

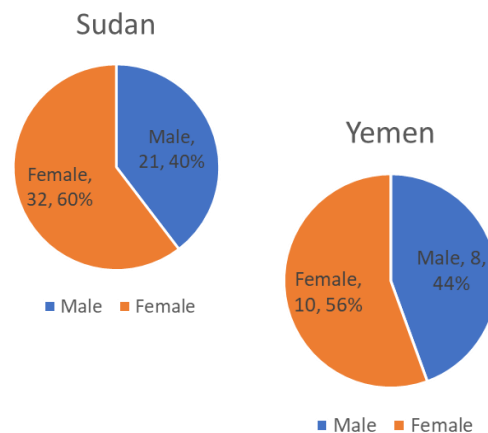


SITUATION UPDATE

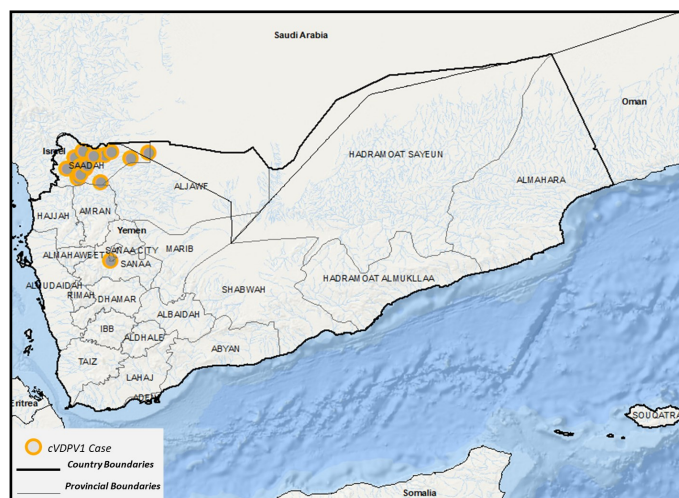
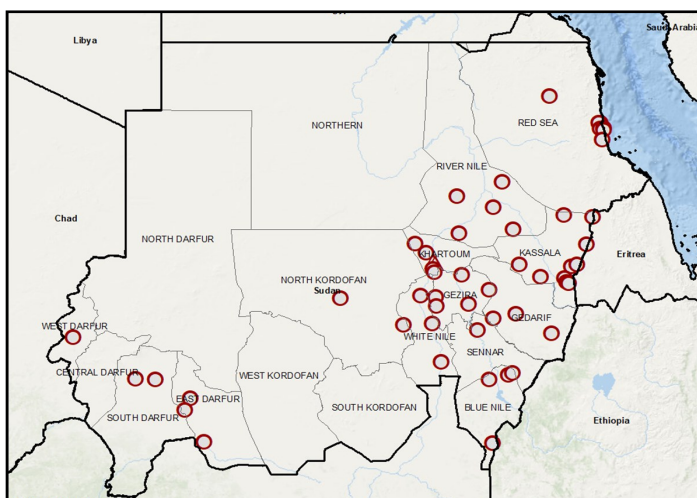
- Vaccination activities continue in the EMR-MENA regions in response to outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived virus type 1 (**Yemen**) and type 2 (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and **Sudan**).
- A national review has been conducted following the completion of the first vaccination round in **Sudan**. Initial administrative data indicates that 98% of those children targeted were vaccinated.
- A total of 53 children have been paralysed by cVDPV2 in **Sudan**. No new detections have been confirmed from environmental samples from Khartoum; cVDPV2 has been confirmed in 11 samples collected up to September 2020.
- No new cases have been reported from **Yemen**; the total number of children have been paralysed due to cVDPV1 in 2020 remains 18.
- A nationwide campaign has been completed in all governorates of **Yemen** except Sa'adah. Integrated outreach services to reach children in Sa'adah governorate with polio vaccines and other health services is ongoing.

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

	Sudan: cVDPV2	Yemen: cVDPV1
Date of onset of paralysis	29 November	6 August
Location	Red Sea	Sa'adah governorate
Child age	27 months	144 months
Sex	Female	Female
Known immunization status	<u>Routine:</u> IPV and 3 doses of OPV <u>SIA:</u> 4 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 48 are from Red Sea and Khartoum states, with dates of onset of paralysis on 21 and 24 October, respectively.
- The National Polio Lab has reopened from 20 December following a two week closure due to lab personnel testing positive for COVID-19. Stool samples stored during the closure were stored at state levels and shipment to the lab has commenced.
- Annualized NP AFP rate is 3.7 per 100 000 children under 15 years of age. It is 3+ in 15 states and between 2 and < 3 in 3 states. The stool specimen adequacy rate is 94%.

Yemen:

- Specimen of 375 AFP cases and 36 contacts are pending for testing in KEMRI and Oman National Polio Lab.
- Surveillance orientation sessions and active visits are being conducted in all governorates.
- WHO continue to work towards initiating environmental surveillance in Yemen in Sana'a, Aden, Hudaidah and Sa'adah governorates.

Egypt:

- The Egyptian Ministry of Health (MOH) continue to implement enhanced surveillance activities following the detection of VDPV2 in the environment in Greater Cairo in October.
- MOH is working on sensitizing the private sector and community leaders to pick up any AFP cases among non-Egyptian children.
- The Ministry of Health's surveillance system has detected four COVID-19 cases associated with acute flaccid paralysis, reflecting a high level of awareness of the field staff, the integration of diseases surveillance system in Egypt and the impact of the strengthening plan for polio surveillance after the detection of the VDPV2 earlier in 2020.

Iran:

- More than 60 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. Enhanced surveillance activities are ongoing.

Case Response Preparedness and Implementation update:

Sudan:

- According to administrative data, Sudan achieved a 98% coverage rate during the first nationwide vaccination campaign using mOPV2. Independent monitoring data is being compiled.
- Ethiopian refugees in Kassala and Gedarif were included in microplans and vaccinated during the campaign, resulting in 5,427 children under five years receiving polio vaccines during the first round.
- The Ulu area in Blue Nile state was reached after 11 years of inaccessibility, as a result 2,799 children less than 5 years of age were vaccinated with mOPV2. Efforts to ensure accessibility in the second response round are continuing.
- A national post-campaign review meeting was conducted for all states from 12 to 14 December. Participants from states and federal teams and partner agencies reviewed the achievements, challenges and innovative solutions applied to implement the campaign. A summary of this meeting and lessons learnt will be shared in a subsequent situation report and will contribute to identification of gaps and solutions for the next round.
- The technical committee has confirmed the second round will commence on 18 January 2021. Challenges with the year-end closure of the Bank of Sudan for three weeks has influenced the decision.
- The required PPEs and other logistics for round two are scheduled to be made available at national level before the end of December.

Yemen:

- A vaccination campaign aiming to reach 6.5 million children under five across all governorates of Yemen except Sa'adah, with bOPV has concluded. Preliminary data indicates that 4.9 million children (93% of the target) less than five years were reached throughout the country. The round was supervised and monitored by representatives from WHO, UNICEF, health authorities and other health partners.
- A post campaign assessment is ongoing. Findings will be translated into lessons learned and will be integrated into subsequent rounds.
- Integrated outreach activities to reach children in Sa'adah governorate with polio and other childhood vaccination and other health interventions (nutrition and WASH interventions, Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) services and medical camps) has commenced.



Health workers visit households in Aden, Yemen, to during the November nationwide campaign. Photo: WHO/Yemen



Three-month old Aya receives two drops of polio vaccine in Sana'a city, Yemen during the November nationwide campaign. Photo: WHO/Yemen



A supervisor checks the cold chain of monovalent oral polio vaccines during the first polio campaign in Sudan. Photo: WHO/Sudan



Community mobilization supervision in Khartoum state during the first round of the polio campaign in Sudan. Photo: UNICEF/Sudan

Vaccine logistics:

Sudan:

- The vaccine retrieval process is complete in all states. In many states the final disposal of open vials of mOPV2 has also been completed under the supervision of the vaccine disposal committee.

Yemen:

- The second round in Yemen will take place in January 2021 due to availability of the approved vaccine. A total of 3.8 million doses have been requested to complement the stock in country.
- Sufficient Vitamin A supplies have been made available to be integrated with the second round in the north.
- Work is ongoing to secure sufficient PPEs in country of the Community Mobilizers and other field staff.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

Sudan:

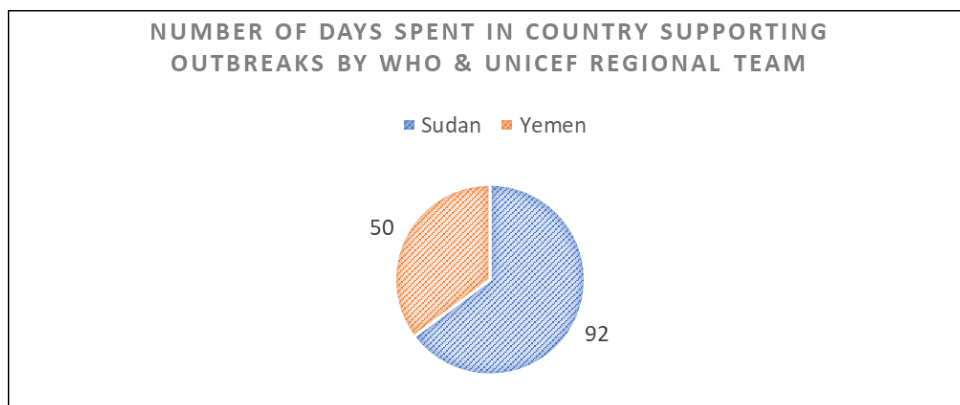
- In most of the states and localities social mobilization activities were conducted using a mix of channels, including mass media, mosque announcement and town criers using megaphones.
- UNICEF supported the MoPH with supervision of pre-campaign activities including of mass media, banners, supporting the campaign launching events and supporting arrangements for the joint press conference.
- Pre-campaign supervision in Khartoum state indicated that there was low awareness in some localities. Corrective feedback was given to Khartoum state to enhance community mobilization using the existing opportunities.
- A campaign kickoff event was conducted in every state on the first day of the campaign (28 November).
- Intra campaign social mobilization activities were monitored by C4D colleagues to check community awareness about the campaign and to track rumors.

Yemen:

- In the **north**, advocacy meetings were held at the governorate level to sensitise communities ahead of the campaign. Community Volunteers reached over 2 million people through house-to-house visits; while 6 million people were reached by religious leaders through 29,408 community meetings, 30,820 women gatherings, 30,195 sessions in over 5,000 mosques as well as 3,021 health facility sessions and 1,681 sessions in schools.
- These interpersonal communication activities were supported with over 397 roaming vehicles mounted with megaphones, deployed in the campaign districts to broadcast public service announcements on Polio. Communication materials including 63,000 Posters and 1200 Banners were placed in strategic locations to support visibility on the campaign. Mass media was also used extensively, where 11 TV channels and 16 Radio stations broadcast the campaign messages through flashes, public service announcements and dedicated discussion programmes on polio, reaching an estimated 13 million people.
- In the **south**, more than 20 community radio stations covering 4.4 million people in the south and east of Yemen were engaged for the campaign. Additionally, 1200 community volunteers, 1100 mother to mother clubs members, 750 religious leaders were engaged to mobilise the community. Messages were also shared in more than 10 WhatsApp groups where participants totaled more than 7500 and through telephone hotlines, where volunteers received more than 150 calls a day.
- In **Sa'adah**, communities were informed about health services and vaccination opportunities at health facilities through local radio public service announcements, community awareness sessions, Friday Prayers and interpersonal communication sessions conducted by volunteers.

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.
- Staff and consultants from WHO and UNICEF's regional offices spent a total of 142 days in country supporting the Sudan and Yemen outbreaks since September 2020. Significant time and resources have been channeled into supporting country teams remotely.



Health and Humanitarian Context:

- Since fighting began in Tigray state, **Ethiopia** on 4 November, UNHCR and the Sudanese Government's Commissioner for Refugees have [registered](#) over 49,000 Ethiopian refugees entering East **Sudan**. During round 1 of Sudan's polio outbreak response campaign, 5427 children under five years in this group were reached by vaccinators.
- A fuel crisis continues in both **Yemen** and **Sudan**, with significant implications for humanitarian operations, including securing the fuel required to implement vaccination campaigns.
- The response to COVID-19 continues to strain the health system in both Sudan and Yemen.
 - The Sudanese Ministry of Health reports that over 20,000 people have tested positive for COVID-19, with 1,307 fatalities as of 6 December. WHO reports that **Sudan** has 184 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, with 160 ventilators. Only four ICU doctors are fully prepared to treat patients infected with the virus.
 - **Yemen** continues to report low numbers of COVID-19 cases, however, this is likely to reflect under-reporting. The Health Cluster believes that an uptick in cases is likely as the country enters the winter months.

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.
- With 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.
- The cVDPV1 outbreak is currently limited to **Yemen**, yet there is risk of spread to countries and/or populations having persistent low routine immunization.
- There has been no detection of cVDPV3 since September 2018 in Somalia. In areas having no or insufficient access and low routine immunization like **Somalia**, emergence of polio due to VDPV3 remains a risk, nonetheless.
- Endemic countries, **Pakistan** and **Afghanistan**, continue to manage the dual challenge of transmission of wild poliovirus and expanding cVDPV2 outbreak.



Caption: A child is vaccinated at a health facility during the first round of the polio campaign in Sudan. Photo: WHO/Sudan



WATCH

SUDAN CONDUCTS FIRST
POLIO OUTBREAK
RESPONSE CAMPAIGN



READ

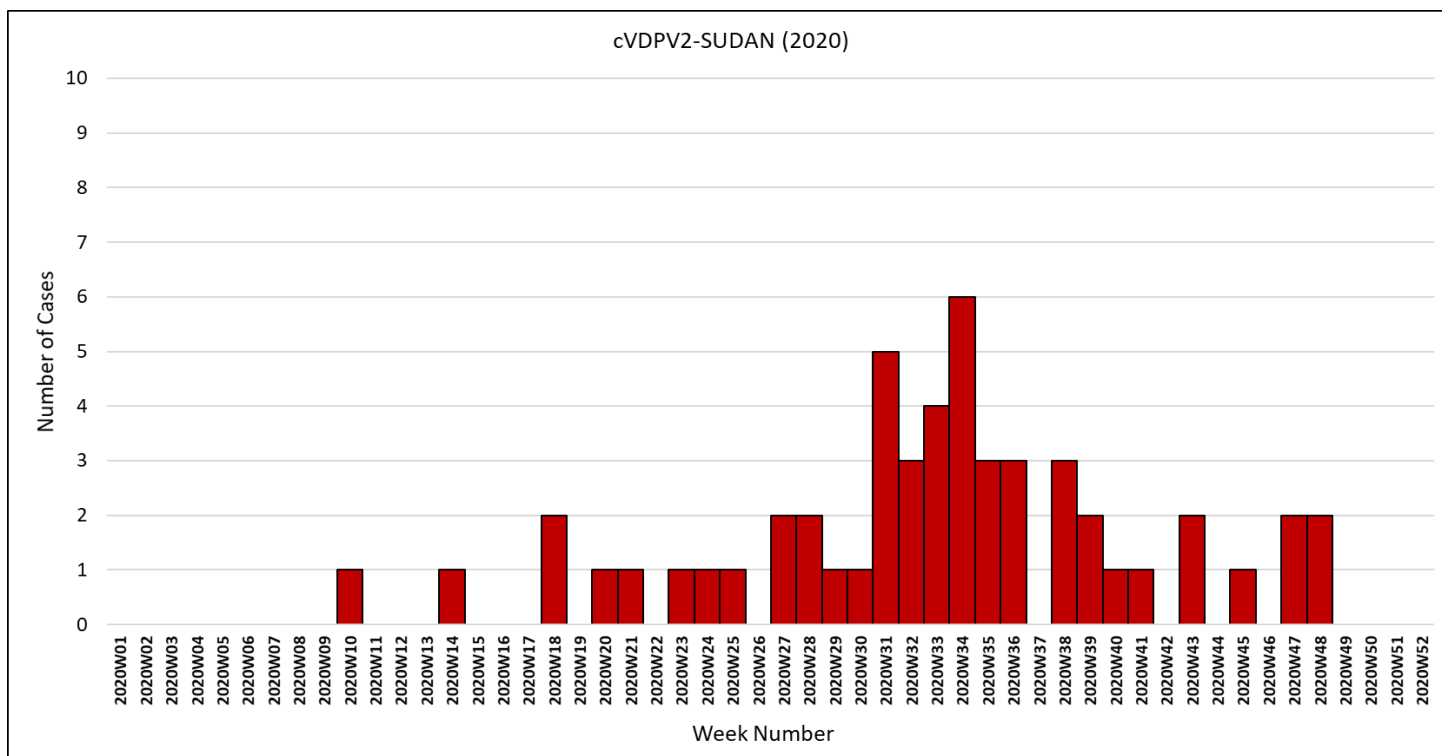
INACCESSIBLE CHILDREN
REACHED WITH POLIO
VACCINES AFTER 10 YEARS

Other cVDPV2 outbreaks in the EMR:

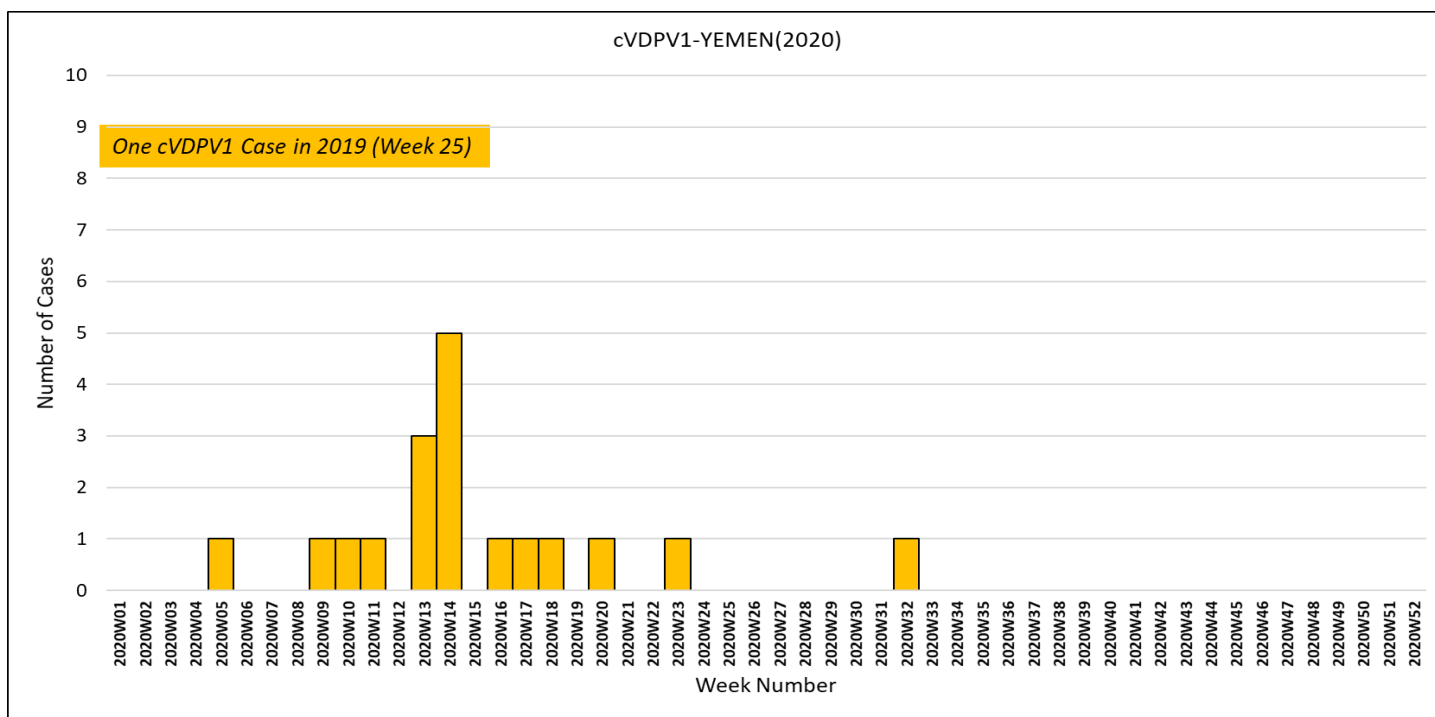
<p>Regional cVDPV2 outbreaks</p> <p><small>Most recent onset of paralysis</small></p>	<p>AFGHANISTAN</p>  <p>214</p> <p><small>24 October 2020</small></p>	<p>PAKISTAN</p>  <p>121</p> <p><small>9 November 2020</small></p>	<p>SOMALIA</p>  <p>13</p> <p><small>25 October 2020</small></p>
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 <p>Environmental Surveillance</p> <p><small>Most recent collection</small></p>	<p>AFG: 149</p> <p><small>6 November</small></p>	<p>PAK: 106</p> <p><small>17 October</small></p>	<p>SOM: 26</p> <p><small>24 September</small></p>
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OUTBREAK EPI CURVES



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



Send questions to:

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Regional Communications Lead: sykese@who.int

UNICEF:

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Regional Chief of Communications: jtouma@unicef.org

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?](#)