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.

- The last case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 3 (cVDPV3) in a child with AFP was detected and confirmed on 7 September 2018.

- 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.

- Four new PV2 results were reported by KEMRI laboratory during week 42 and are pending sequencing results. All of these PV2 samples originate from children who reside in areas where mOPV2 vaccination campaign was recently conducted (last targeted mOPV2 campaign was held from 19-22 August 2019);
  - Two PV2 results were identified from a child with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) (SOM-SA-H-BER-19-007) and one contact from Berbera district in Sahil region.
  - One PV2 result from a contact of a child with AFP has been detected in Hargeisa district in Galbeed region, the contact of SOM-WGB-HAR-19-016 was confirmed with PV2.
  - One PV2 result (SOM-BRI-ALU-19-CC-3) was detected from community sample in Alula district in Bari region (silent region).
  - Sequencing results of the two PV2 cases (index SOM-NUG-GRW-19-003 and contact SOM-WGB-HAR-19-014) reported last week were confirmed PV2-Sabin.

- In neighbouring Ethiopia, this week one new case of CVDPV2 and two cases of VDPV2 were reported. One CVDPV2 case and one VDPV2 case were reported from Somali region where mOPV2 campaigns have been recently conducted. One case of VDPV2 was reported from Oromia region. This brings a total of three cVDPV2 cases and two VDPV2 cases identified in Ethiopia so far in 2019;
  - One case of child with AFP was reported with cVDPV2 (49NT) from Dolo zone in Somali region, with onset of paralysis on 08 August 2019. This case is genetically linked to other cVDPV2 cases from Somalia found to be circulating in 2018. This child is documented to have received one dose of OPV but no IPV dose.
  - One household contact of child with AFP has tested positive for VDPV2 (14NT) from Erar zone in Somali region. The sibling of the contact (with AFP) had onset of paralysis on 23 August 2019. Initially tested negative for PV, the child has now been reclassified. The child with AFP had received one OPV dose but no IPV dose.
• One case of a child with AFP was reported with VDPV2 (11NT) from Oromia, with onset of paralysis on 09 September 2019. This child is reportedly zero OPV dose and no IPV dose. There is a detailed case investigation ongoing for this case, as there has been no use of mOPV2 in this region previously.

Somalia Outbreak: 15 Cases of cVDPV2 and cVDPV3  
As of 19 October 2019

On GPEI: Meet the man using basketball to end polio

Upcoming vaccination activities

An integrated measles and polio campaign will start on 23 November. The micro plans validation for the five-day campaign started on 26 October 2019.
During week 42, a total of 117 new suspected measles cases were reported across Somalia. This brings the number of suspected measles cases reported since January 2019 to 3514. Of these cases, 78% are among children under the age of five.

This integrated campaign will assist with stemming transmission of measles 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 polio viruses 1&3 amongst all Somali children.

### Surveillance

- Healthy Child Community Sampling from Alula district in Bari region took place during week 41. From the five samples collected, one sample is positive for PV2 and undergoing genetic sequencing;

### Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- As of week 42, a total of 294 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 255 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, one for PV2 and 35 stool samples from children with AFP are still undergoing laboratory testing;
- From the 255 stool samples that tested negative for poliovirus, 79 had enteroviruses (EV) present and 13 have tested positive for Sabin-Like (SL) virus isolation;
- Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 214 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 20% (43) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Thirty two (74.4%) out of 43 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.
- From the 33 children presenting with AFP who are reported as never received a polio vaccine, 23 of these children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. Twenty two of these 23 children come from from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia where traditional polio campaign activities are not conducted. 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.
Dr. Abdiaziz Abdullahi Mohamed demonstrates how to examine a child with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) during a staged AFP examination for 6 year-old Najiim Wardi Mowlid at Haldoor Hospital in Hargeisa. (WHO/Ilyas Ahmed)

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, 25 samples have tested negative for polioviruses, 14 samples are confirmed to contain enterovirus (EV); one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); and four 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

“One case of polio is too many when the goal is eradication. The truth is, we haven’t reached this goal because our region is not where it needs to be. With enough determination, we can get there.” Dr Hamid Jafari, regional polio director #WorldPolioDay

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?