Situation update

- No new human cases reported from Somalia for three consecutive weeks. The total number of cases remains 12: five cVDPV2 cases, six cVDPV3 cases, and one case with cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 co-infection.
- No new environmental cVDPV isolates were reported this week. The total number of positive environmental isolates for both cVDPV2 and cVDPV3 in Somalia this year remain 33: 19 isolates of cVDPV2, latest detection 11 October 2018; 12 isolates of cVDPV3 with the latest detection 07 September 2018: 2 isolates of aVDPV2, latest detection on 13th September 2018.
- All outbreak response activities for 2018 have been completed; planning is underway to design the 2019 vaccination activities and detail phase two of the outbreak response plan.
- Planning is underway for surveillance training for the regional and district teams in January in Entebbe, Uganda.
Immunization activities

- Outbreak response activities have now been completed for 2018.
- At this stage of the outbreak, continued vigilance is required to detect any ongoing circulation within children or from the environmental sites monitored to determine if any further vaccination response is necessary.
- Plans are underway for continued implementation of dedicated immunization activities for those high risk groups for polio transmission groups such as those living in high density urban areas, camp settings or who are highly mobile.

Communications for Development

- Polio zonal, regional and district social mobilization coordinators (SMNET) continue to conduct community dialogue meetings with identified refusal households and routine immunization defaulters to ensure these children are vaccinated. In South and Central zones coordinators are following up on refusal and other data following the November round.

Surveillance

- A total of 332 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases have been reported in Somalia in 2018 to date. Seventeen (17) of these are pending laboratory reporting.
- Of Somalia’s 115 districts, 114 have reported at least one AFP case since the start of 2018. Only Hamarweyne in the Banadir region has not reported any AFP cases in 2018. Investigations are underway to understand this.
- The environmental surveillance sampling strategy has been adapted to fortnightly testing from 4 existing sites in Banadir, review of the performance of all sites is underway. Possibilities for further expansion are being explored across the country.

Country, Security, Health and Humanitarian Context

- Significant humanitarian, health and nutrition needs remain unmet – especially for IDP, rural and hard to reach populations, significant under funding within humanitarian sector.
- Health and humanitarian access remains reduced across the central and southern areas of the country. Lower and Middle Juba regions are particularly inaccessible due to ongoing insecurity and conflict.
- In Week 50, Cholera alerts persist from Banadir region, case and lab investigations are ongoing; increased suspected measles cases persist, most affected districts include Baidoa, Berdale district of Bay region and Heliwa of Banadir region.

EPI Curve and AFP classification (up to 17 December 2018)
Environmental surveillance by classification, 2017-2018 (up to 17 December 2018)

Non-Polio AFP Immunity Profile, by year/region (please note denominators in each bar of the graph) (up to 17 Dec 2018)

Relevant Links

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) website, updated weekly.
- Vaccine-derived polioviruses video
- GPEI factsheet—VDPV
- Responding to an outbreak of VDPV video
- What is vaccine-derived polio?
- Situation Reports on the Horn of Africa outbreak response

For more information:

**WHO**

Dr Mohamed Ali Kamil—Polio Team Lead  
World Health Organization, Somalia  
E: kamilmo@who.int | T: +962 7 9643 1246

Dr Joanna Nikulin—Team Leader, CST  
World Health Organization, EMRO  
E: nikulinj@who.int | T: +962 796 142239

Emma Sykes—Communications Officer, Polio  
World Health Organization, EMRO  
E: sykese@who.int | T: +962 7 9021 6115

**UNICEF**

Dr Yasmine Challoub—Polio Team Lead  
UNICEF Somalia  
E: aghelard@unicef.org | T: +254 7 4860 0645

Angelo Ghelardi—C4D  
UNICEF ESARO