



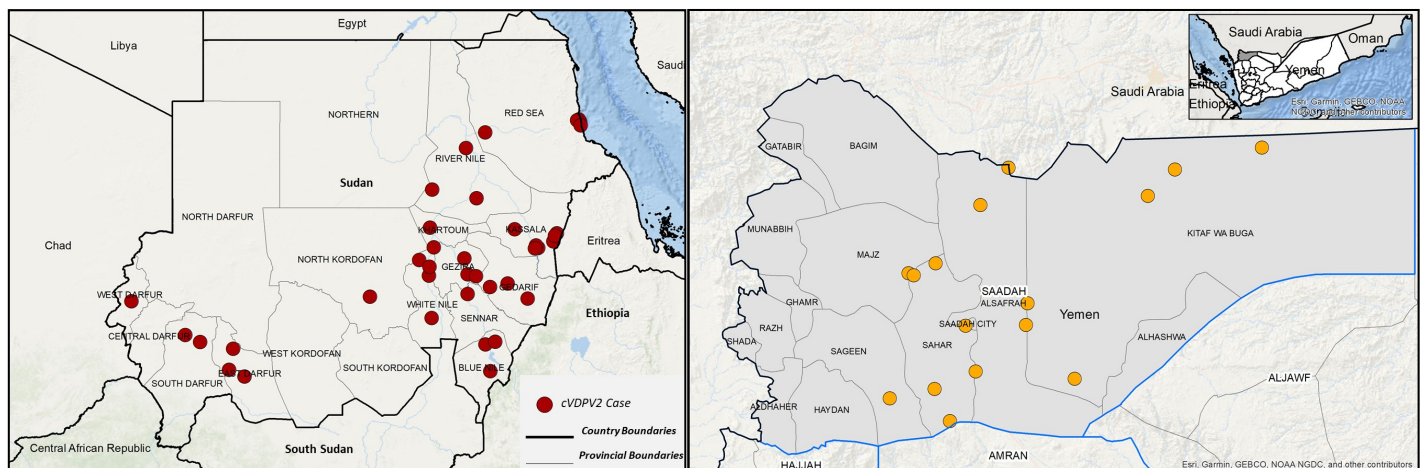
SITUATION UPDATE

- Transmission of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (cVDPV2) is expanding geographically in the MENA – EMR regions.
- In **Iran**, a VDPV2 isolate has been detected from an environmental sample from Sistan and Balochistan province, bordering Afghanistan. Sequencing data reflects that it is genetically linked with cVDPV2 in **Afghanistan**. Field investigation and risk analysis are underway. To date, there is no evidence of local transmission.
- In **Egypt**, public health authorities have conducted the field investigation into the VDPV2 isolated from an environmental site in greater Cairo in week 40. There is no evidence of local transmission so far. The Ministry of Health is taking an active role in developing a strategic plan due to the ongoing risks associated with transmission in neighboring countries and the presence of a cohort of children born during the global shortage of IPV.
- **Sudan** is affected by an outbreak of cVDPV2. No new cases have been confirmed in the past week. The total number of children paralysed remains 39 from 13 states. cVDPV2 has been confirmed in eight samples from environmental sampling sites in Khartoum state collected during March, July and August 2020.
- **Yemen** is responding to a cVDPV1 outbreak. The total number of children paralysed remains 17 (including one case from 2019), all from Sa’adah governorate. Stool specimens from AFP cases and contacts are currently undergoing testing in the lab and may change the epidemiology in the coming weeks.

Details of the most recent cVDVP cases

	Sudan: cVDVP2	Yemen: cVDVP1
Date of onset of paralysis	3 September 2020	5 June 2020
Location	Blue Nile state	Sa’adah governorate
Child age	39 months	8 months
Gender	Female	Female
Known immunization status	5 doses of OPV	Zero doses of both OPV and IPV

Distribution of cVDPV2 in Sudan and cVDPV1 in Yemen, 2020



Surveillance:

- In **Sudan**, a total of 557 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases have been reported up to week 44, of which 405 cases (73%) were discarded as non-polio AFP cases, 113 cases (20%) were pending classification and 39 cases are confirmed cVDPV2 (0.7%).
 - Six new probable cases and three contacts are pending results from the Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL).
 - Environmental surveillance is well functioning across five sites in Khartoum. Several samples are undergoing processing at the lab including eight from June, five from September and five from October.
- In **Yemen**, a total of 780 stool specimens from AFP cases and contacts have been received by laboratories in Kenya and Oman for processing. The programme expects to start receiving results in the coming week.
- In **Egypt**, enhanced surveillance activities are being implemented following the detection of VDPV2, including healthy children sampling. Stool specimens were collected from a survey of 30 Egyptian and non-Egyptian healthy children, with all specimens testing negative for VDPV2.
 - No further detection of VDPV2 has been confirmed following additional environmental sampling from the same site of the initial detection (El-Eshreen) and other sites in Giza governorate. However, the frequency of sample collection and monitoring has been increased and will continue for six months as per guidelines.
 - Strengthening of both EPI and polio surveillance is ongoing in other governorates, including increased community reporting of AFP cases in newly arrived populations.

Health and Humanitarian Context:

- The high price of fuel in **Sudan** is affecting humanitarian operations, with a possible impact on the transportation used in the upcoming vaccination campaign. The fuel crisis in **Yemen** continues, with severe implications for humanitarian response.
- Following the flooding that affected 875,000 people across **Sudan**, more than 4.5 million people may now be at risk of contracting vector-borne diseases (source: OCHA, 22 October 2020). Maps released by the UNICEF/WASH cluster suggest that significant numbers of households have limited access to [adequate sanitation](#), [handwashing facilities](#) and [water services](#).
- In **Yemen**, over half a million children aged 0 to 59 months, and more than a quarter of a million pregnant and lactating women are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition during 2020 (source: IPC, October 2020).
- Health partners in both **Yemen** and **Sudan** continue to support the COVID-19 response. **Yemen** reported 30 new confirmed cases, 13 deaths and 99 recoveries in the four weeks to 24 October, however, indicators suggest that these figures are an underestimate (source: OCHA, 24 October 2020).
- Widespread population movements of nomadic, IDP and rural groups across the region and particularly VDPV outbreak affected countries further compound the challenges the programme faces in reaching every child.

REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- The 26th meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) regarding the international spread of poliovirus met on 14 October 2020. The committee noted deep concern that the international spread of cVDPV2 is expanding, with cross-border spread occurring regularly. Read the statement [here](#).
- Falling immunity to type 2 polioviruses, weak routine immunization, disruptions to health services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access challenges and population movement are named as key contributing factors to the rising risk of cVDPV spread in the region.

Regional coordination:

- The regional polio IMST convenes coordination calls multiple times a week, including with the Outbreak Preparedness and Response Task Team and with country teams to provide technical support.
- WHO and UNICEF continue to provide surge support to both **Sudan** and **Yemen** outbreak response.
- Five consultants are on contract supporting **Yemen**, with additional staff expected to join.
- Regional WHO staff will undertake a support mission to ensure adequate preparations for the nationwide campaign in **Yemen** in the first week of November.
- Regular coordination is taking place with the **Yemen** Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPH&P) technical team, led by the Deputy Minister, and the outbreak response (OBR) team (including from both country and regional levels).

Case Response Preparedness and Implementation update:

- **Sudan** is planning to vaccinate 8.6 million children under five twice in all 18 states of the country, using mOPV2 vaccine, during November and December.
 - Pre-campaign activities including the national TOT and microplan validation workshops have been implemented and all supplies of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and finger markers are in place.
 - Twenty-two national consultants have been onboarded and will be deployed to states to provide coordinated support in pre-, intra-, and post-campaign activities.
- **Yemen** has confirmed the first of several vaccination campaigns in response to the outbreak to begin on November 21. The first round will be a nationwide round excluding Sa'adah governorate, where integrated outreach activities are planned.
 - Pre-campaign activities are underway.
 - PPEs for the campaign have been secured from the available stock of WHO Health Emergencies (WHE), to be replenished at a later time.
 - UNICEF will support by providing the third-party monitoring contract for the monitoring of the first campaign.

Vaccine logistics:

- In **Sudan**, twelve of 18 states were assessed to have insufficient freezing capacity to accommodate campaign vaccine, according to a cold chain gap analysis carried out by the technical team. The Federal Ministry of Health has released 25 freezers to fill all identified gaps. A stock of an additional eight freezers are maintained at the national level in case of emergency.
 - Vaccines for R1 are in country and planning for distribution to the states is underway. The request for vaccines for the second campaign will be filled when the timing has been confirmed for R2. Vaccine management supplies have been released to the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) warehouse and state distribution will commence this week.
 - The recruitment for national vaccine management consultants is being finalized. Consultants will start in the first week of November.
- In **Yemen**, UNICEF is working towards procuring the additional vaccines required for the nationwide campaign, aiming for vaccines to arrive by 15 November.
 - Consultants recruited on surge to support Cold Chain Logistics and Vaccine Management have been onboarded and are working remotely.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- In **Sudan**, communication teams are working together to identify spokespeople from the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WHO ahead of the campaign.
 - Key campaign messages, training and communication materials have been approved by the Technical Committee. The bulk of the communication and training materials are being shipped to the states.
 - Training of Trainers (TOT) at state and locality level is being conducted in week 45 and will be cascaded at the administrative unit few days before the vaccination round kick off.
- In **Yemen**, coordination and planning with local partners of social mobilization and community engagement is underway ahead of the nationwide campaign.
 - The consultant supporting C4D has commenced work remotely, with the aim of travelling to Yemen when a visa is granted.

cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR:

- New territories in **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan** continue to report cVDPV2 cases and isolates from the environment. The outbreak, which is genetically linked, began in 2019. A synchronized tOPV vaccination campaign has concluded.
- **Somalia** continues to respond to a protracted outbreak of cVDPV2. The programme is intensifying efforts in light of recent virus detections including detailed case investigations, healthy child sampling, raising community awareness, sensitizing health workers to acute flaccid paralysis, and intensified active case search. See the latest situation report [here](#).

Regional
cVDPV2
outbreaks
Most recent
onset of paralysis

AFGHANISTAN
 **101**
29 August 2020

PAKISTAN
 **80**
10 September 2020

SOMALIA
 **08**
17 September 2020



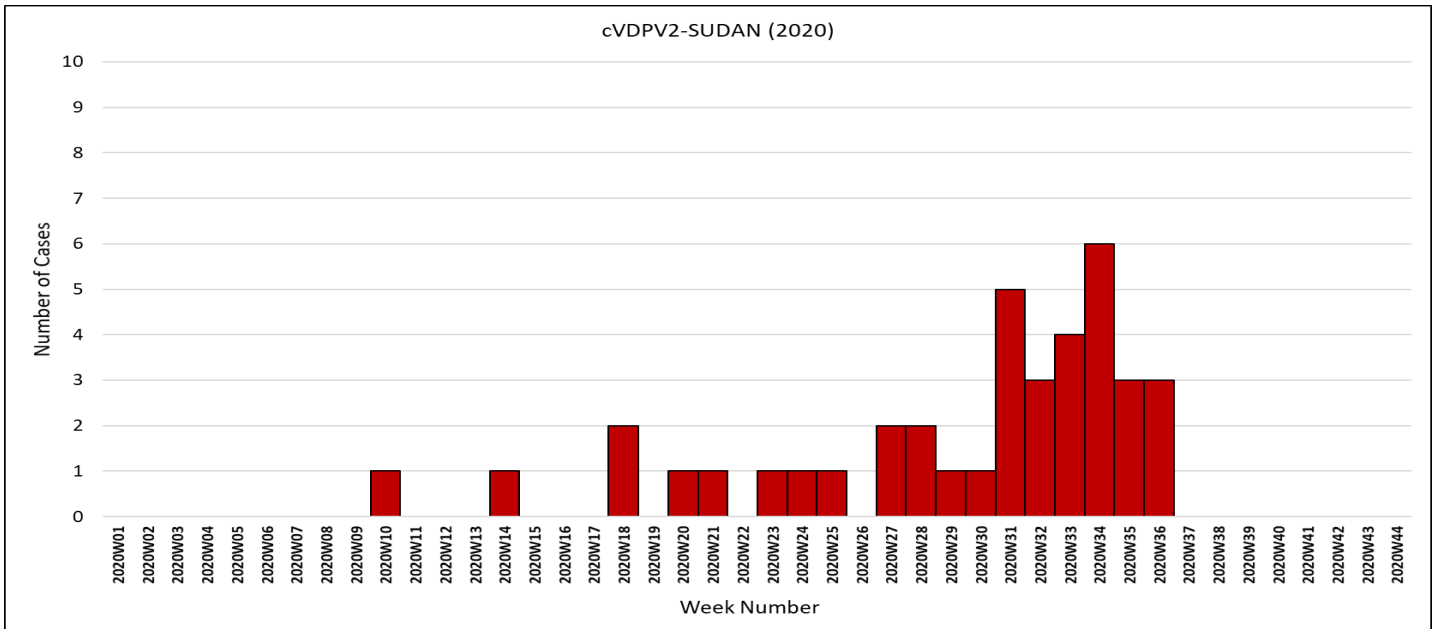
Environmental
Surveillance
Most recent collection

AFG: 90
6 September

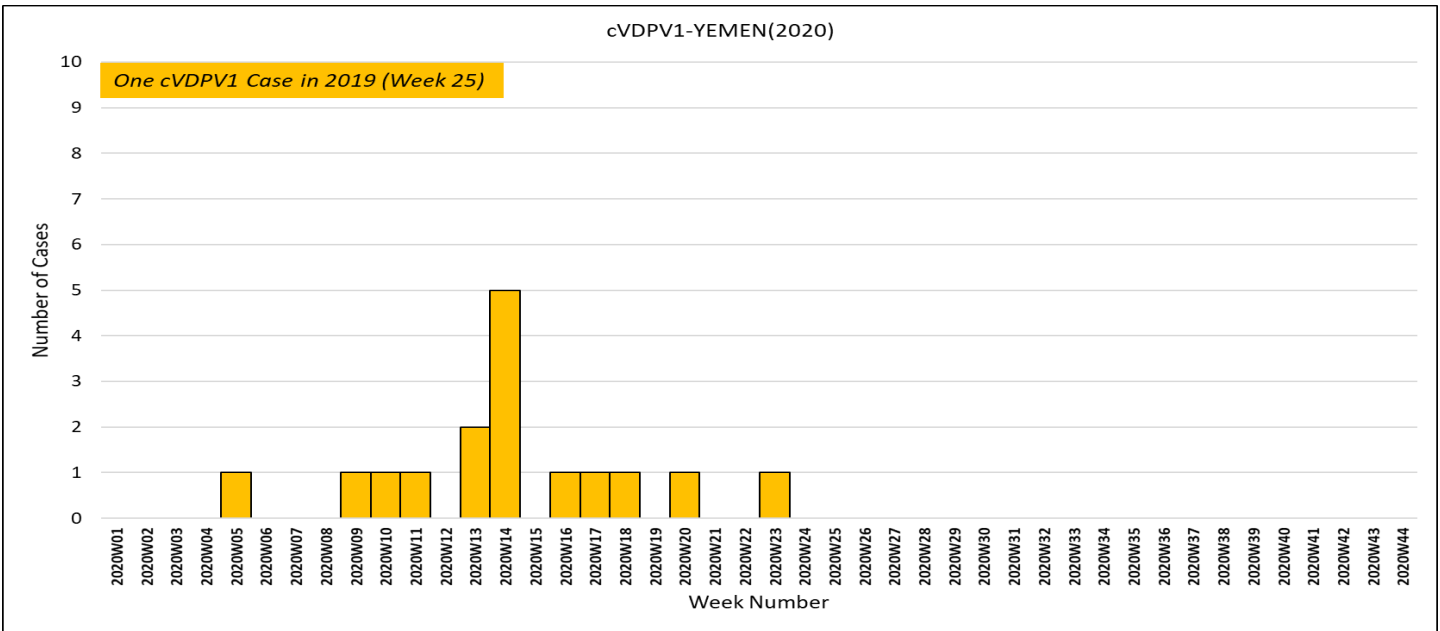
PAK: 62
16 September

SOM: 24
08 September

OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



For more detail, the Sudan country level situation report is available [here](#).



Relevant links:

- [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) website](#), updated weekly
- [WATCH: Vaccine-derived polioviruses animation | Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video](#)
- [GPEI factsheet—VDPV](#)
- [What is vaccine-derived polio?](#)
- Or visit the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative website](#) for more information.

Please direct comments and questions to:

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