This Week

Polio this week as of 18 December 2018

- Featured on www.polioeradication.org: [interview with Jean-Marc Olivé](https://www.polioeradication.org), Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group, on what needs to be done to end polio in the Horn of Africa; [Djibouti carried out a successful round of National Immunization Days](https://www.polioeradication.org) (NIDs) since 2015 to avoid risk of polio virus importation.
- Summary of new viruses this week: Afghanistan – six WPV1-positive environmental samples; Pakistan – seven WPV1-positive environmental samples; Nigeria – one cVDPV2 AFP case and three cVDPV2-positive environmental samples.

Wild poliovirus type 1 and Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2018</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2017</th>
<th>Total in 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WPV</td>
<td>cVDPV</td>
<td>WPV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Globally             | 29    | 99    | 19    | 84    | 22    | 96    
| —in endemic countries| 29    | 32    | 19    | 0     | 22    | 0     |
| —in non-endemic countries| 0    | 67    | 0     | 84    | 0     | 96    |

Case breakdown by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2018</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2017</th>
<th>Total in 2017</th>
<th>Onset of paralysis of most recent case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WPV</td>
<td>cVDPV</td>
<td>WPV</td>
<td>cVDPV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afghanistan</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>democratic republic of the congo</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>niger</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pakistan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>papua new guinea</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Year-to-date 2018</td>
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<td>Total in 2017</td>
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<td>----------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>somalia</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>syrian arab republic</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA: Onset of paralysis in most recent case is prior to 2017. Figures exclude non-AFP sources. In 2018, cVDPV includes all three serotypes 1, 2 and 3.

For Somalia: 1 cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 isolated from one AFP case.

cVDPV definition: see document “Reporting and classification of vaccine-derived polioviruses” at [pdf].

**Weekly country updates as of 18 December 2018**

**Afghanistan**

- No wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases in 2018 is 21.
- Six WPV1-positive environmental samples were reported this week: two from Jalalabad district, Nangarhar province; three from Lashkargah district, Hilmand province, and one from Kandahar district, Kandahar province. Samples were collected between 5–25 November.
- Nominal variations (up or down) in the number of newly-reported cases at this point of the polio endgame – although tragic for the affected children and their families – are not operationally overwhelming, especially considering the population size in the 3 remaining endemic countries (upwards of 90 million children aged less than five years). However, confirmation of even a single polio case anywhere points to remaining vaccination coverage gaps which must be filled, to achieve eradication.
- Over and beyond case numbers, the GPEI and its partners actively and continuously evaluate a wide range of epidemiological, virological, programmatic, operational, surveillance, financial and social data, the analysis of which drives strategic planning and enables target eradication efforts.
- The three remaining endemic countries continue to intensify their eradication efforts, through implementation of national polio emergency action plans. Underpinning these plans is the data analysis, to identify area-specific challenges and reasons why children are being missed (ie due to population movement, inaccessibility, lack of infrastructure, inadequate microplanning, resistance, etc), and putting in place area-specific solutions to overcome those reasons. By clearly identifying high risk areas, teams are able to allocate and prioritize technical assistance to those areas. Afghanistan recently concluded a targeted national campaign. Read more [here](#).
- Analysis in 2018 by both GPEI partners and independent technical advisory groups reviewing all available evidence concludes that
vaccination coverage gaps are rapidly filled, and the GPEI and its partners continue to work towards this goal.

- The aim is to urgently interrupt the remaining strains of wild poliovirus transmission, not only to eradicate such strains in their own right and prevent their global re-emergence, but also to subsequently remove oral polio vaccines (OPV) from routine immunization programmes globally, to eliminate the long-term risks of vaccine-derived polioviruses (VDPVs).
- The ultimate aim of the GPEI is to secure and sustain a world where no child will ever again be paralysed by any poliovirus – be it wild or vaccine-derived.
- Read the latest polio update from Afghanistan to see information on cases, surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

**Pakistan**

- No cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported this week. The total number of WPV1 cases in 2018 in the country is eight.
- Seven WPV1-positive environmental samples were reported in the past week: two from Killa Abdullah district and two from Quetta district in Balochistan province; two from Peshawar district and one from Bannu district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Samples were collected between 15 November-1 December.
- It is important to note that cases are reported this year from only five districts across the country, and that no WPV cases (except one from Gadap, greater Karachi) have been reported from core reservoir areas in 2018. 20 years ago, the entirely country was affected by polio, and every year, more than 35,000 children were paralysed for life by the disease.
- Read the latest polio update from Pakistan to see information on cases, surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

**Nigeria**

- One new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) case was reported this week from Zango LGA, Katsina State, with date of onset of paralysis on 5 November. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2018 is now 32.
- No cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) were reported. The most recently-detected WPV1 case, from Borno state, had onset of paralysis on 21 August 2016.
- Three cases of cVDPV2-positive environmental samples were reported: one from Tarauni LGA, Kano State and two from Maiduguri LGA, Borno State, collected on 10 October, 16 October and 23 October respectively.
- The country continues to be affected by two separate cVDPV2 outbreaks, the first centered in Jigawa state with subsequent spread to other states as well as to neighbouring Republic of Niger, and the second in Sokoto state.
- Recent confirmation of spread of one of the cVDPV2 outbreaks, both within Nigeria and internationally, underscores the urgent need to fill remaining vaccination gaps in the ongoing outbreak response, and to optimize the geographic extent and operational quality of mOPV2 response.
- At the same time, outbreak response to WPV1 continues, including efforts to address surveillance and immunity gaps in parts of
Read our Nigeria country page to see information on surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

Lake Chad Basin

- No case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) has been reported in the past week. There are eight total number of cVDPV2 reported cases in 2018 in Niger, which are genetically linked to a cVDPV2 outbreak originating in Jigawa, Nigeria. The virus was isolated from children with acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) from Zinder region, located in the south of Niger and on the border with Nigeria, with dates of onset of paralysis ranging from 18 July through 7 September 2018.
- Acute flaccid paralysis surveillance and routine immunization across the country with focus on the infected provinces and the provinces at the international borders with Nigeria are being reinforced.
- WHO and its partners are continuing to support local public health authorities in conducting field investigations and risk assessments to more clearly assess risk of the identified cVDPV2 and to conduct additional response measures as appropriate and necessary.
- Active case finding for additional AFP cases is continuing, and additional surveillance measures such as increasing the frequency and extent of environmental surveillance and community sampling of healthy individuals is being expanded.
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health to strengthen the risk communication and community engagement.

Central Africa

- No cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were reported this week in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- DRC is affected by four separate cVDPV2 outbreaks, in the provinces of Haut Katanga; Mongala, Maniema and Haut Lomami/Tanganika/Haut Katanga/Ituri.
- Following the Kinshasa Declaration for Polio Eradication in July 2016, the two large scale vaccination rounds implemented during September and October 2018, demonstrated better vaccination quality. Planning is underway to maintain the gains made so far and maintain population immunity as well as sensitive surveillance across the country.
- The polio outbreak response is being conducted simultaneously to an ongoing Ebola outbreak affecting North Kivu province, in the east of the country (close to provinces affected by cVDPV2). As in the past, the polio teams are coordinating closely with the broader humanitarian emergency network, to ensure both outbreaks are addressed in a coordinated manner (as was the case during the recent Ebola outbreak in Equateur province, which was successfully stopped).
- Partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative will continue to support authorities across the country, to ensure that this new level of commitment rapidly translates into operational improvements on the ground.
- Read our Democratic Republic of the Congo country page to see information on surveillance and vaccination campaigns.
**Horn of Africa**

- No circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases were reported in the past week.
- The Horn of Africa is currently affected by separate outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) and type 3 (cVDPV3), reporting both cases and environmental positives.
- Somalia has reported a total of 12 cVDPV cases (five type 2, six type 3 and one, coinfection of both type 2 and type 3) in 2018.
- Circulating VDPV2 has also been detected during 2018 in one environmental sample in Kenya.
- Outbreak response to both virus types is currently being implemented in line with internationally-agreed guidelines. Large-scale supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) have been implemented in Banadir, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions, Somalia. Another vaccination round is planned during end-November as part of the ongoing outbreak response, to further enhance the population immunity in the highest risk areas. Special surveillance activities continue to be undertaken to determine the origin of the viral circulation.
- WHO and partners continue to support local public health authorities across the Horn of Africa in conducting field investigations and risk assessments.
- Read our [Somalia country page](#) and [Kenya country page](#) to see information on surveillance and vaccination campaigns.
- Learn more about [vaccine-derived polioviruses](#) through this short animation or this ‘Coffee with Polio Experts’ video.

**Papua New Guinea**

- No new cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV1) were reported this week. The total number of cases in 2018 is 26.
- Emergency Operation Centres are established and operational at the national level and in all affected provinces; environmental surveillance is functional in five sites in two major cities.
- Three Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) of expanding scope have taken place since late July, from three provinces to nine, to nation-wide. The most recent was aimed at children under the age of 15, due to large numbers of poorly-immunized older children.
- Planning is underway for the next steps of the outbreak response, focusing on both vaccination and surveillance for polioviruses.
- Detection and reporting of new viruses or cases at this point in the outbreak response is not unusual or unexpected, as surveillance is being strengthened and most reported and confirmed cases had onset of paralysis prior to the start of comprehensive outbreak response.
- Read our [Papua New Guinea](#) country page to see information on surveillance and vaccination campaigns.