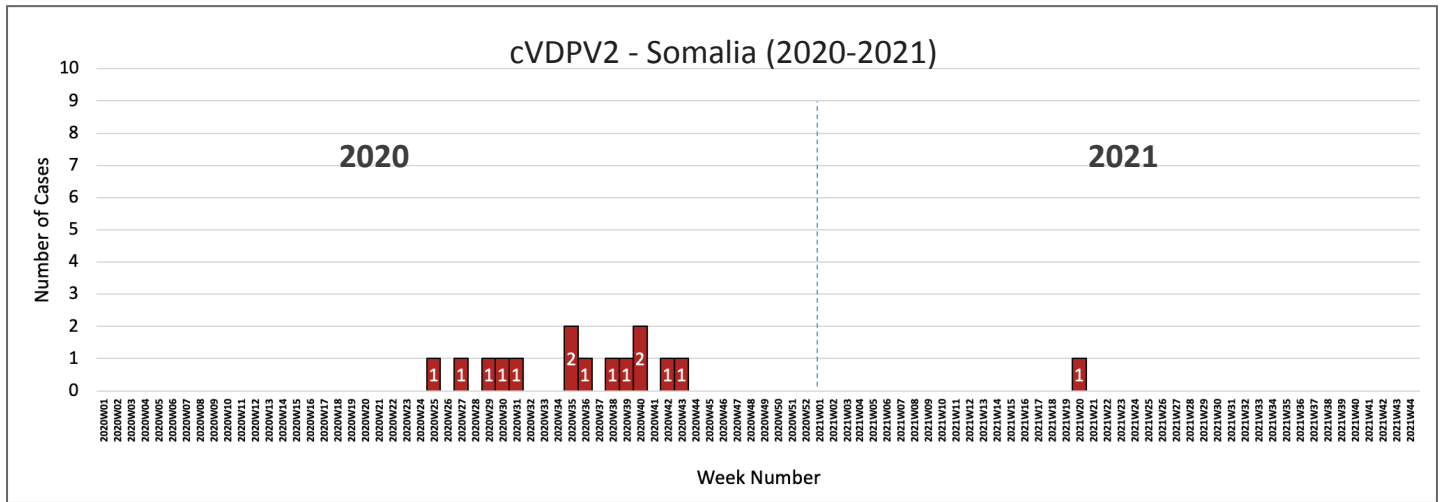


### Other cVDPV2 Outbreaks in the EMR

2020	Regional cVDPV2 outbreaks			Environmental surveillance			
	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia	
	<b>305</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>174</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>26</b>
Most recent onset of paralysis	30 December 2020	24 December 2020	25 October 2020	Most recent collection	27 December 2020	28 December 2020	24 October 2020

2021	Regional cVDPV2 outbreaks			Environmental surveillance			
	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Somalia	
	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1</b>
Most recent onset of paralysis	9 July 2021	23 April 2021	12 May 2021	Most recent collection	23 June 2021	11 August 2021	23 May 2021



## Send questions to:

### WHO:

Regional Outbreaks Coordinator: [shuklah@who.int](mailto:shuklah@who.int)  
Regional Communications Lead: [sykes@who.int](mailto:sykes@who.int)

### UNICEF:

Regional Polio Coordinator (a.i): [dngemera@unicef.org](mailto:dngemera@unicef.org)  
Regional Chief of Communications: [jtouma@unicef.org](mailto:jtouma@unicef.org)

## Relevant links:

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