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.

• Sequencing results of index (SOM/WGB/GBL/19/006) and contact (SOM/WGB/GBL/19/004/C3) reported from Gabiley District in Galbeed region last week were confirmed PV2 Sabin.

• The last positive cVDPV2 viruses were identified from two separate environmental testing sites on 10 November 2019. Detailed catchment investigation is underway and response under discussion within the partnership.
Measles

During week 50, a total of 88 new suspected measles cases were reported across Somalia. This brings the number of suspected measles cases reported since January 2019 to 4258. Of these cases, 78% are among children under the age of five.
Surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis

- As of week 50, a total of 340 children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) have been reported by Somalia’s surveillance network during 2019. Of these, 317 cases have lab results and 11 stool samples from children with AFP are still undergoing laboratory testing.

- From the 317 stool samples with lab results, 96 have enteroviruses (EV) present, 22 have tested positive for sabin-like (SL) virus isolation, three children have been confirmed positive for the cVDPV2 virus and 196 children have tested negative for polioviruses.

- Analysis of reported vaccination history of the 245 children aged 6 – 59 months presenting with non-polio AFP shows that 21% (52) of these children were under-immunized, having received less than three doses of OPV from National Immunization Days and routine EPI combined. Forty (76%) out of 52 under-immunized children are from the access-compromised regions of South and Central zones of Somalia.

- From the 36 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.

Environmental Surveillance

In 2019 to date, 59 sewage samples have been collected from four sites in Mogadishu and sent to the laboratory for testing. Of these, 27 samples have
tested negative for polioviruses, 19 samples are confirmed to contain EV; one sample is confirmed to hold an ambiguous strain of vaccine-derived poliovirus (aVDPV); two samples are confirmed cDVP2, six samples are confirmed to contain Sabin-Like virus (SL3) and four samples are in the lab.

Tweet of the Week

We continue to make public health history in Somalia. Our Polio Programme has been commended for their outstanding contribution to keep the country free from wild polio virus and our Programme has been awarded the WHO Director-General’s Team Award for Excellence 2019 #Endpolio

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

Relevant Links
Somalia Weekly Surveillance: available here
QnA: What is vaccine-derived poliovirus?

Questions & Feedback:
Email to kamilmo@who.int or sykese@who.int

Note: The next Somalia cVDPV outbreak update will be circulated in EPI week 3, 2020

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