

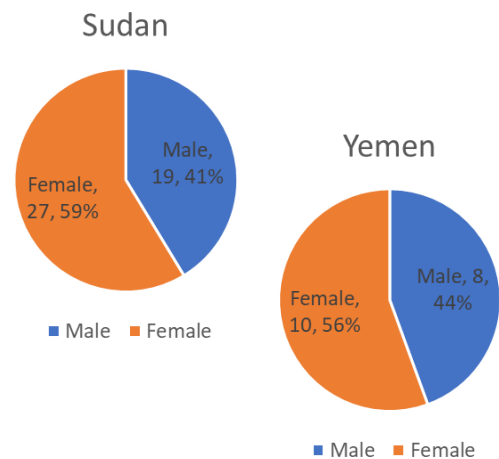


SITUATION UPDATE

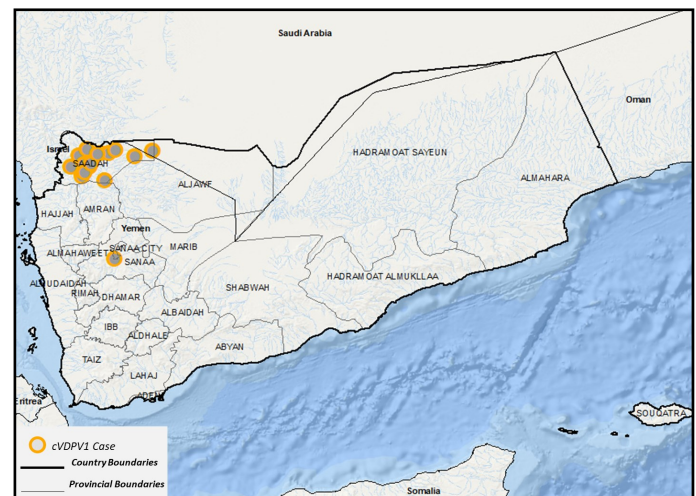
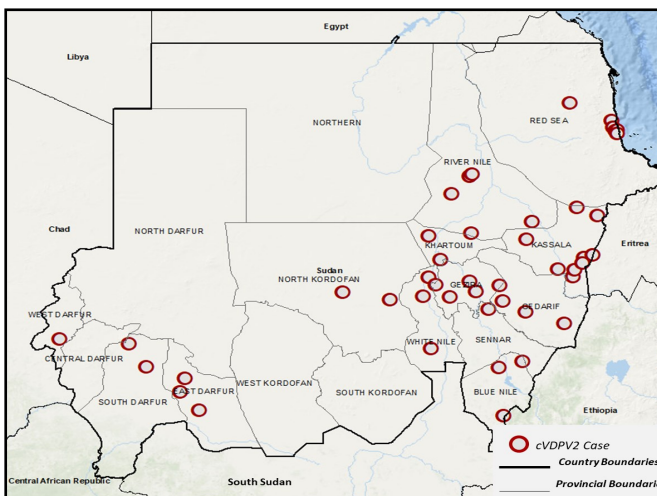
- Vaccination activities are reaching children across **Sudan** and **Yemen** this week as part of ongoing efforts to address circulating vaccine-derived virus type 1 (**Yemen**) and type 2 (**Sudan**) outbreaks.
- Two additional cases of cVDPV2 have been confirmed in **Sudan**, taking the total number of children paralysed to 46 from 13 states. cVDPV2 has been confirmed in 11 samples from environmental sites in Khartoum State, with the latest collected in September 2020.
- A total of 18 children have been paralysed due to cVDPV1 in **Yemen** in 2020. One case has been reported in Sana'a City, the rest in Sa'adah governorate.
- No new detection of VDPV2 has been confirmed in either in **Egypt** or **Iran**. Both countries have enhanced surveillance activities for detection of polioviruses.

Details of the most recent cVDPV cases and sex distribution of cases

	Sudan: cVDPV2	Yemen: cVDPV1
Date of onset of paralysis	5 October	6 August
Location	North Kordofan	Sa'adah governorate
Child age	31 months	144 months
Sex	Male	Female
Known immunization status	<u>Routine</u> : 3 doses of OPV/ Zero IPV <u>SIA</u> : 3 doses OPV	<u>Routine</u> : Zero OPV/IPV <u>SIA</u> : 1 dose OPV



Distribution of cVDPV2 in Sudan and cVDPV1 in Yemen, 2020



Surveillance:

Sudan:

- The two new cVDPV2 cases reported since week 46 are from River Nile and North Kordofan states, with dates of onset of 27 September and 5 October, respectively.
- Environmental surveillance samples collected in November are under process.
- Initial testing of an additional two AFP cases (one from Khartoum state and one from Red Sea state) and three contacts (from Gezira State) indicate presence of poliovirus type 2 and will be further sequenced in the lab.

Yemen:

- Specimens from 359 AFP cases and 18 contacts are pending for testing in KEMRI and Oman National Polio Lab.
- WHO continues to work towards equipping Yemen with a direct poliovirus detection unit to be stationed at CPHL in Yemen, which would avoid shipping specimens abroad.
- Additionally, WHO is working towards expansion of environmental surveillance system in four governorates (initially) in 2020.

Egypt:

- 60 days have passed since VDPV2 was detected in an environmental sample in Greater Cairo, Egypt. There is no evidence of further circulation to date.
- The Ministry of Health continue to implement enhanced surveillance activities.
- An additional three environmental samples have been collected from El-Eshreen, the site where the initial detection was made, twice in October (4th and 18th) and once in November (10th). All samples are negative for VDPV2.
- Senior MOH staff are visiting Kalubia (Greater Cairo) and Aswan this week as part of the outbreak response plan.
- On 22 November the WHO EMR Regional Director, EMR POL Director and WR Egypt met with HE Minister of Health, Assistant Minister and the President's Advisor for Health to offer technical guidance and support to the government of Egypt regarding the risk of VDPV2 spread.

Iran:

- More than 50 days have passed since VDPV2 was detected in an environmental sample in Zabol district, Sistan and Balochistan province, bordering Afghanistan. There is no evidence of further circulation to date.
- In a second sample collected 26 days later from the same environmental surveillance site, no VDPV2 was confirmed. Enhanced surveillance activities continue.
- The WHO Regional polio team is providing additional support to Iran's surveillance capacity in high risk areas, by funding six national staff for nine months.

Case Response Preparedness and Implementation update:

- **Sudan** has completed the first nationwide vaccination campaign using mOPV2. Around 8.6 million children under five were targeted across all states from 28 November to 1 December.
 - Polio teams reviewed microplans to ensure coverage of all children in refugee camps in the states of Kas-sala and Gedarif as part of outbreak response.
 - 22 national consultants from WHO have been providing direct support to the states for pre-campaign activities.
- A vaccination campaign aiming to reach 6.5 million children under five in all governorates of **Yemen** except Sa'adah, started on 28 November in response to the outbreak of cVDPV1. The campaign has been delayed in the southern governorates, where it is expected to begin on 5 December due to delayed distribution of supplies including finger markers, guidelines and data tools.
 - Planned activities to reach children in Sa'adah governorate are expected to begin in the first week of December. Integrated outreach activities include vaccination (OPV, MR, Diphtheria and routine EPI antigens) as well nutrition and WASH interventions, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) services and medical camps.



A child is vaccinated against poliovirus type 2 in Khartoum, Sudan, during a nationwide outbreak response vaccination campaign. November 29, 2020. Photo: WHO/Sudan



A smiling child shows off his pinky marking, an indicator he has just received a dose of oral polio vaccine (bOPV), in Ibb, Yemen. November 28, 2020. Photo: WHO/Yemen

- **Yemen** is introducing Lot Quality Assurance Surveys (LQAS) following this campaign. Surveyors are being trained and will be deployed to conduct the survey starting 3 December. UNICEF has engaged a company to handle Third Party Monitoring (TPM) for both pre- and intra-campaign activities.

Vaccine logistics:

Sudan:

- Vaccine (mOPV) and other campaign supplies have reached all states. mOPV2 stocks are in dedicated storage.

Yemen:

- Vaccine distribution was completed for northern governorates on 24 November (ahead of the campaign). Distribution to the governorates in the south commenced on 29 November.
- UNICEF has distributed hand sanitizer to all governorates for the campaign to ensure strict COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

Sudan:

- Health Promotion teams have conducted orientation sessions for state-level health promotion focal persons on the campaign implementation plan, communication and social mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation tools.
- A briefing session for national television and radio outlets was conducted ahead of the first campaign to sensitize media to ongoing outbreak response efforts, underscoring their role in informing communities.
- This was followed by a joint press conference to launch the campaign on 28 November, which was attended by representatives of WHO, UNICEF and the Sudanese Ministry of Health.

Yemen:

- Mass media interventions started on 23 November with broadcast of public service announcements and flashes about the campaign on TV and radio stations in the north. Social media is also being used to ensure the community is aware of the campaign.
- Distribution of communication materials (IEC, posters and banners) for the campaign is ongoing to all governorates.
- Social mobilization activities for polio continue in Sa'adah through Mother-to-Mother clubs. In Hodeida, community volunteer (CV) activities started 23 November.
- Social mobilization activities by Imams and Morshydat started in mosques on 27 November. The Minister of Endowment sent a directive to all imams to focus on polio awareness during Jumma prayers.

Regional Coordination

- The regional polio IMST (WHO/UNICEF) continues to convene coordination calls with the GPEI Outbreak Preparedness and Response Task Team (OPRTT) and with country counterparts from GPEI agencies and the Ministries of Health to provide technical support and guidance.
- WHO and UNICEF regional teams continue to support country teams with outbreak surge deployments to active outbreaks.

REGIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- 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 for the rising risk of cVDPV spread in the region in the post-Switch era.
- 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](#).
- The cVDPV1 outbreak is currently limited to **Yemen**, yet there is risk of spread to countries and/or populations that have persistently low routine immunization.
- There has been no detection of cVDPV3 in **Somalia** since September 2018. In areas having no or insufficient access and low routine immunization, such as **Somalia**, emergence of polio due to VDPV3 remains a risk, nonetheless.
- With an increasing number of countries experiencing cVDPV2 outbreak, ensuring provision of type-2 containing vaccine is becoming increasingly difficult. Its release from the global stockpile must meet a high standard of quality investigation to define scope of possible response and quality implementation of SIAs.
- Endemic countries **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan** continue to manage the dual challenge of transmission of wild poliovirus and expanding cVDPV2 outbreaks.

Health and Humanitarian Context:

- UNHCR and the **Sudanese** Government's Commissioner for Refugees have [registered](#) over 38,000 Ethiopian refugees in Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile states since heavy fighting began in Tigray state, **Ethiopia** on 4 November. These populations will be included in the first round of the polio vaccination campaign.
- An [estimated](#) 7.1 million people in **Sudan** are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity through December 2020. Factors influencing food insecurity include rapid inflation, flooding and localized instability.
- As of the end of October, there were 47 active front lines in **Yemen** – the most ever recorded. Around one million people who have been displaced due to fighting are sheltering in and around Marib city. These populations are especially vulnerable to poor health and disease.
- In their October [situation report](#) for **Yemen**, WHO reported a total of 204,291 suspected cholera cases and 53 associated deaths during the first ten months of 2020.
- **Sudan** continues to experience an increase in COVID-19 cases, with 1,458 cases reported in the week of 16 November. **Yemen** continues to report low numbers of COVID-19 cases, but this is likely due to under-reporting.

Other cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR:



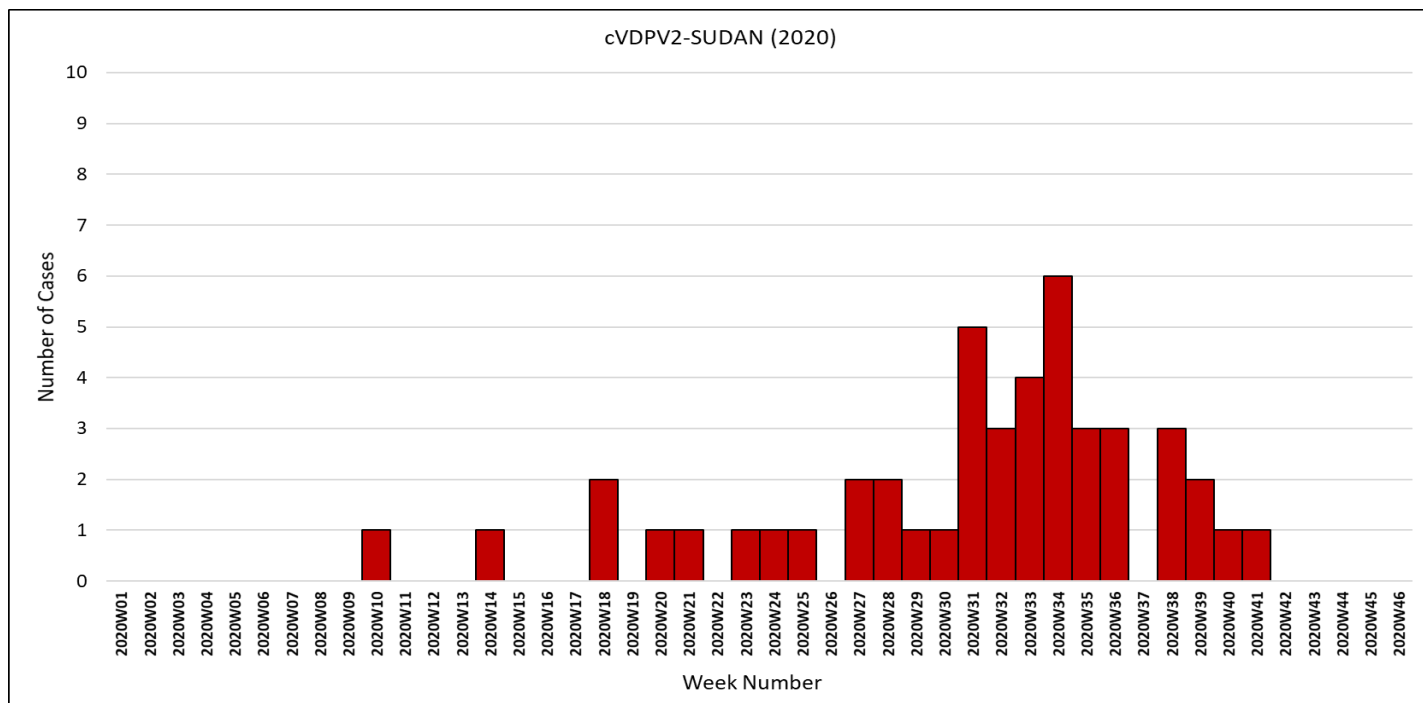
Environmental Surveillance
Most recent collection

AFG: 124
6 October

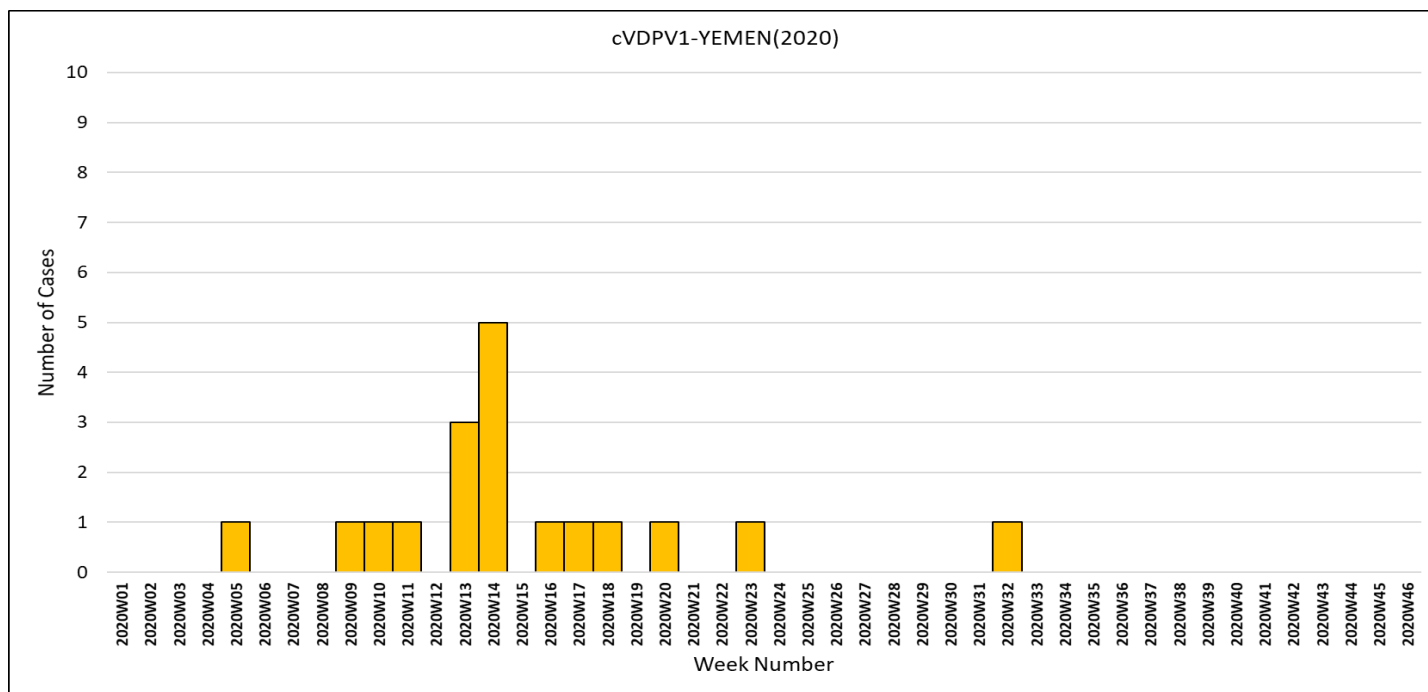
PAK: 76
7 October

SOM: 26
24 September

OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



For more detail, please see the [Sudan country-level situation report](#).



Send questions to:

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UNICEF:

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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?](#)