

Situation Report 14

Polio Outbreak

27 January 2020

Highlights

- Two new human cases confirmed with cVDPV2: 1st from Quezon City in National Capital Region (NCR). Other case is from Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)
- Currently, 13 cases with cVDPV2, one case with cVDPV1; one case with VDPV1; and one case with immunodeficiency-related VDPV type 2 (iVDPV2).
- Limited polio outbreak immunization in areas affected with VDPV1 conducted in Zamboanga and Isabela (Region IX), Lambayong (Region XII), and Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BARMM) vaccinated 705,089 children under 10 (95.33%) on 6-15 January 2020.
- Third round of the Sabayang Patak Kontra Polio started on 20 January in Mindanao, targeting 3.1 million children under 5 with monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine against poliovirus type 2 (mOPV2) until 2 February. In the first 6 days of the campaign, 2,788,632 children under 5 were vaccinated (89.87%)
- 11.2 million doses of bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) to be procured for the Mindanao VDPV1 outbreak response rounds to replace borrowed routine immunization stocks
- Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Technical Advisory Group recommended sending 323,000 doses of mOPV2 vaccine for 2 rounds in NCR targeting 1.4 million children under 5
- Poliovirus Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) mission confirmed for 8-14 February.
- 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		21
Human	1	1	1	13
Healthy children				5
Contacts		1		2



Going house-to-house while on a bangka (small boat), health workers give polio drops to children in Barangay Kabukan, Hadji Panglima Tahil, Sulu. WHO/R. Santos

Table 1: Details of recent, ongoing and upcoming vaccination campaigns

When	What	Where	Who	#
6-12 Jan 2020	bOPV	BaSuTa*/Zamboanga, Isabella/Lambayong	<10	705,089
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	3.1 million
27 Jan-9 Feb 2020	mOPV2	NCR	<5	1.4 million
9-20 Mar 2020	mOPV2	NCR	<5	1.4 million

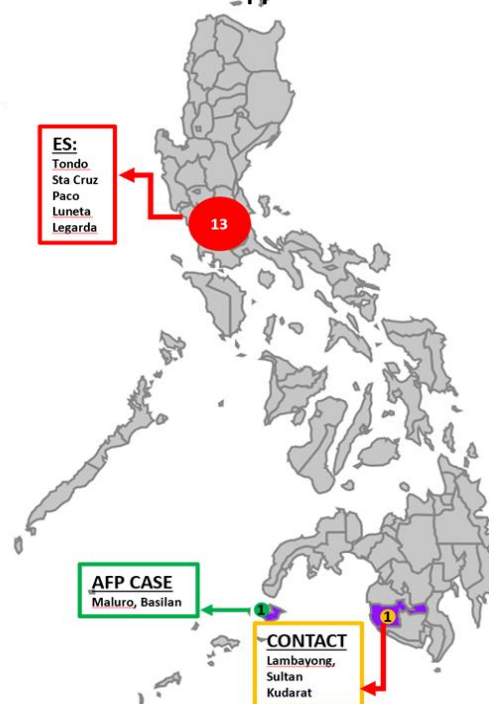
* Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi

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	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
cVDPV2	2	M	XII
cVDPV2	3	M	NCR

Figure 1: VDPV Locations in the Philippines as of 27 January 2020



Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 1 (cVDPV1)

So far only one cVDPV1 case confirmed in the Philippines, from the island province of Basilan. 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. None of the cVDPV1 cases are related to the 13 cVDPV1 environmental samples found in Manila.

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 3-year old from Batasan Hills, Quezon City, and one 2-year old boy from Columbio, Sultan Kudarat (Region XII) bringing the total number of human cases to 13. This is the first case to be reported from NCR, whereas the other cases were all reported from BARMM and Region XII. A total of 21 confirmed environmental samples were found in NCR (20) and Davao (1). 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, 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.

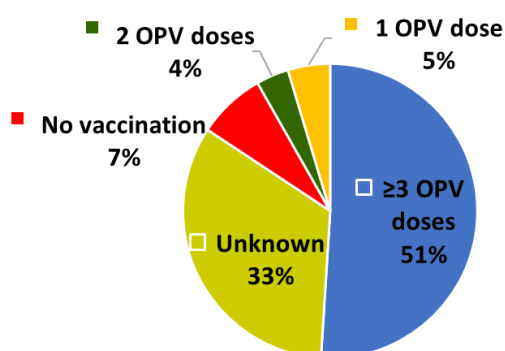
Coordination

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.

The Poliovirus Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) mission is confirmed for 8-14 February 2020. The OBRA team has been identified and field visit sites have already been selected for the assessment.

Figure 2: OPV status of reported AFP cases
(N=949) 1 January-28 December 2019



Surveillance

The annualized Non-Polio AFP (NPAFP) rate from 1 January to 28 December 2019 is 1.52, with Regions IX and XI reaching the target of 3 as set for outbreak-affected regions. Adequacy of stool collection from 1 January to 28 December 2019 is 43%, with no region meeting the recommended 80%.

Of all AFP cases, 45% is female, and 55% is male, compared to 44% female and 56% male confirmed polio cases.

Immunization response

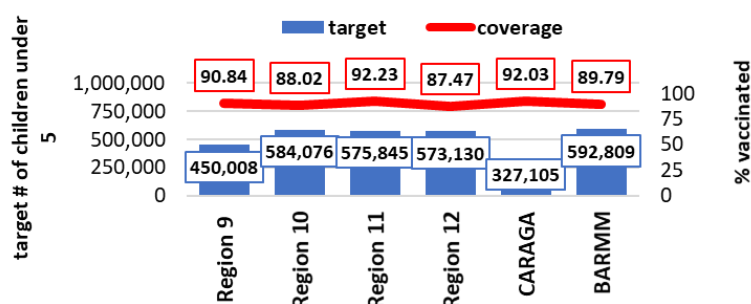
Third mOPV2 round started in Mindanao on 20 January targeting 3,102,973 children under 5. In the first 6 days of the campaign, 2,788,632 children under 5 were vaccinated (89.87%). (Figure 3)

In response to first human 9-year old cVDPV1 case from the island province of Basilan, outbreak immunization was conducted in Zamboanga and Isabella (Region IX), Lambayong (Region XII), and Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BARMM) for 705,089 children under 10 (95.33% of the target 739,639) on 6-15 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 in the remaining provinces and regions of Mindanao.

In response to the 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-7 February and 24 February-8 March 2020.

Figure 3: Coverage mOPV polio outbreak immunization campaign
20-26 January 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.

In addition, 11.2 million doses of bOPV will be procured for the Mindanao VDPV1 outbreak response rounds to replace borrowed routine immunization stocks.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Technical Advisory Group recommended sending 323,000 doses of mOPV2 vaccine for 2 rounds in NCR targeting 1.4 million children under 5.

Social Mobilization and Partners' engagement

UNICEF facilitated the conduct of a qualitative research to understand awareness, attitudes, and practices of parents and caregivers of children who are eligible for polio immunization; and refusals and how they were addressed by health workers and volunteers. The research covered all regions in Mindanao and NCR. The results were presented to Polio Technical Team and used to improve communication and social mobilization in upcoming immunization rounds.

A total of 100 social mobilizers engaged by UNICEF's implementing partners in Mindanao were trained on communication and social mobilization, including interpersonal communication and handling of refusals. The social mobilizers were deployed in areas with low coverage and refusals. The same training was conducted for 117 youth volunteers in NCR, mostly college students. UNICEF also supported the training of over 100 health workers from NCR, which included a session on communication and social mobilization.

To help improve awareness and visibility of the ongoing immunization campaign in Mindanao and the up-coming campaign in NCR, UNICEF facilitated the printing and distribution of guides for health workers and social mobilizers, streamers, and posters. For updated communication and social mobilization resources, visit: <https://poliofreeph.wixsite.com/poliofreeph>.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) organised technical orientation and planning meeting for NCR chapters, aimed at vaccinating 80,000 children against polio on 22 January 2020, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

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