Summary:
Outbreak confirmation:
Total number of cVDPV2 virus: 5
  1 AFP case
  4 healthy children
cVDPV2 cases this week: 0
Outbreak grade: 2

Infected Provinces and Districts:
Aceh Province – Pidie district

Index case:
Source: AFP case
Location: Mane sub-district, Pidie district, Aceh Province
Onset of paralysis: 9 October 2022
Sex: Male
Age: 7 years old
Vaccination status: 0 dose

Most recent virus (by date of onset/collection):
Source: Healthy Children Sampling
Location: Mane Subdistrict, Pidie district, Aceh Province
Date of collection: 11 November 2022

Outbreak Response:
Where: Aceh Province
Who: All children 0 to below 13 years
Target: 1.2 million children
Vaccine type: nOPV2

KEY HIGHLIGHTS
- One confirmed vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV2) type 2 case was reported in Pidie district, Aceh Province, Indonesia (INO) on 12 November 2022. Since the first VDPV2 case, circulation of VDPV2 was identified by four positive stool specimens collected from healthy children, who are living in the same village but are not close contacts of the first case. The outbreak was confirmed on 25 November 2022. Investigation showed that the virus identified in Pidie District is not genetically linked with any previous cVDPV2. The examination confirmed the classification of circulating VDPV2 (cVDPV2).
- MoH circular letters (dated 6 and 10 January 2023) provide feedback on polio SIA implementation to governors, regents/mayors, province health office (PHO), and district health offices (DHO) in Aceh province announced that the 2nd
round of polio vaccination will start on 30 January 2023 for the 13 districts that achieved a coverage >90% during the first vaccination round. For the 10 districts with a coverage rate below 90%, the second polio vaccination round will start on 13th of February: Kota Subulussalam, Kota Langsa, Aceh Jaya, Kota Sabang, Aceh Utara, Kota Banda Aceh, Bireuen, Kota Lhokseumawe, Samuele and Aceh Besar.

- The outbreak response will be extended to the close-by provinces of North Sumatra, Riau, and West Sumatra. On 18 January 2023, MoH conducted a meeting with the PHO and the governor of North Sumatra to plan for the polio vaccination campaign to begin on 13 February 2023. The same activities will be conducted in Riau and West Sumatra with a special emphasis on strengthening routine immunization, starting on 20 February 2023.
- On 12 January 2023, MoH organized a national vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) surveillance evaluation meeting to raise awareness of the importance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case finding and ensure proper shipment handling. The communicable disease control manager of Aceh PHO presented a situation update on the cVDPV2 outbreak response to the more than 620 participants from all 34 provinces.
- On 17 January 2023, MoH – in collaboration with the Indonesian Epidemiology Association (PAEI) and WHO – conducted a national webinar on strengthening surveillance, particularly as part of the cVDPV2 outbreak response. More than 3,000 participants consisting of doctors, nurses, midwives, and epidemiologists attended the training that aimed to improve early detection and reporting in hospital and health facility settings.

**SITUATION UPDATE**

- A seven-year-old male child from Mane village, Mane sub-district, Aceh Province with AFP with the date of onset of paralysis on 09 October 2022. The child did not have a travel history and had never received a polio vaccine (IPV or OPV). Laboratory confirmation of VDPV2 was received on 12 November 2022. Genetic sequencing results showed VDPV2 with 25 nucleotide changes. Whole genome sequencing is pending. Quantitative immunoglobulin test shows that the child is immunocompetent.

- In response to the detection of this case, a field investigation was undertaken:
  - 32 stool samples from healthy children in the surrounding area who are not contacts of the case were collected and tested for poliovirus.
  - 4 stool specimens tested positive for VDPV2 with 25-26 nucleotide changes at VP1 region.
Based on the examination conducted by CDC Atlanta, the MOH has reported that the VDPV2 identified from Pidie District is not genetically linked to any previously sequenced VDPV2 and will be identified as INO-ACE-1. The positive results from the healthy children were examined as well and genetically linked with INO-ACE-1. Therefore, the PV2 virus was classified as cVDPV2.

**OUTBREAK RESPONSE**

**Coordination and planning**
- On 12 November 2022, the MoH notified WHO, through the IHR focal point, of the isolation of VDPV2 from a stool specimen collected from a child with AFP.
- On 25 November 2022, the MoH confirmed the polio outbreak due to cVDPV2, activated the functions of the National Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and formed a National Emergency Response Team. Regular joint MoH, WHO, UNICEF, and partner meetings are being held to facilitate coordination of the response and planning and implementation of response measures.
- In the last two weeks, UNICEF supported two districts (Banda Aceh city and Aceh Besar) with coverage of less than 90% by conducting a coordination meeting with the regent/mayor, the Education Office, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA).

![Figure 3. Coordination meeting with the education office and health office (left) and socialization with a head of the madrasas under MoRA in Banda Aceh city (right). Credit: UNICEF/Dita.](image)

- The mayor of Banda Aceh city issued a letter to the head of the Education Office and Head of the local Ministry of Religious Affairs representative on Polio immunization activities in schools to conduct vaccination without informed consent. In the last phase of round one, Banda Aceh city increased the coverage from 81% to >95% within two days.
- The outbreak response plan and budget for the expansion provinces have been finalized.
- Aceh PHO and DHOs with WHO and UNICEF’s assistance in the field are updating the microplanning document of 2nd round of polio vaccination. The components required are target population based on 1st round reporting, vaccine & logistics needs, and social mobilization.
Surveillance

On 12 January 2023, MoH organized a national VPD surveillance evaluation meeting to raise awareness of the importance of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case finding and ensure proper shipment handling. The communicable disease control manager of Aceh PHO presented a situation update on the cVDPV2 outbreak response to the more than 620 participants from all 34 provinces.

On 9 January 2023, MOH held a virtual evaluation meeting inviting the PHO, 23 DHOs, port health authorities in Aceh province, the expert committee and partners. There were more than 110 persons attending this meeting. WHO was delivering results from the rapid convenience assessments (RCA). One important action point of this meeting was to prepare the 2nd round of Polio vaccination for those 13 districts that achieved more than 90% coverage in the first round.

On 13 January 2023, a WHO team visited the paralyzed child to examine his status of paralysis after 60 days. He attended physiotherapy treatment in a hospital in Banda Aceh, and the child has improved weakness of lower limb.
On 17 January 2023, WHO assisted DHO Aceh Tengah and the Puskesmas Kekuyang to investigate an AFP case of a male infant aged 6 months in Pantang Penyo Village. He has mild weakness in both legs.

On 11 January 2023, WHO conducted a hospital record review (HRR) in Kesrem military hospital Lhokseumawe, and no suspected cases were identified during the visit.

There is a significant improvement in case detection before and after the identification of cVDPV2 in Aceh. However, there remain four silent districts in 2022: Aceh Tenggara, Kota Lhokseumawe, Gayo Lues, and Kota Subulussalam.

A field investigation in three districts in Aceh (Pidie, Banda Aceh, and Aceh Utara) was conducted for the expansion of environmental surveillance. However, due to prevalent practices of open defecation and pit latrines, no sewage system exists and therefore environmental surveillance cannot be established in these districts.

The team consists of personnel from MoH, WHO, and other partners such as CDC, FETP, port health authorities, and laboratories that have been deployed to silents districts in Aceh to enhance surveillance.

A weekly desk review for Aceh and high-risk provinces was conducted every Thursday as part of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

As of 13 January 2023, the NPAFP rate is 3.62 per 100,000 population <15 years old with 60.2% specimen adequacy. In Pidie, the affected district, the NPAFP rate is 8.36 per 100,000 population <15 years old with 75% specimen adequacy. Currently, there are four silent districts in Aceh namely Kota Lhokseumawe, Gayo Lues, Aceh Tenggara, and Kota Subulussalam.
**Immunization Response**

- The initial rapid vaccination response round was conducted in three phases:
  a) Phase 1 (28 Nov – 4 Dec 2022): Pidie (affected district)
  b) Phase 2 (5 Dec – 11 Dec 2022): 6 districts
  c) Phase 3 (12 – 18 Dec 2022): 16 districts

- On 10 January 2023, WHO assisted DHO Bireuen to vaccinate children in Pertiwi Kota Juang pre-school, Bireuen involving the acting Regent, the district secretary, the army, the police, and the head of the sub-district.

- On 13 January 2023, DHO Aceh Besar vaccinated children in Pertiwi Lamgarot (public elementary school) involving the acting regent, acting head of the education office, and local leaders. A total of 52 children were vaccinated. The involvement of stakeholders and multiple sectors is crucial in accelerating the coverage.

- On 13 January 2023, PHO Aceh held a virtual evaluation meeting on recording and reporting polio vaccination data using ASIK (Aplikasi Sehat Indonesia) registry of immunization in Pidie and Pidie Jaya district; the same activities will subsequently be conducted in all districts. This aims to ensure every child is recorded electronically to ease the tracing of each child’s immunization status. There are enumerators assigned in each DHO to support ASIK recording and reporting. DHOs are encouraged to input the complete data from the 1st round through ASIK by this week before the 2nd round begins.

- On 11 January 2023, WHO conducted data validation in the Puskesmas Samudera, Aceh Utara District to ensure proper data recording and reporting, complete the list of unimmunized children and provide nOPV2 vaccination.

- As of 16 January 2023, in total 43 RCAs had been conducted in 13 out of 23 districts, 1,640 children aged 0-12 years were assessed; 1,449 (88.4%) of them had been vaccinated. The main reasons for children missing vaccination were children being sick, unaware of the campaign, and traveling (parents).
Daily coverage monitoring and feedback is provided to local government, provincial and district health office, stakeholders, and implementers.

Advocacy, Social Behavior Change, and Risk Communication

Advocacy
- MoH is planning to expand the outbreak response to close-by provinces, namely North Sumatra, Riau, and West Sumatra. On 18 January 2023, MoH conducted an advocacy meeting with the head of PHO and the governor of North Sumatra to plan the start of the polio vaccination campaign on 13 February 2023. The same activities will be conducted in Riau and West Sumatra.

Social Behavior Change (SBC)
- Trained cadres have prepared their fellow village cadres for the campaign and educated community members at various points of contact including public places, homes, posyandus, places of worship, community meetings, etc.
Cadres also spread messages through posters, leaflets, and audio materials such as announcements via mobile education cars. In this initiative, more than 100 mobile education cars have been mobilized, covering more than 2,000 villages across nine districts in Aceh. The behavior change communication in the next round will be conducted in Lhokseumawue and Banda Aceh.

- UNICEF is promoting polio vaccination through radio broadcasts until February 2023, the audio file can be accessed below:

![ILM_Polio_Edit (1).mp3](ILM_Polio_Edit (1).mp3)

**Risk Communication**

- IEC materials (posters and flyers) with information on the danger of polio and its prevention were created by the UNICEF team and shared through WhatsApp, social media, and also printed and put in public places.
- On 6-10 January 2023, UNICEF conducted socialization with the head of preschools, elementary schools, and madrasas in Banda Aceh city and Aceh Besar district to re-strategize immunization after school break.
- On 12 January 2023, WHO participated in the socialization of polio SIA before conducting sweeping in SD IT Muhammadiyah Kota Juang (an Islamic school), Bireuen district. Participants included DHO, the acting regent, the district secretary, the army, the police, the education office, and parents. The meeting was aimed to engage them in the next round of SIA and strengthening routine immunization in general.

**Logistics**

- nOPV2 vaccines & logistics have been requested for the 2nd polio vaccination round in Aceh and the 1st round in North Sumatra is proceeding with distribution.
- More than 24,000 pen markers are ready for distribution to those provinces by next week.

**Surge Support**

**MoH**

- MoH continues to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the polio outbreak response in Aceh and plans the expansion of the response to close-by provinces of North Sumatra, Riau, and West Sumatra.
- MoH is regularly providing feedback on polio vaccination and surveillance updates.

**WHO**

- WHO deployed national and international personnel to support the polio outbreak response in the PHO and DHOs in Aceh. They will also assist with the expansion to the three provinces in weeks to come.
- WHO officers assess environmental surveillance sites and provided management support to the polio outbreak response.

**UNICEF**
UNICEF has established a field office in the capital of Aceh Province. The teams have been reinforced with a surge in support of national officers and consultants for immunization, advocacy, and C4D.

- UNICEF deployed national personnel members to support polio outbreak response in PHO and DHOs in Aceh with a primary focus on immunization, advocacy, and communication.

**KEY ISSUES**

- Vaccine hesitancy needs to be addressed through targeted communication and social mobilization efforts.
- Surveillance needs strengthening to reach the enhanced target non-polio AFP and stool adequacy rates by ensuring AFP cases are not missed.
- The outbreak response plan and budget are to be validated by MoH and shared with WHO to be endorsed by EOMG and ensure funds for the response.
- Campaign coverage data management needs to be improved.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Weekly tracking of preparedness for the next mass vaccination response campaign at national, provincial, and district levels – is to be conducted with special attention on the low-performing districts. Information is to be shared regularly with GPEI partners.
- Implementation of advocacy, communication, and social mobilization interventions as per the SIA planning is to be continued.
- Provincial advocacy meetings and finalization of micro-planning in preparation for the SIA commencing on 30 January 2023 and for expansion provinces (North Sumatra, Riau, and West Sumatra) are to be completed.

**Relevant Links**

- [http://polioeradication.org/](http://polioeradication.org/)
- [https://www.who.int/indonesia/emergencies/polio-outbreak](https://www.who.int/indonesia/emergencies/polio-outbreak)

**Contacts**

*For more information, please contact:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Health: Directorate of Immunization Management</th>
<th>WHO:</th>
<th>UNICEF:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:imunisasi.tamsus@gmail.com">imunisasi.tamsus@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:survpd3i.kipi@gmail.com">survpd3i.kipi@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Dr Stephen Chacko <a href="mailto:chackos@who.int">chackos@who.int</a></td>
<td>Dr Gopinath Durairajan <a href="mailto:gdurairajan@unicef.org">gdurairajan@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Sudhir Joshi <a href="mailto:joshisu@who.int">joshisu@who.int</a></td>
<td>Dr Abdul Khalil Noorzad <a href="mailto:aknoorzad@unicef.org">aknoorzad@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>