



You are here: Data and monitoring > Polio this week

Polio this week

- [Polio cases worldwide](#)
- [Wild poliovirus list](#)
- [Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus](#)
- [Surveillance](#)
- [Polio eradication targets](#)

Polio this week as of 23 December 2015

- Looking back at 2015 and ahead at 2016: [a wrap-up of the year](#) shows fewer cases in fewer places than ever before. The [report on the status of polio eradication to WHO's Executive Board](#) also summarizes the progress on the Polio Endgame Plan, and on Resolution WHA68.3, adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2015.
- There are four months to go until the globally synchronized switch from the trivalent to bivalent oral polio vaccine. This will be an important milestone in achieving a polio-free world. [Read more here.](#)

Wild poliovirus type 1 and Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus cases

Total cases	Year-to-date 2015		Year-to-date 2014		Total in 2014	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Globally	70	24	341	51	359	56
- in endemic countries	70	3	322	48	340	52
- in non-endemic countries	0	21	19	3	19	4

Case breakdown by country

Countries	Year-to-date 2015		Year-to-date 2014		Total in 2014		Onset of paralysis of most recent case	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	19	0	26	0	28	0	19-Nov-15	NA
Pakistan	51	2	290	20	306	22	21-Nov-15	09-Feb-15
Cameroon	0	0	5	0	5	0	09-Jul-14	NA
Equatorial Guinea	0	0	5	0	5	0	03-May-14	NA
Ethiopia	0	0	1	0	1	0	05-Jan-14	NA
Guinea	0	2	0	1	0	1	NA	02-Oct-15
Iraq	0	0	2	0	2	0	07-Apr-14	NA
Lao PDR	0	5	0	0	0	0	NA	28-Oct-15
Madagascar	0	10	0	1	0	1	NA	22-Aug-15
Myanmar	0	2	0	0	0	0	NA	05-Oct-15
Nigeria	0	1	6	28	6	30	24-Jul-14	16-May-15
Somalia	0	0	5	0	5	0	11-Aug-14	NA
South Sudan	0	0	0	2	0	2	NA	12-Sep-14
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	0	1	0	21-Jan-14	NA

Ukraine	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	NA	07-Jul-15
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NA: onset of paralysis in most recent case is prior to 2014. Figures exclude non-AFP sources. Madagascar, Ukraine and Lao PDR cVDPV1, all others cVDPV2. cVDPV definition: see document "Reporting and classification of vaccine-derived polioviruses" at http://www.polioeradication.org/Portals/0/Document/Resources/VDPV_ReportingClassification.pdf. Implementation as of 15 August 2015.

Afghanistan

- Two new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week; one in Chapa Dara district of Kunar and one in Nahr-E-Saraj district of Hilmand, both of which are newly infected districts for 2015. The most recent case had onset of paralysis in Kunar on 19 November. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is now 19.
- One new WPV1 environmental positive sample was reported in the past week, collected on 23 November in Jalalabad district of Nangarhar.
- Subnational immunization days (SNIDs) are planned in the south on 10 to 12 January and 14 to 16 February, both using bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV).

Pakistan

- Two new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week; one in Khyber agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and one in the newly infected district of Karachi Gulshan Iqbal in Sindh province. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 21 November in Sindh province. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is now 51, compared to 290 by this time in 2014.
- No new environmental samples positive for WPV1 were reported in the last week. The most recent positive environmental sample was isolated in Gadap Town, Karachi, Sindh province, with collection on 17 November.

Central Africa

- No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. No cases have been reported in 2015. In 2014, 10 cases were reported in central Africa: 5 in Cameroon and 5 in Equatorial Guinea. The most recent WPV1 case in central Africa was reported from Cameroon, with onset of paralysis on 9 July 2014.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon and Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in February, all using the trivalent oral polio vaccine.

Horn of Africa

- No wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the past week and no cases have been reported in 2015. The most recent case of WPV1 in the Horn of Africa had onset of paralysis on 11 August 2014 in the Hobyo district of Mudug province, central Somalia.
- No cases of type 2 circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) have been reported in the past week. No cases have been reported in 2015. In 2014, 2 cases were reported in South Sudan. The most recent case of cVDPV2 had onset of paralysis in South Sudan on 12 September 2014.
- In February, supplementary immunization activities will take place in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen, using the trivalent oral polio vaccine.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) were reported in the past week. The last case was reported from Anouvong district in Xaysomboune province, and had onset of paralysis on 28 October. The total number of cVDPV1 cases in 2015 remains five.
- Outbreaks of cVDPVs can arise in areas with low population immunity, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong vaccination coverage. [Learn more about VDPVs](#).
- An [emergency outbreak response is continuing in the country](#), with particular focus on three high-risk provinces.
- In November, Dr Rudi Tangermann from the World Health Organization travelled to Lao People's Democratic Republic to help fight the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV) outbreak. Join Dr. Tangermann through [this series of photographs](#) as he explains what needs to be done to stop any type of poliovirus in its tracks.
- Efforts are underway to further strengthen surveillance activities in all provinces of the country, to assure that no cVDPV1 transmission is missed anywhere.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) using trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) are taking place from 21 to 31 December and Subnational Immunization Days from 18 to 31 January, targeting an expanded age group range of children up to the age of 15 years.

Myanmar

- No new cases of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) have been reported in Myanmar. The most recent reported case was isolated from a 15-month old child in Rakhine, with onset of paralysis on 05 October. The case is genetically linked to a VDPV isolated in the same village in April, which has now been reclassified as a cVDPV type 2. The genetic changes in the isolate suggest the cVDPV2 has been circulating for more than a year. [Learn more about vaccine derived polioviruses here](#).
- The Ministry of Health of Myanmar is being supported by WHO and partners of the GPEI in planning and implementing an urgent response to the newly detected outbreaks. Supplementary immunization activities are planned from 26 to 28 December and 16 to 18 January using trivalent oral polio vaccine.
- Significant immunization gaps remain in Myanmar, with an estimated 24% of children un- or under-

immunized. Vaccination coverage remains particularly low among special at-risk populations. AFP surveillance quality indicators are acceptable at the national level, but subnational gaps persist.

- While WHO assesses the risk of international spread from Myanmar to be low, surveillance and immunization activities are being strengthened in neighbouring countries.

Madagascar

- No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) were reported in the past week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 22 August from Sud-Ouest province. The total number of cVDPV1 cases for 2015 remains 10.
- The 2015 cases are genetically linked to the case reported in September 2014, indicating prolonged and widespread circulation of the virus. Learn more about vaccine derived polioviruses [here](#).
- The focus of the outbreak response is on strengthening subnational surveillance, and filling vaccination coverage gaps.
- The emergency outbreak response continues to be intensified. National Immunization Days (NIDs) in February and March will reach children using the trivalent oral polio vaccine.

Middle East

- No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the past week. No cases have been reported in 2015. Three cases of WPV1 were reported in the Middle East in 2014 - 2 in Iraq and 1 in Syria.
- The most recent WPV1 case reported from Syria had onset of paralysis on 21 January 2014, while the most recent case in Iraq had onset of paralysis in Mada'in district, Baghdad-Resafa province, on 7 April 2014.
- In the Middle East, almost 2 years have passed with no cases of wild polio. Experts have praised the extensive multi-country outbreak response in stopping the outbreak.

Nigeria

- No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. No cases have been reported in 2015. Nigeria's total WPV1 case count for 2014 remains six. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 24 July 2014 in Sumaila Local Government Area (LGA), southern Kano state.
- No new cases of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) were reported in the past week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis in Kwali Local Government Area (LGA), Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, with onset of paralysis on 16 May; this is the only cVDPV2 case reported in Nigeria in 2015.
- Vigilance must be maintained to ensure that all children are reached with polio vaccines and that surveillance systems remains alert to polioviruses.
- Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) are planned from 16 to 19 January in the south west, and across the north of the country with dates to be confirmed, using the trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV).

Ukraine

- No new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) cases have been reported in the past week. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 7 July in the Zakarpatskaya oblast, in south-western Ukraine, bordering Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland. The number of cVDPV1 cases reported in 2015 remains 2.
- Ukraine had been at particular risk of emergence of a cVDPV, due to very low vaccination coverage. Learn more about vaccine derived polioviruses [here](#).
- An outbreak response started in Ukraine in October with supplementary immunization activities taking place in every Oblast. Further National Immunization Days are planned for January with dates to be confirmed. [More](#).

West Africa

- No wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the past week. The most recent WPV1 case in West Africa (excluding Nigeria) occurred in Tahoua province, Niger, with onset of paralysis on 15 November 2012.
- One new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) case was reported in the past week in Sigiri district of Kankan province, with onset of paralysis on 2 October. The 2015 cases are genetically linked to the case with onset in August 2014.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in Guinea from 3 to 6 of January and in February in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone. Subnational Immunization Days are also planned in Guinea in February. All of these campaigns will use trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV).