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Polio this week

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Polio this week as of 27 September 2016

- Nigeria has been reclassified as a country affected by endemic transmission of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1). Nigeria had been removed from the list of endemic countries in September 2015, following a year of no reported/detected WPV1 cases in the country. However, the recent cases of WPV1 detected from Borno are closely linked to cases from Borno in 2011, indicating this strain has been circulating undetected since that time. This indicates that Nigeria has always been affected by endemic circulation of WPV1 and, hence, it is added again to the list of endemic countries, alongside Pakistan and Afghanistan. Operationally, neither the removal from the list nor its re-addition has an impact, as the country has always striven to improve operations (both surveillance and immunizations), particularly in hard-to-reach and security-compromised areas. It is, in part, as a result of these efforts that cases and viruses are now being detected.
- The nominations for the next WHO Director-General have been announced. Six candidates have been proposed by Member States. The Director-General will be elected during next year's World Health Assembly in May. [More](#).

Wild poliovirus type 1 and Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus cases

Total cases	Year-to-date 2016		Year-to-date 2015		Total in 2015	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Globally	26	3	44	14	74	32
- in endemic countries	26	0	44	3	74	3
- in non-endemic countries	0	3	0	9	0	29

Case breakdown by country

Countries	Year-to-date 2016		Year-to-date 2015		Total in 2015		Onset of paralysis of most recent case	
	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV	WPV	cVDPV
Afghanistan	9	0	12	0	20	0	11-Aug-16	NA
Pakistan	14	0	32	2	54	2	27-Jul-16	09-Feb-15
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	7	NA	01-Dec-15
Lao Ppeople's Democratic Republic	0	3	0	0	0	8	NA	11-Jan-16
Madagascar	0	0	0	9	0	10	NA	22-Aug-15
Myanmar	0	0	0	0	0	2	NA	05-Oct-15

Nigeria	3	0	0	1	0	1	6-Aug-16	16-May-15
Ukraine	0	0	0	2	0	2	NA	07-Jul-15

NA: onset of paralysis in most recent case is prior to 2015. Figures exclude non-AFP sources. Lao PDR, Madagascar and Ukraine 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

- No new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2016 remains nine. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 11 August in Paktika province, close to the border with Pakistan.
- No WPV1 environmental positive samples have been reported in 2016. The most recent samples were collected on 27 December 2015 - one in Jalalabad district of Nangarhar province and the second in the city of Kabul.
- The next immunization campaigns are scheduled to start on 3 October and 7 November.

Pakistan

- No new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2016 remains 14. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 27 July, in South Waziristan, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).
- One new WPV1 environmental positive sample was reported in the past week, from Quetta, Balochistan (collected on 15 August). Continued detection of environmental positive samples throughout 2016 confirms that virus transmission continues to be geographically widespread across the country, despite strong improvements being achieved.
- Efforts continue to further strengthen immunization and surveillance activities in all provinces of the country.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type one (cVDPV1) were reported in the past week. The most recent case was reported in Fuang district of Vientiane province, with onset of paralysis on 11 January. The total number of cVDPV1 cases remains three in 2016 and eight in 2015.
- Outbreaks of cVDPVs can arise in areas with low population immunity, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong vaccination coverage.
- An Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) took place from 15-19 August, reporting progress whilst emphasizing the work that needs to be done to remove the subnational gaps in surveillance that remain.

Madagascar

- More than one year has passed since the most recent circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type one (cVDPV1) case, which had onset of paralysis on 22 August 2015, from Sud-Ouest region. No cases of cVDPV1 have been reported in 2016. The total number of cVDPV1 cases for 2015 is 10.
- The fourth Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) in Madagascar in August found that circulation of cVDPV1 had probably been interrupted, however further improvements in surveillance in high-risk areas were needed for a definitive assessment.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned for 9-11 November using bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV).

Myanmar

- No cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type two (cVDPV2) have been reported in 2016. The most recent case was isolated from a 16-month old child in Maungdaw district of Rakhine state, with onset of paralysis on 5 October 2015. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2015 is two.

Nigeria

- No new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2016 remains three. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 6 August, from Monguno Local Government Area (LGA), Borno state.
- A circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) has been detected from Monguno Local Government Area, Borno state. The virus was isolated from stool specimens (collected on 26 August) taken from a healthy household contact of the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) case recently reported, as part of strengthened disease surveillance activities being implemented in the area. Genetic sequencing of this isolated strain indicates it is distantly linked genetically to a divergent cVDPV2 strain detected from Borno in March, which has been circulating in the area for at least two years without prior detection.
- A regional outbreak response in north-eastern Nigeria continues to be implemented, also in response to the WPV1 cases

detected in August in Borno state (including one case from Monguno LGA). Large-scale supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) are currently being implemented with bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) and inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). The impact of the outbreak response is being analysed to determine if additional interventions with mOPV2 will be necessary. Nigeria had already conducted an outbreak response using mOPV2 in response to the cVDPV2 detected from environmental sampling in March .

- In response to detection of polio in Borno, the government of Nigeria has declared the outbreak to be a national public health emergency; the governments of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad and Niger declared a regional public health emergency for the Lake Chad sub-region. Regional outbreak response is being coordinated across all countries, and within the context of the broader humanitarian emergency affecting parts of the region. Polio eradication teams on the ground, at national, regional and global levels, are closely coordinating with humanitarian emergency response teams, other UN organizations and NGOs, to maximise the impact of all available resources and ensure that polio vaccine can be delivered alongside broader health interventions to the most vulnerable and at-need populations in the region.
- A regional outbreak response in north-eastern Nigeria continues to be implemented. Large-scale supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) are currently being implemented with bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) and inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).
- The emergency regional outbreak response is being implemented under the guidance of the Polio Eradication Emergency Operations Center (EOC), led by the Government of Nigeria and with support from WHO and GPEI partners. The outbreak response is being coordinated with neighbouring countries and in the broader humanitarian emergency response context affecting the region. Similar approaches to outbreak response were successfully implemented in previous years in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa.

Lake Chad sub-region

- The recent detection of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) in Borno state, Nigeria, poses a risk to the neighbouring countries of the Lake Chad sub-region and hence an outbreak response plan is being implemented as part of the response to the Nigeria outbreak.
- Health leaders at last month's Regional Committee for Africa declared the situation to be a regional public health emergency for the Lake Chad sub-region.
- A regional outbreak response is currently ongoing, to reach more than 10 million children across Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon. The activity is being coordinated and planned across all countries, with particular focus on sharing of data and focus on population movements. Some areas are currently inaccessible, due to a combination of insecurity and flooding due to the rainy season.

West Africa

- No circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type two (cVDPV2) cases have been reported from Guinea in 2016. The most recent case was reported from Kankan district, with onset of paralysis on 14 December. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2015 is seven. The 2015 cases are genetically linked to the case with onset in August 2014.
- National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 30 September-3 October; and in Niger, Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) are currently ongoing. NIDs are also planned in Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone from 28-31 October. SNIDs are planned in Mauritania from 28-31 October, and in Niger starting on 9 October with a subsequent round on 28-31 October.