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

• A subnational bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) campaign for 41 districts was conducted between 23 – 26 September for 1 671 417 children under age of five; some of these districts have experienced polio cases previously, or have low vaccination coverage with high numbers of children who remain at risk of polio;

• 2.9 million children under the age of five will be given OPV during an integrated measles and polio campaign, planned for early November;

• In neighbouring Ethiopia, the last confirmed case of a child with AFP and confirmed cVDPV2 was reported from Dolo zone in Somali region with onset of paralysis on 22 July 2019. This is the second cVDPV2 case reported in Ethiopia in 2019. Both confirmed cases in 2019 are epidemiologically linked to the ongoing outbreak in Somalia;

• The Somalia Polio Programme last detected and confirmed circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (cVDPV3) in a child with AFP on 7 September 2018.
Picture of the Week: A member of the volunteer vaccination team makes an announcement for residents to bring out their children so that they can be vaccinated against polio. A bOPV vaccination campaign was conducted in 41 districts in Somalia between 23 – 26 September. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

Latest Activities

Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) Campaign

A bOPV campaign designed to reach populations where vaccination coverage is low
children with polio vaccine during this targeted campaign. Data on the number of children vaccinated will be shared when available.

In many of the selected districts, there are large numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Nomadic communities, with children who may have been missed by previous campaigns. Some districts share a border with districts that are inaccessible to vaccination teams, and this bOPV campaign aimed to vaccinate those children who may move between these areas.

Upcoming vaccination activities

In early November, an integrated measles and polio campaign will aim to reach 2.9 million children under five years with bOPV, and 2.4 million children with measles vaccine, vitamin A, and deworming treatment. Cascade training in Federal Member States for the integrated campaign was carried out from 8 September.
Surveillance

Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- As of week 38, a total of 259 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 242 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 14 samples from children are still undergoing laboratory testing;

- Of the 26 children presenting with AFP who are reported as never having received a polio vaccine previously, 19 of these children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. Eighteen out of these 19 children come from the access-compromised zones of South and Central Somalia. 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.

- Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 188 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 19.6% (37) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Twenty eight (76%) out of 37 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised South and Central zones of Somalia.
In total, in 2019, 40 sewage samples have been collected from four sites in Mogadishu and sent to the laboratory for testing. Of these, 24 samples have tested negative for polioviruses, 13 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). Environmental surveillance sampling frequency will shift from once every month to bi-weekly beginning October 2019. Open Data Kit (ODK) software has been introduced to collect environmental surveillance data and enhance field supervision during sampling.

Tweet of the Week
As the Sub-national immunization days for polio are finalizing, follow-up field monitoring to ensure no child is left behind unvaccinated is in process. Help us by referring to any unvaccinated child to the nearest health facility.

#EndPolio

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

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**Relevant Links**


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