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.

Stories from the field: On the road with Somaliland's dedicated polio vaccinators
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 of age with bOPV, and 2.4 million children with measles vaccine, vitamin A, and deworming treatment. The integrated campaign hopes to achieve a rapid increase in the immunization coverage of measles across all states. During week 40, a total of 84 new suspected measles cases were reported in Somalia, this brings the cumulative number of suspected measles cases reported since January 2019 to date to 3,305, and of these cases, 78% are among children under the age of five.

This integrated campaign will assist with stemming the current measles infection transmission and reducing the likelihood of future measles outbreaks in Somalia. The adding of the polio vaccine to this campaign supports the country’s effort to maintain high levels of protection against polioviruses type 1 and 3 amongst all Somali children.

Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- As of week 40, a total of 283 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 250 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 30 stool samples from children with AFP are still undergoing
laboratory testing;

- From the 250 stool samples that tested negative for poliovirus, 79 had enteroviruses (EV) present and 13 have tested positive for saben-like (SL) virus isolation;

- Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 205 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 19% (41) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Thirty (73%) out of 41 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.

- From the 30 children presenting with AFP who are reported as never having received a polio vaccine previously, 21 of these children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. Twenty out of these 21 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.

**Environmental Surveillance**

In 2019 to date, 44 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); two samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3); and four samples are in lab. 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.

A sample is stored in a transportation carrier after being collected from an Environmental Surveillance site in Mogadishu. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

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**Tweet of the Week**

Congratulations to Zonal Polio Eradication Officer, Mohamed Shire for being named a finalist in the REACH Awards, which recognize efforts of individuals working on the frontline of disease eradication. Read his nomination [here](#)
“I feel so lucky to have spent my life working for two eradication programmes; I am proud to tell stories to my grandchildren of my life’s work” Mohamed Shire, #polio eradicator and #REACHAwards finalist. Read his story: polioeradication.org/news-post/from...

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 kamimo@who.int or sykese@who.int