

Current major event

cVDPV2 outbreak in Djibouti

On 25 January 2022, the Ministry of Health in Djibouti notified WHO of the detection of four circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) isolates in three environmental samples from two sites. The Ministry, with support from WHO and UNICEF, is responding to this outbreak by investigating further and preventing its spread.

Editorial note

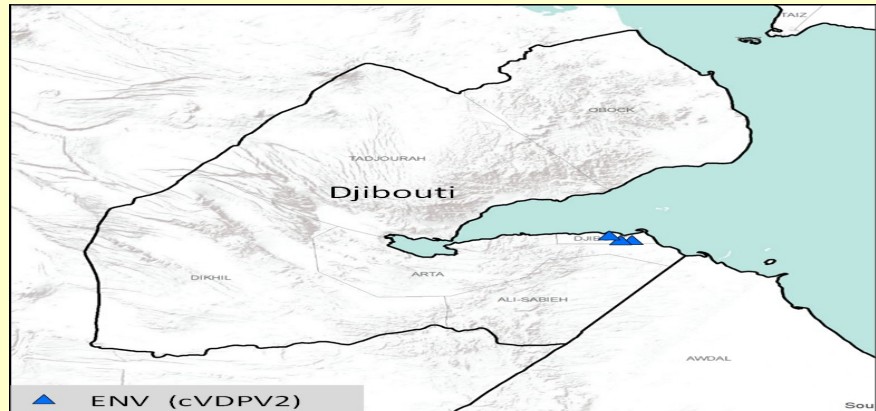
Djibouti was certified as free of wild poliovirus in 1999, and no cases have been detected since then. The country is, however, considered at high risk for importing poliovirus due to extensive population movement in its region, with polio outbreaks having been reported in multiple countries within the Horn of Africa. The low level of routine immunization coverage in some parts of the country is an indication that Djibouti is still at risk of poliovirus outbreaks.

Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen are countries neighboring Djibouti that are classified by WHO as a countries infected with circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) with potential risk for international spread. In Somalia, there was one case of cVDPV2 reported in 2021, 14 cases in 2020 and three cases reported in 2019. Ethiopia reported 10 cases of cVDPV2 in 2021. Sudan reported no cases in 2021, however, 39 cVDPV2 cases were confirmed across 13 states in 2020. Yemen has coexisting cVDPV1 and cVDPV2 outbreaks. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2021 is 10, while the total number of cVDPV1 cases in 2021 was three.

Djibouti, as a country with frequent population movement and contacts with polio-affected countries, worked with the support of WHO and partners to strengthen surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases in order to rapidly detect any new virus importation and to facilitate a rapid response. A uniformly high routine immunization coverage at the district level is being maintained to minimize the consequences of any new virus introduction.

In 2019, Djibouti's Ministry of Health worked with WHO, UNICEF and other partners to successfully carry out the country's first polio national immunization day (NID) since 2015. The

Location of isolated cVDPV2 environmental samples, Djibouti



cVDPV2 reported in countries with risk of transmission to Djibouti, 2019–2021

Country	AFP cases			Other source (human)			Other source (environmental)		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Yemen			10						
Ethiopia	14	36	10	9	7			9	
Somalia	3	14	1	2	13		5	27	1
Sudan		59			11			14	
Egypt								1	11

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

Current public health events of concern

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

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019–2022

Afghanistan	[161 666 (7407), 7.6%]
Bahrain	[362 022 (1404), 0.4%]
Djibouti	[15 440 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[421 478 (22 566), 5.4%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[6 344 179 (132 424), 2.1%]
Iraq	[2 203 365 (24 376), 1.1%]
Jordan	[1 197 250 (13 174), 1.1%]
Kuwait	[534 062 (2494), 0.5%]
Lebanon	[907 824 (576), 1.1%]
Libya	[425 237 (6007), 1.4%]
Morocco	[1 129 140 (15 328), 1.4%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[516 059 (5087), 1.0%]
Oman	[336 460 (4116), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 417 991 (29 248), 2.1%]
Qatar	[337 638 (645), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[683 053 (8936), 1.3%]
Somalia	[25 388 (1335), 5.3%]
Sudan	[57 632 (3441), 6.0%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[51 284 (2984), 5.8%]
Tunisia	[901 107 (26 229), 2.9%]
United Arab Emirates	[840 739 (2239), 0.3%]
Yemen	[11 019 (2011), 18.3%]

NID campaign targeted 120 000 children under five years of age, a number suggested by Djibouti's last census in 2009. Two vaccination strategies were followed to reach these children through fixed points at health facilities and a complementary door-to-door approach using two-person teams.

On 25 January 2022, the Ministry of Health announced the detection of four cVDPV2 isolates in three environmental samples from two sites (see map).

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry with the support of WHO and partners initiated a detailed field investigation of AFP cases including active case search around Arhiba, with possible extension to Djibouti Ville. AFP surveillance was strengthened with a focus on high-risk population groups and geographical areas.

The frequency of environmental surveillance was increased at the current sites in addition to other ad hoc sites. Coordination with IOM and UNHCR was strengthened to effectively reach high-risk populations and geographies, including camps for internally-displaced persons and refugees. Surge mission from WHO will be deployed to Djibouti to support outbreak investigation and response. The Ministry of Health is planning to conduct another NID vaccination campaign to protect children against polio with the support of WHO, UNICEF and partners.