

Current major event

Update on Polio Situation in EMR- 2021

In 2021, EMR reported five cases of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 (WPV1) in Afghanistan and Pakistan. 54 cases of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus Type 2 (cVDPV2) were detected in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. 87 cVDPV2 isolates were detected in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran and Somalia. In 2021, no cVDPV2 was detected from human or environmental samples in Sudan. Nationwide or targeted vaccination campaigns were conducted to interrupt poliovirus transmission.

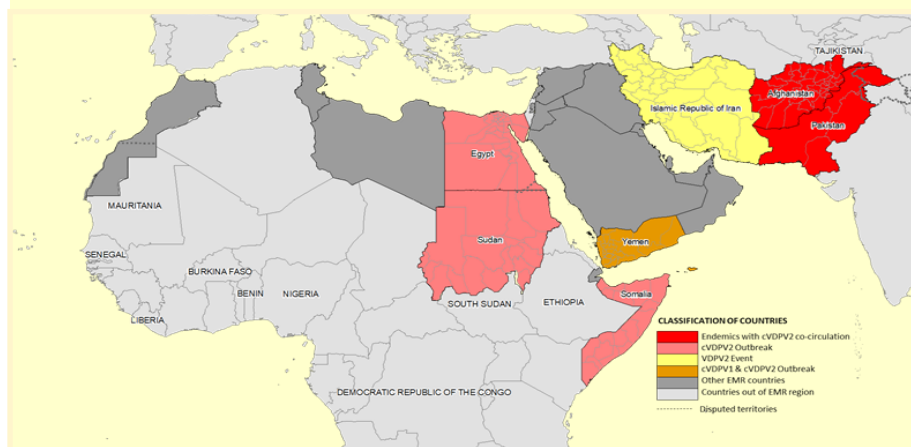
Editorial note

Polio remains endemic in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) namely in Afghanistan and Pakistan which have not stopped the transmission of indigenous WPV1. As of 11 December 2021, Afghanistan reported four WPV1 cases compared with 56 cases in 2020. The total number of cVDPV2 cases reported by Afghanistan was 43 in 2021. In Pakistan, only one case of WPV was reported this year compared to 84 in 2020. Only eight cases of cVDPV2 were reported from Pakistan in 2021.

In the region, five countries are considered as polio outbreak countries where the transmission of indigenous WPV has been stopped. However, these countries are experiencing re-infection either through the importation of WPV or VDPV from another country, or the emergence and circulation of VDPV. cVDPVs have emerged as a challenge towards eradication in under-immunized populations. cVDPV2 cases were detected in 2021 in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. Notably, Yemen is the only country in the world to have coexisting cVDPV1 and cVDPV2 outbreaks largely due to the inability to reach all children consistently for vaccination.

Environmental surveillance continues in 2021 as a supplement to AFP surveillance and was expanded or initiated in selected countries on the basis of risk analysis. It aims to quickly detect WPVs or cVDPVs in sewage and also assists in evaluating the impact of vaccination activities. In 2021, 64 WPV1 positive environmental samples

Classification of the countries according to the outbreaks, EMR, 2021



Integration modalities

- Pandemic response, including support to COVID-19 vaccine delivery, wherever the GPEI is needed.
- Integrated service delivery in the high-risk districts of Afghanistan
- Integrated service delivery for priority communities in Pakistan
- Multi-antigen immunization campaigns to increase immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Coordination with GAVI and the EPI on the “zero-dose initiative, including in outbreak response.
- Acceleration of the transition of polio-essential functions in areas where polio is already integrated.

were collected (one in Afghanistan and 63 in Pakistan), while 87 cVDPV2 isolates were found in sewage water samples in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, IR Iran and Somalia.

All countries remain at risk of polio until the disease has been completely eradicated from the world. In 2021, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched [the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–2026, Delivering on a Promise](#), a revision of the earlier strategy and aimed at addressing emerging challenges. The strategy establishes two goals: (i) to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission in endemic countries and (ii) to stop cVDPV transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries. The strengthened plan aims to achieve and sustain a polio-free world through a focus on implementation and accountability, emphasizing cutting outbreak response times, increasing vaccine demand, transforming campaign effectiveness, working systematically through integration, increasing access in inaccessible areas, transitioning towards government ownership, and improving decision-making and accountability.

Update on outbreaks

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2021

Afghanistan	[157 633 (7328), 4.6%]
Bahrain	[278 037 (1394), 0.5%]
Djibouti	[13 514 (189), 1.4%]
Egypt	[368 335 (21 015), 5.7%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[6 152 524 (130 661), 2.1%]
Iraq	[2 087 497 (23965), 1.1%]
Jordan	[1 006 136 (11 941), 1.2%]
Kuwait	[413 672 (2466), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[688 515 (8836), 1.3%]
Libya	[378 105 (5553), 1.5%]
Morocco	[951 380 (14796), 1.6%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[464 036 (4837), 1%]
Oman	[304 703 (4113), 1.3%]
Pakistan	[1 289 049 (28 830), 2.2%]
Qatar	[245 188 (612), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[550 189 (8852), 1.6%]
Somalia	[23 074 (1333), 5.8%]
Sudan	[44 877 (3244), 7.2%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[49 189 (2809), 5.7%]
Tunisia	[719 586 (25 432), 3.5%]
United Arab Emirates	[742 719 (2151), 0.3%]
Yemen	[10 063 (1968), 19.6%]