

Situation Report #22: Ukraine cVDPV2 Outbreak; 21 March 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Following temporary interruption due to evacuation and relocation of GPEI personnel and the governmental staff after immediate start of military invasion, coordination with MOH and the Ukrainian Public Health Center (UPHC) resumed during the week of 14 March.

Due to logistical problems caused by active combat actions, as well temporary inoperability of the national reference laboratory in Kyiv, recently collected stool specimen of AFP cases are not being shipped to NRL but kept frozen in the provincial labs.

No changes to number of confirmed cVDPV2 isolates in Ukraine, and no suspected samples in process.

Population movement remains fluid and according to [latest figures by UNHCR](#), at least 3,557,245 people have fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries as of 21 March 12:00.

Polio response is being integrated with other emergency immunization activities.

GPEI agreed on a change of polio outbreak response focusing more on early detection and prevention of transmission to the countries receiving Ukrainian refugees.

SURVEILLANCE

UPHC reported 9 additional AFP cases with date of onset between 12 - 24 February (Table 1). Total number of reported AFP cases reported during weeks 1-10 of 2022 is 30. All 30 AFP cases are pending final classification; 15 of them were reported as non-polio AFP but are awaiting external committee review. Results of testing samples of remaining 15 cases are pending. Stool collection adequacy for all-AFP cases was 100%.

The total AFP cases reported in 2021 stands at 118 AFP cases (Figure 1). AFP surveillance improved from the 75 AFP cases reported in 2020 but remains below the 152 and 158 AFP cases reported in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Table:1 AFP reported as of 15 March, Ukraine, 2022

Province	AFP Cases
Chernivitska	1
Zaporizhska	2
Kharkivska	1
Dnipropetrovska	1
Ternopilska	1
Zakarpatska	1
Lvivska	1
Rivenska	1
Total	9

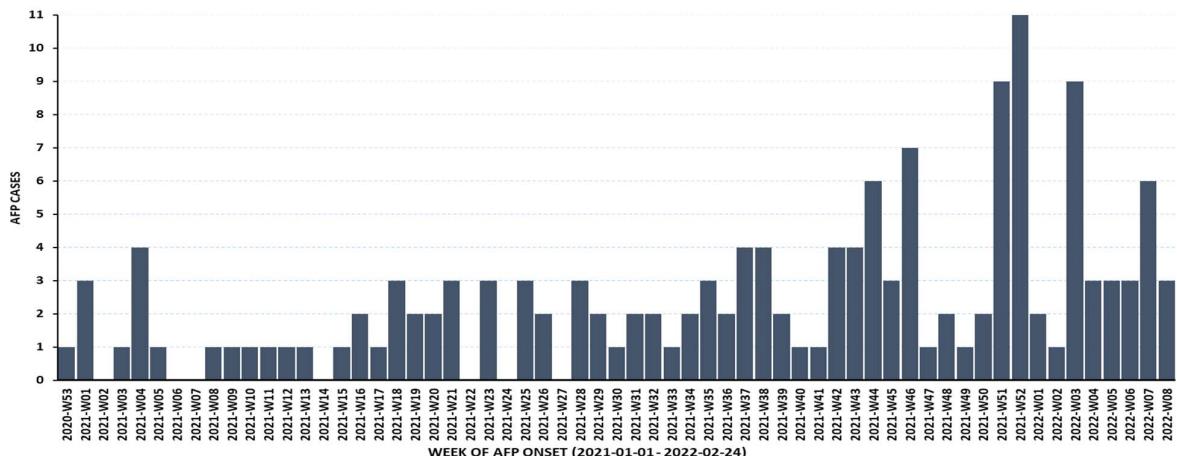


Figure 1: Epi curve of AFP Cases, Ukraine, 2021-2022

The annualized national 2021 non-polio AFP rate (NPAFP) is 1.8 and adequacy of stool collection from January 2021 to 31 December 2021 is at 98.9%.

22 out of 30 (73.3%) AFP cases reported in 2022 were vaccinated with at least two doses of IPV. 20% (6/30) were unvaccinated (Figure 2).

The report on deployment of Ukrainian FETP Residents to assess and enhance poliovirus surveillance during November 2021-January 2022 was finalized with the following main outcomes:

- Review did not identify a significant number of missed AFP cases in Ukraine and contributed to increased awareness and to higher reporting of AFP cases in the oblasts visited;
- Performance of other aspects of AFP surveillance, such as timeliness collection of stool samples from cases and collection of samples from contacts met GPEI recommended targets and had not been seriously affected by public health staff deployment to support COVID-19 response
- The current performance of enterovirus surveillance based upon the rates of detection is below requirements for the system to be sensitive enough to detect new areas of circulation or absence the circulation
- The reduction in staff availability because of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a haphazard reduction in collection of environmental samples.

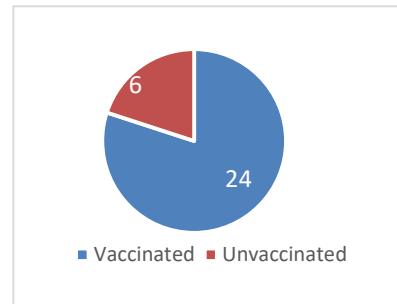


Figure 2: Vaccination status of AFP cases, Ukraine, 2022. Unvaccinated AFP cases reported 0 doses of routine IPV or OPV doses

IMMUNIZATION RESPONSE

Immunization activities continued irregularly during the active war period, varying significantly by the provinces. According to the information available at the national level, the overall coverage of the catch-up IPV campaign was 36% as of 16 March 2022. Reports on more than 100% coverage in certain areas are likely wrong and need further verification (Table 2). In total, 52,500 children were vaccinated.

Table 2. IPV catch-up SIA coverage as of March 16, 2022.

REGION	1 dose in fact	2 dose in fact	1 dose in plan	2 dose in plan	% 1 dose	% 2 dose	Vaccinated in total	Plan in total	% in total
DNIPROPETROVSK	1243	1488	1642	649	76%	22%	2731	2291	119%
KIROVOHRAD	440	526	858	862	51%	61%	966	1720	56%
LUHANSK	186	247	599	316	31%	78%	433	915	47%
VINYTSIA	1592	1658	4282	2747	37%	60%	3250	7029	46%
DONETSK	1324	1433	3466	2651	38%	54%	2757	6117	45%
ZHYTOMYR	580	758	1878	1444	31%	52%	1338	3322	40%
RIVNE	981	1146	4201	1111	23%	103%	2127	5312	40%
TERNOPILO	1136	1038	3265	2190	35%	47%	2174	5455	40%
KHARKIV	2144	1745	6032	3758	36%	46%	3889	9790	40%
KHMELNITSKII	770	814	2661	1404	29%	58%	1584	4065	39%
ODESA	1877	1562	5826	3508	32%	45%	3439	9334	37%
KHERSON	358	581	1659	996	22%	58%	939	2655	35%
ZAKARPATIA	2086	1344	6419	3354	32%	40%	3430	9773	35%
MYKOLOIV	367	428	1167	1108	31%	39%	795	2275	35%
IVANO-FRANKIVSK	2291	1851	6903	5228	33%	35%	4142	12131	34%
CHERNIVTSI	1336	1176	4529	2835	29%	41%	2512	7364	34%
POLTAVA	262	365	1160	744	23%	49%	627	1904	33%
KYIV City	1356	1193	4758	3443	28%	35%	2549	8201	31%
CHERKASY	393	456	1918	822	20%	55%	849	2740	31%
VOLYN	732	958	3787	1692	19%	57%	1690	5479	31%
CHERNIHIV	336	458	1522	1057	22%	43%	794	2579	31%
ZAPORIZHIA	479	721	2254	1730	21%	42%	1200	3984	30%
SUMY	141	255	775	598	18%	43%	396	1373	29%
KYIV	1080	1445	5879	3129	18%	46%	2525	9008	28%
LVIV	3043	2324	11636	7953	26%	29%	5367	19589	27%
TOTAL in UKRAINE	26533	25970	89076	55329	30%	47%	52503	144405	36%

The strategies for immunization services delivery need to be adapted: mobile teams, vaccination points at crossing points, etc. are being considered.

RESPONSE TO POPULATION MOVEMENT

According to UNHCR, more than 3.5 million Ukrainian residents left the country, most of them are currently located in Poland (Fig 2)

Unofficial estimates indicate that about 30% of refugees are children under 14 years of age.

Total number of displaced population exceeds 10 million people. Many children were displaced to western regions of Ukraine, but any documentation about their vaccination status is missing. Proof of vaccination is also required for refugees in other countries

GPEI partners are working with the public health authorities of neighboring countries on strengthening their surveillance, ensuring vaccination for refugees and transit population, and improving coverage for the resident population.

Fig2, Volume of refugees by country



Neighboring countries are ready to offer vaccination to Ukrainians who are staying on their territory and who are passing through their territory. Many refugees resist vaccination, as they don't want to get extra doses but have no proof of their vaccination. Neighboring countries are interested in having vaccination records. E-health can provide only aggregated data from the national database. UPHC and national health system are working with provincial databases and individual providers on ensuring that on requests for proof of vaccination there is communication back to requesting parties via photocopies or election methods.

VACCINES AND LOGISTICS

The last delivery of vaccine for routine immunization (including IPV planned to use for continuation of the catch-up), took place on 11 March 2022.

Storing vaccines in Kyiv is not safe due to risk of loss in case of bombing the warehouse. How and when the vaccines are going to be distributed is a major question. Splitting the national stock to several stores in different parts of the country is being considered. All safety boxes and syringes have been delivered directly to the regions.

Next expected shipments of vaccines will be directly delivered to the warehouse in Western Ukraine and immediately disseminated in the western regions (Volyn, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Zakarpattya, and possibly Rivne).

Logistics and service delivery are affected by concentration of IDPs, vaccine stock-outs, electricity cuts. Proposed actions are: to find roads of distribution and safe storage points before delivery; follow-up with regions regarding cold chain and vaccine needs; organize multidisciplinary mobile teams.

COMMUNICATION AND C4D

- MOH confirms that response to polio remains one of the main priorities during displacement of large number of children, as spreading risks increase immensely, including transborder
- In current circumstances communication issues are not a priority for UPHC.
- UPHC expects advice from GPEI regarding adapting communication policy to war situation.
- UPHC requests to include their communication specialists into future activities of the UNICEF communication team.
- Messages were drafted for regions with IDPs and for bordering countries regarding Ukrainians to be vaccinated.
- While some EU countries receiving refugees produce specific information on polio, this is not yet the case for other countries. There is no proactive information on routine immunizations for Ukrainian refugees with five key messages.
- [C4D materials](#) in Ukrainian prepared to be sent in bordering countries – for polio and routine immunizations – to be used in collective centers, schools, kindergarten, etc. [Vaccination for Ukrainians abroad](#)
