

Situation Report 16

Polio Outbreak

19 February 2020

Highlights

- On 15 February, DOH confirmed a new cVDPV2 case, a one-year-old boy from Caba-natuan City, Nueva Ecija, bringing the total number of polio cases in the country to 17.
- Currently, there are 14 cases of cVDPV2, one case with cVDPV1; one case with VDPV1; and one case with immunodeficiency related VDPV type 2 (iVDPV2).
- DOH also reported that an environmental sample collected from Butuanon River, Cebu tested positive for the poliovirus as confirmed by the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine.
- The first Poliovirus Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) was held from 8-14 February. The team visited NCR, Mindanao and Davao City.
- Third mOPV2 round started in Mindanao on 20 January targeting 3,102,973 children under 5. In the first 14 days of the campaign, 3,061,732 children under 5 were vaccinated (98.7%).
- First mOPV2 round in NCR started on 27 January targeting 1,404,517 children under 5. A total of 1,386,5731 children under 5 were vaccinated (98.7%). The second round is planned for 24 February-8 March 2020.
- **Philippines is affected by both cVDPV1 and cVDPV2. cVDPV is considered a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).**

# of samples con-firmed	VDPV1	cVDPV1	iVDPV2	cVDPV2
Environmental		13		17
Human	1	1	1	14
Healthy children				5
Contacts				2



Vaccination in Mindanao Province (WHO/K Feldon)

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

When	What	Where	Who	#
6-12 Jan 2020	bOPV	BaSulTa*/Zamboanga, Isabella/Lambayong	<10	705,089
17 Feb-1 Mar 2020	bOPV	BaSulTa/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	BaSulTa/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

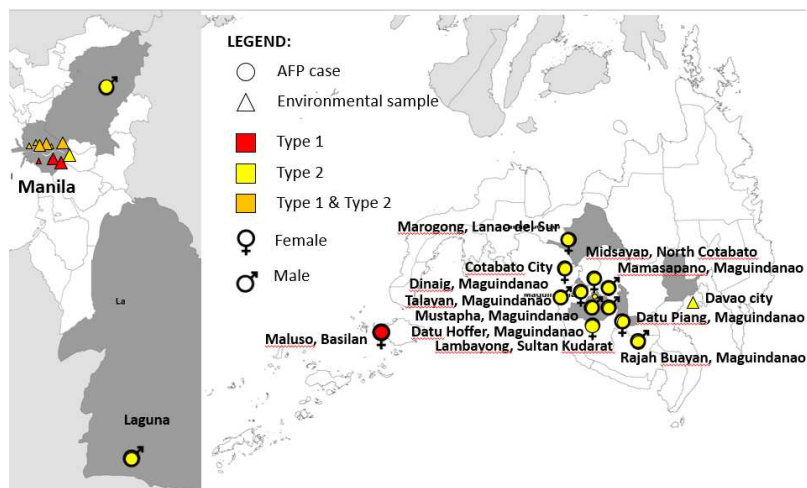
* Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi

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
cVDPV2	1	M	III

Figure 1: VDPV Locations in the Philippines as of 24 January 2020



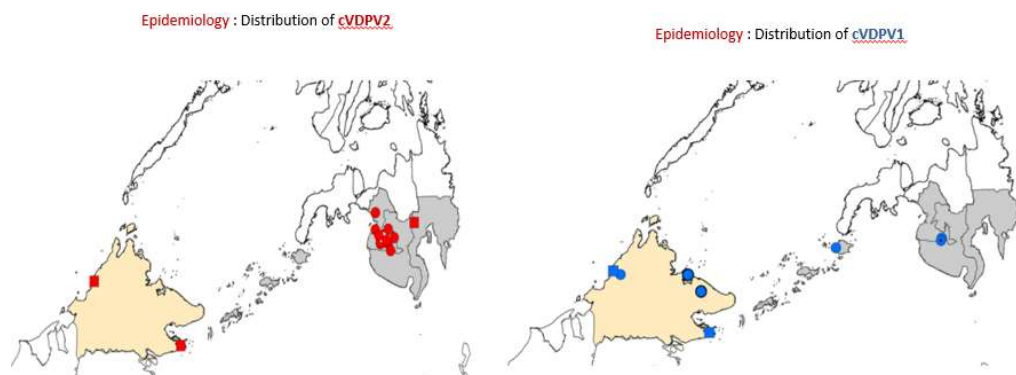
Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 1 (cVDPV1)

Thus far, there is 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.

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

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

Distribution of Polio cases-Philippines and Malaysia



Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2)

On 15 February, DOH confirmed the latest case, a one-year-old boy from Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, bringing the total number of polio cases in the country to 17. DOH also reported that an environmental sample collected from Butuanon River, Cebu tested positive for the poliovirus.

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

Overall risk		
National	Regional	Global
High	Moderate	Low

Risk assessment

The risk of 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, 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.

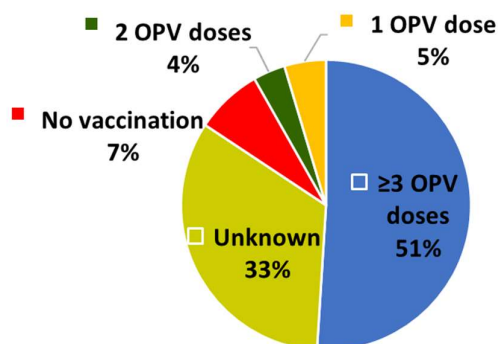
Coordination

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

Figure 3: OPV status of reported AFP cases
(N=949) 1 January-28 December 2019



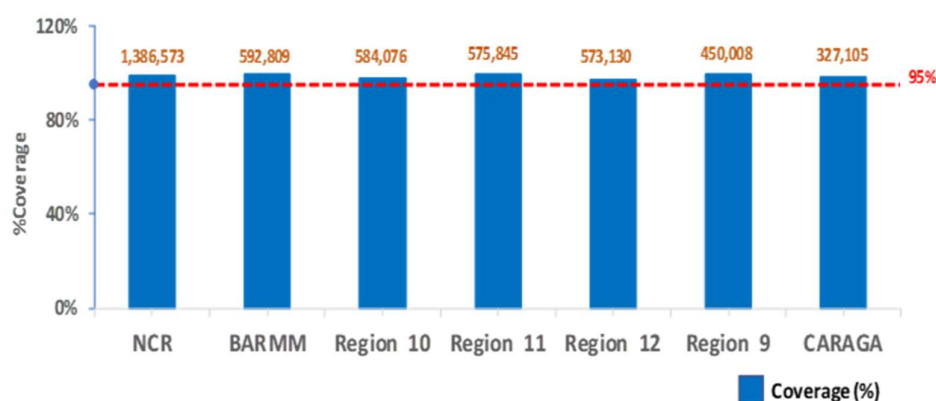
The annualized Non-Polio AFP (NPAFP) rate from 1 January to 28 December 2019 is 1.52, with Regions IX and XI reaching the target of 3 as set for outbreak-affected regions. Adequacy of stool collection from 1 January to 28 December 2019 is 43%, with no region meeting the recommended 80%.

Of all AFP cases, 45% is female, and 55% is male, compared to 44% female and 56% male confirmed polio cases. Active enhanced surveillance has been extended beyond sentinel sites to include community surveillance, involving municipality volunteers.

Immunization response

Third mOPV2 round started in Mindanao on 20 January targeting 3,102,973 children under 5. In the first 14 days of the campaign, 3,061,732 children under 5 were vaccinated (98.7%).

Figure 4: Number vaccination and % coverage - mOPV2 polio outbreak immunization campaign 20 January-10 February 2020



First mOPV2 round started in NCR on 27 January targeting 1,404,517 children under 5.

A total of 1,386,5731 children under 5 were vaccinated (98.7%). The second round is planned for 24 February-8 March 2020.

Vaccine logistics

UNICEF consultants deployed in NCR and Mindanao continue to provide support to the DoH in the implementation of effective vaccine, logistics and cold chain management. The support was primarily focused on the post-campaign activities in the retrieval and validation of all dispensed mOPV2 vials, ensuring strict adherence on the “reverse logistics” protocol/guideline and filling-in of the prescribed vaccine utilization recording/reporting and validation forms.

The consultants conducted field work monitoring activities and ensure that unaccounted vials are properly investigated, acted upon and an incident report is filed, discussed immediately to the supervisors and provided feedback to EOC. As of 18 February, stock inventory update shows there are more than 800,000 doses of mOPV2 remaining in Mindanao available for use, if necessary, for an additional polio- outbreak response.

In addition, the UNICEF Field Office in Cotabato City and consultants who are based in the field assisted the DoH in the preparation and visit of the OBRA team in respective regions and provinces from 8-14 February 2020.

Social mobilization and partners’ engagement

UNICEF provided support to DoH during the preparation and visit of the OBRA team mission on 8-14 February 2020. The two Communication for Development (C4D) specialists of the OBRA team visited Region 9 and Region 11 to provide assessment on the communication and social mobilization component of the polio-outbreak response.

Preparation is underway by the polio communication team at the national level of DoH to conduct a ToT on 18 February 2020 on interpersonal communication and social mobilization to support the upcoming polio immunization campaigns, particularly in NCR. The training, supported by UNICEF, is expected to build the capacity of health promotion officers and frontline workers in community engagement and addressing refusals. A roll-out training will then be conducted on 19-21 February 2020

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

Risk communication

Addressing vaccine hesitancy and adverse events following immunization (AEFI) remain an important part of risk communication activities. Based on a qualitative study done on 16-22 December following the round of campaign, low awareness and low risk perception of polio, fear of adverse reaction, distrust of public health system following Dengvaxia controversy, are factors that needs to be addressed.

- 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>

Funding allocation and budget

(US\$)	Budget		Allocation
	1 st	2 nd	
Government*	6,772,249	5,839,221	6,772,249
GPEI	6,422,063	9,189,726**	9,200,000
WHO	3,176,858	802,063	1,500,000
UNICEF	3,245,205	1,101,962	2,890,019
Other partners			
Philippine Red Cross			297,143***
IFRC			345,983****

* Government has pledged US\$ 9 million

** Includes vaccine replenishment from routine stock

*** Equivalent to PHP 15,000,000

**** Equivalent to CHF 336,302