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 last case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (cVDPV3) in a child with AFP was detected and confirmed on 7 September 2018. In total, fifteen children with polio have been detected in Somalia since the onset of the ongoing concurrent cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 outbreaks in 2017;

- In neighboring 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.

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**Somalia Outbreak: 15 Cases of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3**  
As of 28 September 2019

- Eight children with cVDPV2
- Six children with cVDPV3
- One child with coinfection of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3

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**On GPEI: On the road with Somaliland's dedicated polio vaccinators**
Post Campaign Data

Sub National bOPV Immunization campaign

Preliminary data from the bOPV campaign, which was conducted in 41 districts between 23 – 26 September aiming to reach 1,636,139 children suggests that 1.59 million (97% of the target population) children under the age of five were vaccinated. Of these children, 26,057 were reportedly vaccinated against polio for the first time. This sub-national bOPV campaign was designed to reach populations where vaccination coverage is low and children subsequentially remain at risk of polio infection.

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.

mOPV Case Response Round 3

The latest case response round with mOPV2 vaccine, in response to the ongoing cVDPV2 outbreak took place between 16-17 September, reaching 170,672 children (98% of the target population) living in 13 districts in Somaliland and Puntland. According to the data, 2,124 children received the polio vaccine for the first time. Currently, there are no further rounds with mOPV2 planned, with two rounds having been conducted all agreed outbreak and risk areas. The remaining mOPV2 vaccine and used vials from the rounds are being recalled now, and the programme teams will continue to monitor closely for further cases of cVDPV2.
Upcoming vaccination activities

An integrated measles and polio campaign will start in November. The campaign will aim to reach 2.9 million children under five years age with bOPV, and 2.4 million children with measles vaccine, vitamin A, and deworming treatment.
Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

As of week 39, a total of 266 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 243 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 18 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, 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 195 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 19% (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 regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.

A doctor demonstrates how to examine a child with Acute Flaccid Paralysis during a staged AFP examination at Haldoor Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

Environmental Surveillance
In 2019 to date, 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 (ES) sampling frequency shifted from once every month to bi-weekly from October. Open Data Kit (ODK) software has been introduced to collect ES data and enhance field supervision during sampling.
Tweet of the Week

WHO Somalia
@WHOSom

Is your child vaccinated with polio drops and finger marked? Visit the nearest health facility and make sure your children, neighbors and relatives are all protected against polio.

#EndPolio

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
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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