

# Situation Report 10

## Polio Outbreak

3 December 2019

### Highlights

- No new cases reported in the past week
- Currently 6 human cases confirmed with circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2), and one case with type 1 (VDPV1), all from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). There is also one case with immunodeficiency-related VDPV type 2 (iVDPV2) from Laguna.
- Synchronized polio vaccination campaign started on 25 November so far vaccinated 3,953,754 children under 5, which is 90% of the target total 4.4 million children under 5. With 5 more days to go, 99% of the target 1,276,993 children were vaccinated in National Capital Region (NCR) and 87% of the target 3,111,649 children in Mindanao.
- Typhoon Tisoy (Kammuri) may affect the second week of the campaign operations in NCR due to heavy rain and possible flooding.
- Current polio outbreak resulting from persistently low routine immunization coverage, and poor sanitation and hygiene.
- **Philippines is affected by both cVDPV1 and cVDPV2. cVDPV is considered a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).**

# of samples confirmed	VDPV1	cVDPV1	iVDPV2	cVDPV2
Environmental	0	13	0	14
Human	1	0	1	6
Healthy children	0	0	0	4



The polio Incident Command Centre at the BARMM Ministry of Health is one of the 7 Emergency Operations Centres working at full speed during the ongoing polio vaccination campaign in Mindanao

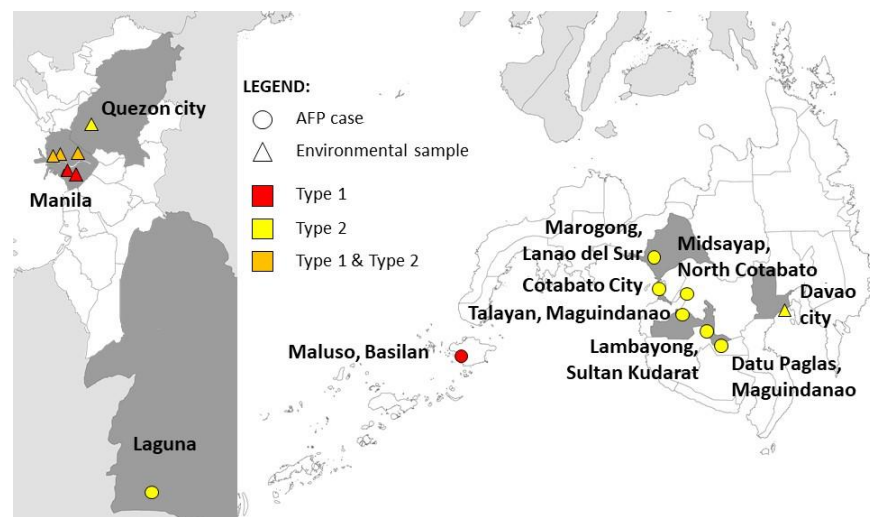
### Current Situation

Currently 6 human cases and 13 environmental samples confirmed with cVDPV2, which are all genetically linked. All human cases were reported from BARMM, whereas environmental samples were found in NCR and Davao.

All 13 cVDPV1 environmental samples found in Manila are genetically linked, whereas the first human case confirmed with VDPV1 from the island province of Basilan in BARMM was found to not closely related to cVDPV1 detected in Manila, but with possible genetic linkage which will be confirmed or not following pending evolutionary analysis.

Case investigation into the VDPV1 case was conducted in Maluso, Basilan by Department of Health (DOH) staff from Manila jointly with the BARMM Ministry of Health, provincial and city health officers. Stool specimens were collected from 22 household members and children in the community, as well as environmental samples by Basilan sanitary inspectors.

**Figure 1: VDPV Locations in the Philippines as of 2 December 2019**



All samples were tested by the National Polio Laboratory at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), whereas sequencing and genetic analysis is done at the NIID in Japan and additional genetic characterization provided by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The current round of synchronized polio vaccination started on 25 November and has already vaccinated 3,953,754 children under 5 with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), which is 90% of the target total, with 5 more days of the campaign to follow until 7 December.

**Table 1: Outbreak Response Immunization Campaigns for cVDPV1 and 2**

When	What	Where	Who	#
25 Nov-7 Dec 2019	mOPV2	Mindanao (all 6 regions)	<5 years	3,111,650
	bOPV	NCR		1,276,631
20 Jan-2 Feb 2020	mOPV2	Mindanao (all 6 regions)		3,111,650

## Response

### Risk assessment

Overall risk		
National	Regional	Global
High	Moderate	Low

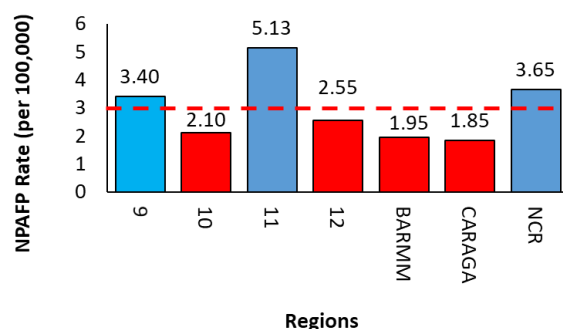
With an increasing number of human cases and environmental samples testing positive for poliovirus type 1 and 2, the risk for further polio transmission continues to be assessed as high at the national level, because of chronically suboptimal immunisation coverage, sub-optimal performance of AFP surveillance, and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions.

The regional risk of potential spread across international borders is assessed as moderate considering the large number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

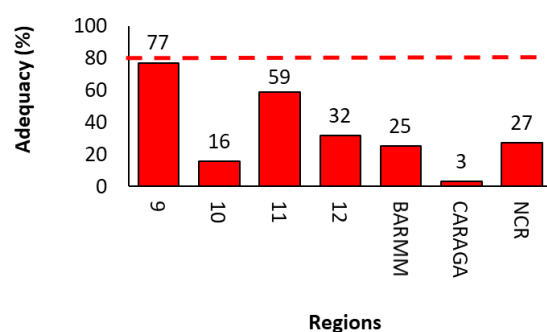
### Surveillance

The annualized Non-Polio AFP (NPAFP) rate from 1 January to 9 November 2019 is 2.25, which is below the recommended rate of 3 for outbreak-affected regions, with only 3 regions meeting the standard (Figure 2). Adequacy of stool collection from 1 January to 9 November 2019 is 39%, with none of the affected regions the recommended 80% (Figure 3).

**Figure 2: Annualized Non-Polio AFP Rate (N=685) 1 January-9 November 2019**



**Figure 3: Stool Adequacy (N=685) 1 January-9 November 2019**



A total of 25 environmental samples from six sites tested positive between 1 July and 9 November 2019. VDPV1 was isolated from 11 environmental samples, which were collected from sewage collection site and its tributary pumping stations in Manila, between 1 July and 9 October 2019.

VDPV type 2 has been isolated from five environmental samples, which were collected from sewage collection site and its tributary pumping stations in Manila in NCR, and Davao city in Region XI, between 13 August and 9 October 2019.

## Coordination

DOH is coordinating the polio response through its Incident Command Structures (ICS) and Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) set up in each region, as well as the Mindanao and national levels. DOH is issuing daily bulletins with coverage data, Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), AFP and environmental surveillance updates from the 7 regions.

DOH's contribution to the polio outbreak response has been very significant in terms of operational costs, supervision, and social mobilization materials. The government also paid for all 3 million doses of bOPV for the NCR vaccination campaign (at a cost of approximately US\$ 600,000).

WHO and UNICEF are closely coordinating the response with DOH at all levels:

- UNICEF mobilized 5 consultants on supply chain and vaccine management, 3 local immunization technical consultants, 2 communication for development (C4D) consultants and information management. Additional international consultants for cold chain/vaccine management and C4D are currently being recruited.
- WHO mobilized 20 international consultants who are supporting DOH with the implementation of the campaign: 14 in Mindanao and 6 in NCR. These include the Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) consultants. WHO is also supporting DOH with strengthening its ICS and EOCs at all levels.

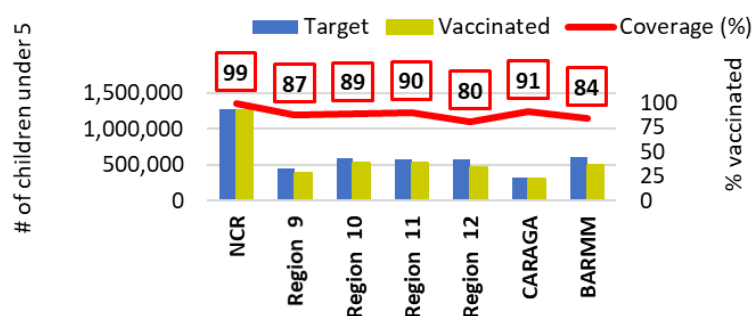
## Immunization response

The current round of the synchronized polio vaccination campaign started on 25 November and has so far vaccinated 3,953,754 children under 5, which is 90% of the target 4.4 million children under 5.

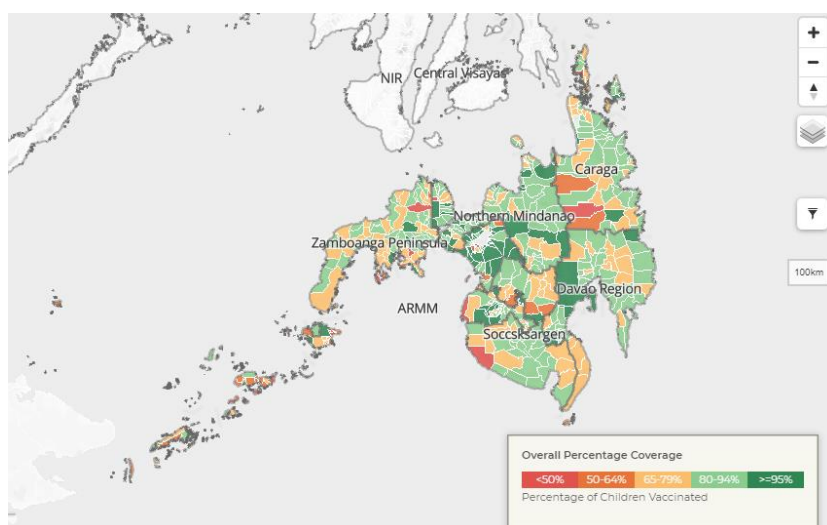
With 5 more days to go, 99% of the target 1,276,993 children were vaccinated in National Capital Region (NCR) and 87% of the target 3,111,649 children in Mindanao. 1.2 million children under 5 in NCR and 3.1 Million in Mindanao.

Intracampaign monitoring and Rapid Convenience Assessments (RCAs) are ongoing in all target regions.

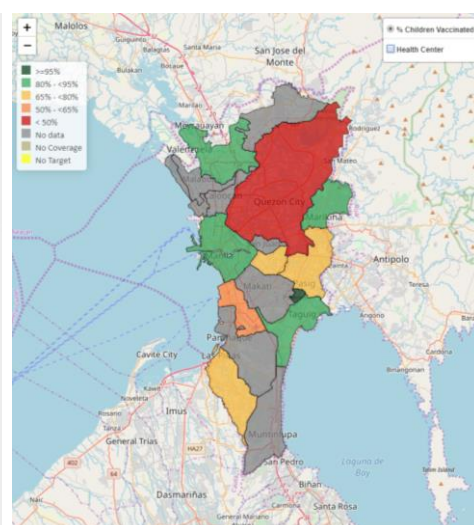
**Figure 4: Coverage of polio vaccination campaign**  
All regions in the Philippines 25 November-2 December 2019



**Figure 5: Mindanao coverage\***  
25 November-2 December 2019



**Figure 6: NCR coverage\***  
25 November-2 December 2019



\* As recorded through mobile application ODK

## Vaccine Logistics

UNICEF delivered the required mOPV2 vaccines for the third round of polio vaccination campaign to be conducted from 20 January to 2 February 2020, covering 3.1 million children in Mindanao. Delivery of the vaccines to the six Mindanao regions will take place from 22 December 2019 to 7 January 2020.

## Social Mobilization and Partners' engagement

Partners' contributions have been significant during the vaccination campaign.

Community mobilization events in NCR, such as kiddie shows have been a hit among both parents and children, significantly improving acceptance of the vaccination during the campaign.

UNICEF has initiated a partnership with Relief International and Human Development and Empowerment Services Inc (HDES) to intensify social mobilization efforts in high risk areas in Mindanao.

**For updated communication and social mobilization resources, visit:** <https://poliofreeph.wixsite.com/poliofreeph>

Over 1000 Philippine Red Cross (PRC) volunteers have vaccinated 119,560 children out of the target of 100,000 children. Rotary Clubs and local government units (LGU) have been providing a significant amount of IEC materials, banners and stickers for house marking which facilitates house-to-house vaccination.

**All partners supporting the polio response are requested to:**

- ➔ Update <https://tinyurl.com/phpolio3W> with information on Who is doing What Where to better measure the impact of activities
- ➔ Report through UNICEF's Social Mobilization Indicators tool at <https://enketo.ona.io/x/#MNquhgob>  
username: spvrca  
password: spvrca123

## Upcoming activities

On 12-13 December, DOH with support from WHO and UNICEF, will hold a *Communication Review Workshop for the Polio Outbreak Response* for regional and provincial health promotion focal points from Mindanao to share best practices and review communication workplans for future polio campaigns.

## Risk communication

- Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://polioeradication.org/where-we-work/philippines/>
- DOH Advisory: Polio Vaccination for Travelers Coming to the Philippines 10 October 2019 <https://www.doh.gov.ph/advisories/Polio-Vaccination-for-Travelers-coming-to-the-Philippines>
- DOH approved risk communication messages for different audiences available at <https://poliofreeph.wixsite.com/poliofreeph> with password: AdiosPolio.

Other relevant information can be found here:

- Disease outbreak news: Update Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1, The Philippines 24 October 2019 <https://www.who.int/csr/don/24-october-2019-polio-the-philippines/en/>
- Disease outbreak news Polio outbreak, The Philippines 24 September 2019 <https://www.who.int/csr/don/24-september-2019-polio-outbreak-the-philippines/en/>
- <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/questions-and-answers-on-the-polio-outbreak-in-the-philippines>
- <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/polio-outbreak-in-the-philippines>
- Human Interest Story about the 1<sup>st</sup> human case infected with polio in the Philippines: **Junaisha: A little girl with polio** <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/junaisha-a-little-girl-with-polio>

**Funding allocation and budget**

<b>(US\$)</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Government*	6,772,249	6,772,249
WHO	3,176,858	574,320
UNICEF	3,245,205	380,362
Other partners (IFRC, Red Cross)		522,807**
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,194,312</b>	<b>8,249,738</b>

*\*Government has pledged US\$ 9 million*

*\*\* Equivalent to CHF 517,719*