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;

- 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, reaching at least 1,054,784 children.

Somalia Outbreak: 15 Cases of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3  *As of 24th August 2019*
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 reached just over 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.

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

Preliminary results suggest 1.2 % of children were vaccinated for the first time.
No vaccine shortages were reported. Empty mOPV2 vials will be recalled to central levels next week for safe disposal.

**Upcoming Vaccination Activities**

A supplementary national immunization day campaign using bOPV is planned to start in 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.

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**Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis**

- A total of 238 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 214 children presenting with AFP have tested negative for polio viruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 21 samples from children are still undergoing laboratory testing;

- Analysis of immunity levels of children presenting with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) shows that 91.8% of these children have received one or more doses of oral polio vaccine as a result of routine immunization services or recent vaccination campaigns;

- From 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, twelve 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).

In Mogadishu, disease surveillance workers collect sewage samples from below the city streets. These are tested in a dedicated laboratory for signs of the poliovirus.

"Mogadishu is the first region in the country to establish environmental surveillance for polio," Mohamed Sharif, the Banadir Regional Polio Eradication Officer, explains. "The community, Ministry of Health, and the Mogadishu Municipality are aware of the hard work we are doing." *(WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)*

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**Tweet of the Week**
You can help #endpolio in Somalia. Look out for a marked #pinkie, or smallest finger, on every child under age five in you see this week. Children without a finger marking may have missed #polio vaccinations. @unicefsomalial

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

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**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