

Situation Report 13

Polio Outbreak

15 January 2020

Highlights

- Two new cases with cVDPV2: a 2-year old and a 3-year old boy from Maguindanao in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)
- Currently 11 human cases confirmed with cVDPV2; one case with cVDPV1; one case with VDPV1; and one case with immunodeficiency-related VDPV type 2 (iVDPV2).
- Three cVDPV1 cases from Sabah, Malaysia are all genetically linked to the Basilan case.
- Limited polio outbreak immunization in areas affected with VDPV1 conducted in Zamboanga and Isabella (Region IX), Lambayong (Region XII), and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BARMM) vaccinated 689,273 children under 10 (93.2% of the target) on 6-12 January 2020. Two more rounds planned for same areas and children on 17 February-1 March and 23 March-4 April 2020
- Preparations ongoing for 3 more rounds against poliovirus type 1 and 2 in Mindanao targeting 3.3 million children under 5 up to April 2020.
- Additionally, two more rounds planned in National Capital Region (NCR) against poliovirus type 2 targeting 1.4 million children under 5 up to March 2020. Department of Health (DOH), UNICEF and WHO experts conducted orientation on 10 January.
- 2.9 million doses of monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine against poliovirus type 2 (mOPV2) were shipped through UNICEF for NCR, with a further 300,000 doses still needed to complete all pending rounds
- Airport closure due to the eruption of the Taal volcano near Metro Manila causing some delay in the deployment of consultants.
- 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		13		17
Human	1	1	1	11
Healthy children				5
Contacts				2



Table 1: Details of planned upcoming vaccination campaigns

When	What	Where	Who	#
6-12 Jan 2020	bOPV	BaSuTa*/Zamboanga, Isabella/Lambayong	<10	739,640
17 Feb-1 Mar 2020	bOPV	BaSuTa/Zamboanga, Isabella/Lambayong	<10	739,640
	bOPV	Rest of Regions IX/XII/BARMM and rest of Mindanao	<5	3 million
23 Mar-4 Apr 2020	bOPV	BaSuTa/Zamboanga, Isabella/Lambayong	<10	739,640
	bOPV	Rest of Regions IX/XII/BARMM and rest of Mindanao	<5	3 million
20 Jan-2 Feb 2020	mOPV2	Mindanao	<5	3.3 million
27 Jan-9 Feb 2020	mOPV2	NCR	<5	1.4 million
9-20 Mar 2020	mOPV2	NCR	<5	1.4 million

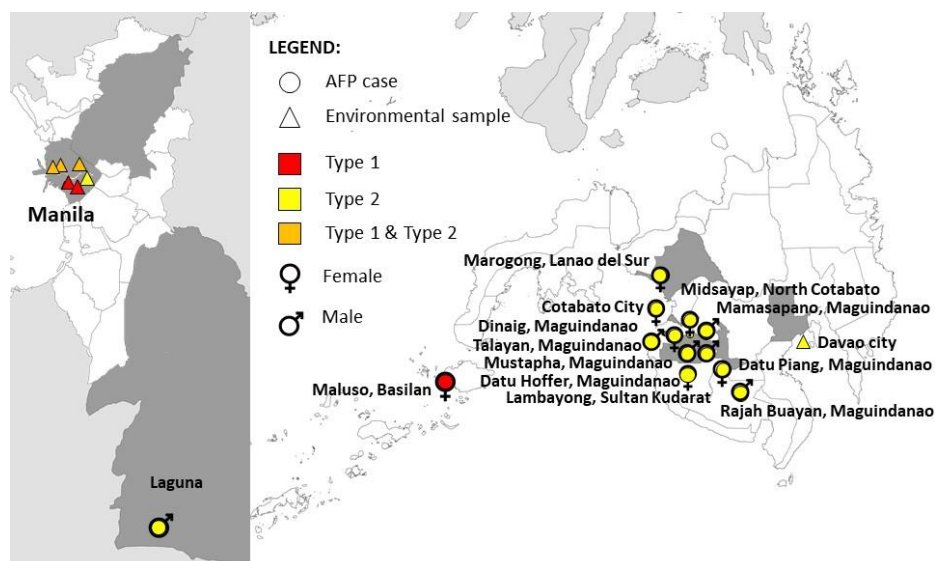
* Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi

Current Situation

Table 2: Age and Gender per Type and Location of Polio Cases

Type	Age	Gender	Region
cVDPV2	3	F	BARMM
iVDPV2	5	M	IV-A
cVDPV2	4	F	BARMM
cVDPV2	3	F	XII
cVDPV2	2	F	BARMM
cVDPV2	2	M	XII
cVDPV2	2	M	BARMM
cVDPV2	4	F	XII
cVDPV2	2	M	BARMM
cVDPV1	9	F	BARMM
cVDPV2	<1	M	BARMM
cVDPV2	<½	M	BARMM
VDPV1	4	F	XII
cVDPV2	2	M	BARMM
cVDPV2	3	M	BARMM

Figure 1: VDPV Locations in the Philippines as of 15 January 2020



Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 1 (cVDPV1)

Three cVDPV1 cases from Sabah State, Malaysia were confirmed to be genetically linked to the Basilan case by the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) in Australia. Since the viruses are genetically linked they are classified as circulating.

All 13 cVDPV1 environmental samples found in Manila are all genetically linked.

The VDPV1 case from Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat (Region XII) is not genetically linked to the Basilan and Malaysia cases and is therefore not categorised as circulating.

Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2)

Two new human cases were confirmed with cVDPV2: one 2-year old from Shariff Saydona, Mustapha, and one 3-year old boy from Datu Hoffer, both in Maguindanao (BARMM), bringing the total number of human cases to 11. All cases were reported from Mindanao (BARMM and Region XII), whereas the 17 confirmed environmental samples were found in NCR and Davao. The iVDPV case from Laguna is not linked to the cVDPV2 cases.

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).

Response

Risk assessment

Overall risk		
National	Regional	Global
High	Moderate	Low

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

With three cVDPV1 cases from Malaysia confirmed to be related to the one Philippine cVDPV1 case, the regional risk of potential spread across international borders remains moderate, especially considering the large number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and the ease of travel between islands without any form of control, especially by traders from Mindanao.

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 issues daily bulletins with coverage data, Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), AFP and environmental surveillance updates from the 7 regions.

- UNICEF mobilized 11 consultants on supply chain and vaccine management, immunization, communication for development (C4D) and information management.
- WHO mobilised 21 international and 7 national surge consultants who are supporting DOH with the implementation of the campaign. These include the Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP) consultants. WHO is also supporting DOH with strengthening its ICS and EOCs at all levels.

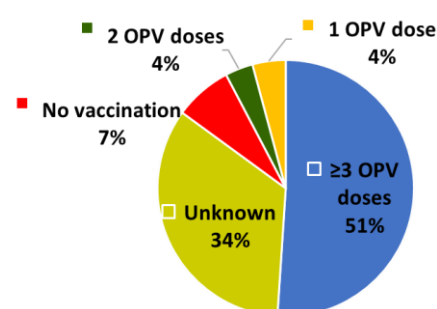
Surveillance

The annualized Non-Polio AFP (NPAFP) rate from 1 January to 21 December 2019 is 1.41, with Regions IX and XI reaching the target of 3 as set for outbreak-affected regions.

Adequacy of stool collection from 1 January to 21 December 2019 is 41%, with no region meeting the recommended 80%.

Of all AFP cases, 45% is female, and 55% is male, compared to 50% female and 50% male confirmed polio cases.

Figure 2: OPV status of reported AFP cases (N=909)
1 January-21 December 2019



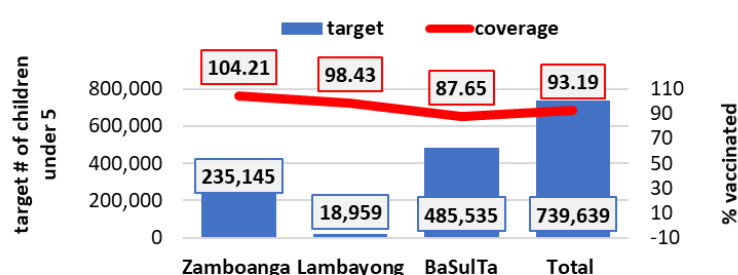
Immunization response

Over 4.3 million children under 5 were vaccinated so far during several rounds of immunization using bivalent OPV (bOPV) against poliovirus type 1 in NCR and mOPV2 in Mindanao. One more mOPV2 round will be conducted in Mindanao targeting 3,102,973 children under 5 on 20 January-2 February 2020.

Main lessons learned of past rounds are the lack of health workers to conduct vaccination and monitoring to cover over 12,000 barangays in 7 regions to ensure there are no missed children. Difficult access to remote and insecure areas (mountainous, islands) hinders management of synchronized vaccination activities, travel of vaccination teams, transport of vaccines and other supplies, reporting of feedback and accomplishments. There is also a continuous need to strengthen surveillance of AEFI and AFP.

In response to the first human 9-year old cVDPV1 case from the island province of Basilan, 13,547 children under 10 years old (102% of the target) were vaccinated in Maluso, Basilan on 30 November-8 December 2019. Additional outbreak immunization was conducted in Zamboanga and Isabella (Region IX), Lambayong (Region XII), and Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BARMM) for 689,273 children under 10 (93.2% of the target) on 6-12 January 2020.

Figure 3: Coverage polio outbreak immunization campaign bOPV
6-12 January 2020



Two more rounds are planned to target the same areas and number of children on 17 February-1 March and 23 March-4 April 2020. Further bOPV campaigns will be conducted on the same dates targeting over 3 million children under 5 in the remaining provinces and regions of Mindanao.

In response to the increasing number of environmental samples testing positive for cVDPV2 in Manila, two rounds of vaccination campaigns using mOPV2 will be conducted in NCR targeting 1.4 million children under 5 on 27 January-9 February and 24 February-8 March 2020.

Vaccine Logistics

UNICEF supported DOH with the clearance and delivery of all mOPV2 vaccines to all regions in Mindanao and NCR for the January round, targeting 3.3 million and 1.4 million children under 5 years, respectively. Other supplies will be delivered to NCR including 60,956 multi-purpose resealable bags (17.5x17 cm), 952 sacks and 6,664 distribution and collection forms.

UNICEF has been supporting DOH with transport of refrigerators and vaccine carriers to the regions. UNICEF also procured freezers, icepacks, ziploc bags, plastic bags, generators, solar refrigerates, automatic voltage regulator and small size vaccine carriers.

Social Mobilization and Partners' engagement

DOH issued an advisory to all the regions to start the community preparations and pre-campaign mobilization activities in all targeted areas for the January 2020 campaign.

UNICEF's local partner in Mindanao, Human Development and Empowerment Services Inc (HDES) deployed 40 additional social mobilisers to the Zamboanga peninsula. An orientation for these newly selected social mobilisers was conducted in Pagadian City on 7 January 2020. Similarly, an orientation for social mobilisers was organized in Cagayan de Oro City by Relief International (RI) with support from UNICEF on 7-8 January 2020. RI will be supporting intensified social mobilization efforts in selected areas in CARAGA and Region X in Mindanao.

IEC material (posters, tarpaulins, guide for health workers and for social mobilisers, etc) were delivered to the regions for the January 2020 campaign. UNICEF contracted a media agency to conduct special community mobilization events before and during the January 2020 campaign in NCR.

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

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) mobilised over 1,000 volunteers who helped vaccinate more than 155,000 children throughout the vaccination campaigns in NCR and Mindanao. In preparation for upcoming rounds, PRC organised a post-round and planning meeting for Mindanao Chapters on 10-11 January 2020 in Davao City, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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.

All relevant information including previous situation reports, can be found here:

- <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/polio-outbreak-in-the-philippines>

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

Funding allocation and budget

(US\$)	Budget	Allocation
Government*	6,772,249	6,772,249
WHO	3,176,858	634,413
UNICEF	3,245,205	380,362
Other partners		
Philippine Red Cross		297,143**
IFRC		345,983***
Total	13,194,312	8,249,738

* Government has pledged US\$ 9 million

** Equivalent to PHP 15,000,000

*** Equivalent to CHF 336,302