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

- The Somalia Polio Programme last detected and confirmed circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (cVDPV3) in a child with AFP on 7 September 2018;

- Somalia has confirmed a total of 15 cases of children with cVDPV since onset of the ongoing type 2 and concurrent type 3 outbreaks (eight children with cVDPV2, six children with cVDPV3 and one with co-infection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3);

- As part of the latest stage of polio outbreak response, a campaign using monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2 (mOPV2) took place last week (Week 34) from 19 – 22 August across selected districts in Puntland and Somaliland.

Case Response

In response to evidence of ongoing circulation of cVDPV2 in Somalia, a series of targeted campaigns using mOPV2 are taking place. The third campaign in response to recent virus detected in the north of the country took place last week (Week 34) from 19 – 22 August. Health workers attempted to reach 1.1 million children under the age of
The campaign was synchronized with parallel outbreak response activities in the Somalia region of Ethiopia. Such coordination between the two countries is vital given the high population mobility across the region and strong community relationships between the neighbouring countries.

Map: Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus response campaigns (April-August 2019)

**Preparation for the Campaign**

As of Week 32, a vaccine distribution plan had been agreed and signed by the Ministry of Health. Vaccines for the campaign had been delivered to Somalia, and a review of the cold chain inventory was complete.
A total of 1,129 vaccinators, 157 supervisors, 112 social mobilizers, 82 internal monitors, and 34 independent monitors were scheduled to be deployed during the vaccination campaign days.

Farhiyo Abdulahi Abdi, aged two, has her finger marked after receiving the oral polio vaccine on the first day of the campaign, which took place.

One of Somaliland's dedicated female health workers vaccinates two year old Hafsa Abdi.
Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- A total of 222 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 198 children presenting with paralysis have been found to not have polio, three have been confirmed positive for the eVDPV2 virus, and 21 samples are still undergoing laboratory testing;

- Analysis of immunity levels of children presenting with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) shows that 91.5% of these children have received one or more doses of oral polio vaccine as a result of routine immunization services or recent campaigns;

- Of the 21 zero-dose AFP cases reported in 2019, 14 of these are children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. This highlights that there are still some children with low protection against polio and underlines the need to ensure future campaigns reach every child and routine immunization services are invigorated.

Environmental Surveillance

In total, in 2019, 36 specimens of sewage have been collected from four environmental sampling sites in Mogadishu and sent to the laboratory for testing. 21 samples tested negative for polioviruses, four samples are confirmed to contain enterovirus (EV); one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); and two samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3). Eight samples are pending results.
Communication for Development to help improve campaign performance

Several different communications activities were planned to inform the population about the campaign, including a series of TV and radio broadcasts in Somaliland and Puntland, and provision of campaign information to community and religious leaders.

Picture of the Day: Last week, vaccinators aimed to reach 1.1 million children with polio drops across 34 districts in Puntland and Somaliland. Each child had their finger stained purple to show that they had been vaccinated. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)
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

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