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 child with co-infection of cVDPV2 and cVPDV3);

• As part of the latest stage of polio outbreak response, a campaign using monovalent oral polio vaccine type 2 (mOPV2) took place in Week 34 from 19 – 22 August across selected districts in Puntland and Somaliland.
Picture of the Week: Last week, vaccinators worked to provide polio drops to over 1.1 million children living in cities, villages, and nomadic settlements across 34 districts in Puntland and Somaliland. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

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 in Week 34 from 19 - 22 August. Health workers attempted to reach 1.1 million children under the age of five living in 34 selected districts across Puntland and Somaliland with polio vaccine.

Catch up for children living in selected areas from Somaliland and Puntland who may have missed one of their two doses of mOPV2 will take place from 16 September 2019.
Post Campaign Data

Data was collected throughout the recent campaign to enable the programme to measure success in areas such as numbers of children reached with vaccine and vaccine acceptance rates. Work is now ongoing to analyse this data.

In Hargeisa city last week, vaccinators worked to ensure that thousands of children received oral polio vaccine. Post-campaign data analysis is now being carried out to evaluate campaign success. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

Upcoming Vaccination Activities

A supplementary national immunization day campaign using bOPV is planned to start in early October reaching 1.4 million children.

Planning is underway to conduct a nationwide campaign to offer measles, bOPV and vitamin A supplementation to different age groups in November and December 2019.
Abdirisaq Nimcan Mohamed, just two days old, received his first oral polio vaccination during campaign activities held last week at a nomadic settlement near Hargeisa, Somaliland. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

A smiling child greets vaccinators as they arrive in his village near Hargeisa, Somaliland, during the campaign. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- A total of 232 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 205 children presenting with AFP have tested negative for polio viruses, three have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 24 samples are still undergoing laboratory testing;

- Analysis of immunity levels of children presenting with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) shows that 91.6% of these children have received one or more doses of oral polio vaccine as a result of routine immunization services or recent vaccination campaigns;

- Of the 23 AFP cases that have been reported as never having received a polio vaccine previously, 16 are within the 6 – 59 month age group. This highlights that there are still children with absent or 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, eight samples are confirmed to contain enterovirus (EV); one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); and two samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3). Four samples are pending results.
Tweet of the Week

WHO Somalia 🚦
@WHOSom

House-to-house campaign going on as part of Polio Immunization in Somaliland & Puntland. WHO field health workers cross-checking during monitoring on day-2 to ensure that all the children are vaccinated against Polio and no child is left behind. #EndPolio

6:52 AM - 21 Aug 2019

Follow @WHOSomalia and @unicefsomalia for updates on polio vaccination campaign activities and other work to improve health for all.

Relevant Links
Somalia Weekly Surveillance: available here

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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https://mailchi.mp/5127e48b5879/somalia-weekly-polio-update-up-to-wk-29-404851?e=ac708a54d9