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.

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

• During the week of 49, one PV2 index (SOM/WGB/GBL/19/006) and one contact (SOM/WGB/GBL/19/004/C3) were reported from Gabiley District in Galbeed region. The stool samples of these cases have been sent to lab for further investigation.

• Sequencing results of isolate (SOM-TOG-ANB-19-002) reported from Ainabo district in Togdher region during week 47 was confirmed PV2 Sabin.

• In week 49, two positive cVDPV2 viruses were identified from two separate environmental testing sites. The samples were collected on 10 November 2019 and sequencing suggests that they are closely related to SOM-BAN-1 virus, which was circulating in 2018. Investigation is underway and response is under discussion within the partnership.
Latest activities

Post Campaign Data

Administrative data from the integrated measles and polio campaign that was conducted from 24 - 28 November in the federal states of Banaadir, Galguduud, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West State in Somalia suggests that that a total number of 982,464 children received bOPV vaccine, 878,044 children were vaccinated against measles, 873,231 children received deworming treatment and 666,182 children received vitamin A supplement. In total, the integrated measles and polio campaign vaccinated 87% of the target number for both measles and polioviruses.

Post Campaign Independent Monitoring data has been analysed to give an indication of campaign quality.

Missed Children

During the integrated measles and polio campaign, a total of 13% of target children did not attend a designated vaccination site. Reasons for missed polio or measles vaccines ranged from child availability, confusion over type of vaccination strategy (parents thinking the campaign was door to door), vaccine availability when attending the site, and refusal.

Measles

During week 49, a total of 71 new suspected measles cases were reported across Somalia. This brings the number of suspected measles cases reported since January 2019 to 4170. Of these cases, 78% are among children under the age of five.
Surveillance

Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

• As of week 49, a total of 330 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 312 children have tested negative for polioviruses, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus, and 11 stool samples from children with AFP are still undergoing laboratory testing.

• From the 312 stool samples that tested negative for poliovirus, 96 have enteroviruses (EV) present and 20 have tested positive for sabin-like (SL) virus isolation.

• Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 241 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 21% (51) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Thirty-nine (76%) out of 51 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.

• Of the 35 children presenting with AFP who are reported as never having received a polio vaccine previously, 25 of these children are within the 6 – 59 month age group. Twenty-two of the 25 children reportedly come from access-compromised zones of South and Central 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 catch up vaccination occurs within routine immunization services.

Environmental Surveillance
In 2019 to date, 55 sewage samples have been collected from four sites in Mogadishu and sent to the laboratory for testing. Of these, 26 samples have tested negative for polioviruses, 17 samples are confirmed to contain EV; one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); two samples are confirmed cVDPV2, five samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3) and four samples are in the lab.

Tweet of the Week
These children are a victim of circumstance, but #vaccines can give them a fighting chance to live a healthy childhood. Thank you to our partners @WHOSom for your ongoing efforts to protect these vulnerable children from vaccine-preventable diseases. #VaccinesWork

WHO Somalia @WHOSom · Nov 25
Don’t let preventable disease like #measles and #polio put children at risk. Pledge today to have all children vaccinated for measles and polio in #Somalia. Remember, measles is easily preventable with a vaccine. #VaccinesWork

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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