Situation Update

- The Somalia Polio Programme has not confirmed any new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) in children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) since 8 May 2019.

- The last case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (cVDPV3) in a child with AFP was detected and confirmed on 7 September 2018.

- A total of three cVDPV2 cases have been reported in Somalia across 2019.

- In total, 15 children with polio have been detected in Somalia since the onset of the ongoing concurrent cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 outbreaks in 2017.

- During week 44, one PV2 isolate (SOM-SOL-LND-2019-015-C2) was reported from a female contact from Lasnod district in Sool region of Somaliland. The stool sample of this case has been sent to lab for further investigation.
Somalia Outbreak: 15 Cases of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3  *As of 9 November 2019

Eight children with cVDPV2
Six children with cVDPV3
One child with coinfection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3

Last case of cVDPV2 was confirmed on May 8, 2019

WHO: Somalia’s Mohamed Shire was a finalist in the REACH Awards held in Abu Dhabi this week.
Picture of the Week: A member of the volunteer vaccination team vaccinates a three-year-old Marwo Ahmed Nasir in a nomadic community during an immunization campaign in Somalia. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

Upcoming vaccination activities
An integrated measles and polio campaign will start to be implemented from 24 to 28 November in the federal states of Benaadir, Galguduud, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West State in Somalia. During this campaign, it is hoped that more than 1,800,000 children will receive bOPV vaccine, and more than 1,600,000 children will be vaccinated against measles alongside deworming treatment and vitamin A supplementation. More than 17,000 health workers are involved in the implementation of this important child health campaign.

During week 45, a total of 80 new suspected measles cases were reported across Somalia. This brings the number of suspected measles cases reported since January 2019 to 3,797. Of these cases, 78% are among children under the age of five.

This integrated campaign will assist with stemming transmission of measles and reducing the likelihood of future measles outbreaks in Somalia. The adding of the polio vaccine to this campaign supports the country’s effort to maintain high levels of protection against polio viruses 1&3 amongst all Somali children.

“One among seven Somali children dies before their fifth birthday and many of these deaths are preventable by use of vaccines. Although we have made progress over the years to improve routine immunization coverage in the country, there is an urgent need to further scale up the vaccination coverage, especially for measles and polio by working together with partners, communities and grass-root level organizations. The integrated campaign for measles and polio is expected to improve routine immunization coverage and also reach children who have missed routine immunization.” WHO Representative, Dr Mamunur Malik
Surveillance

Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis
• As of week 45, a total of 304 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 291 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 10 stool samples from children with AFP are still undergoing laboratory testing.

• From the 291 stool samples that tested negative for poliovirus, 85 had enteroviruses (EV) present and 19 have tested positive for sabin-like (SL) virus isolation.

• Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 223 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 20% (45) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Thirty-three (73%) out of 45 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.

• Of the 33 children presenting with AFP who are reported as never having received a polio vaccine, 23 of these children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. Twenty two of these 23 children come from from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia where traditional polio campaign activities are not conducted. This highlights that there are still children with absent or low protection against polio and underlines the need to ensure campaigns reach every child and routine immunization services are invigorated.

Environmental Surveillance
In 2019 to date, 51 sewage samples have been collected from four sites in Mogadishu and sent to the laboratory for testing. Of these, 26 samples have tested negative for polioviruses, 14 samples are confirmed to contain EV; one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); five samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3) and five are in the lab.

Environmental Surveillance (ES) sampling frequency shifted from once every month to bi-weekly beginning of October 2019.
Meet real-life polio hero Abdullahi Mahamed Noor, an immunization activity coordinator in Somalia. He combines basketball with polio messages, in order to ensure that no more children will be paralyzed by polio. Read this amazing story here bit.ly/33cP5s5
#EndPolio
Relevant Links
Somalia Weekly Surveillance: available here
http://www.somaliapolio.org
Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website
*Vaccine-derived polioviruses video
QnA: What is vaccine-derived poliovirus?

Questions & Feedback:
Email to kamilmo@who.int or sykese@who.int