



Situation Report #23: Ukraine cVDPV2 Outbreak; 4 April 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

UPHC requested assistance from GPEI on adapting the polio outbreak response plan to the war setting. The revised plan will be approved by MOH under fast-track procedures.

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. The options to resume testing asap are under consideration.

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

Population movement remains fluid and according to the [latest figures by UNHCR](#), at least 4,215,027 people have now fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries as of 3 April 12:00.

WHO deployed surge IMST co-pillar lead for health operations - infectious diseases and public health in emergencies, to oversee polio response as well. Temporary surge polio coordinator is being recruited to WHO Ukraine at the moment.

SURVEILLANCE

UPHC reported 5 additional AFP cases with date of onset between 13 - 26 March (Table 1). Total number of reported AFP cases reported during weeks 1-12 of 2022 is 35. All 35 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 20 cases are pending. Stool collection adequacy for all-AFP cases was 100%. Current NPAFP rate is 0.51

Table:1 AFP reported as of 1 April 2022, Ukraine

Province	AFP Cases
Khmelnitska	2
Sumska	1
Rivenska	1
Volynska	1
Total	5

The total AFP cases reported in 2021-2022 remain 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.

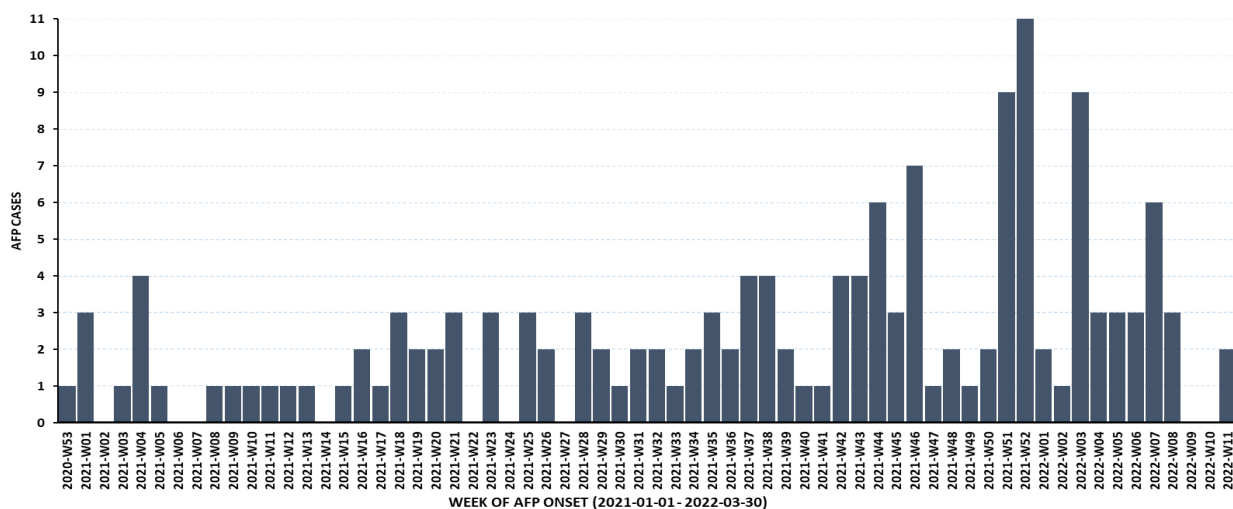


Figure 1: Epi curve of AFP Cases, Ukraine, 2021-2022

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%.

26 out of 35 (74.3%) reported AFP cases were vaccinated with at least two doses of IPV. 20% (7/35) were unvaccinated.

For soonest testing of accumulated AFP samples, the national reference lab in Kyiv is currently inoperable but may resume work shortly, and the subnational reference lab in Odesa is not accessible at the moment. The following options are being considered:

- a. Kyiv as an initial testing site
- b. One of the oblast labs as an initial testing site
- c. Shipment of samples outside of the country (if testing in-country remains impossible).

Additional information on quality and status of samples is needed to decide on the next course of action.

IMMUNIZATION RESPONSE

Immunization activities continued irregularly during the active war period, varying significantly by the regions. According to the information available at the national level, the overall coverage of the catch-up IPV campaign was 42% as of 3 April 2022. In total, 60,559 children were vaccinated. Reports on more than 100% coverage in two regions require further clarification.

The national Working Group on Vaccination has resumed its meetings. It is considering plans for focusing recommendations on the western regions, but the lack of accurate data about internal displacement represents a challenge for this. The strategies for immunization services delivery need to be adapted: mobile teams, vaccination points at crossing points, etc. are being considered. UPHC has requested recommendations from GPEI in this regard.

RESPONSE TO POPULATION MOVEMENT

According to UNHCR, at least 4,215,027 people have now fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries as of 03 April, 12:00 CET. The influx from Ukraine in neighbouring countries is mainly, in order of the number of people, to Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Belarus.

UNHCR also estimates that a large number of people have moved onwards to other countries (i.e., Germany, and Italy). Age breakdown of the refugee population is unavailable.

Poland

The Ministry of Health of Poland has issued [Guidelines on how to vaccinate children from Ukraine in connection with an armed conflict in that country.](#)

The priority actions should be:

- vaccination against measles with the MMR vaccine (against measles, mumps and rubella) in the youngest group of children in the second year of life,
- vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and poliomyelitis according to age,
- hepatitis B according to age,
- vaccination against COVID-19 (except Protective Vaccination Program).

In addition, the MoH of Poland requires:

- people staying in our country for more than 3 months from the date of crossing the border, **are required to undergo preventive vaccinations or have a vaccination confirmation** in accordance with the applicable PSO for 2022,
- **in the absence of medical records of vaccinations**, the child should be treated as unvaccinated and specific vaccinations should be recommended,
- in the case of hospitalized children with unknown vaccination status, the status of immunity against viral hepatitis should be assessed by testing the level of anti-HBs antibody,
- routine serological testing to determine the status of immunization is not recommended,
- keeping records of the child's vaccinations in accordance with the applicable recommendations, including electronic documentation of preventive vaccinations in the vaccination e-card,
- information on the valuation of the service and the method of settlement for the services provided will be provided through the National Health Fund.

Other communications and materials from the Ministry of Health of Poland:

[Communication on the implementation of preventive vaccinations in children who crossed the borders of the Republic of Poland with Ukraine in connection with an armed conflict in the territory of that state \(08 Mar 2022\).](#) (Polish)

[Supplement to the communication of March 4, 2022 on the implementation of preventive vaccinations in children who crossed the borders of the Republic of Poland.](#) (Polish)

Romania, Republic of Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, Russian Federation, and Belarus

No specific statements or ordinances were found, therefore GPEI is planning to send an official request to the Ministries of Health to obtain any specific guidelines on migrants' vaccination.

VACCINES AND LOGISTICS

UNICEF is coordinating with MoH, the local public health departments, NGOs, and other partners on supply procurement and distribution. Emergency supplies are delivered to the UNICEF Lviv warehouse, where are repacked, processed and sent to the three established *UNICEF Health Hubs* for future distribution to the oblast or facility level:

- Dnipro: East, and South-East.
- Kyiv: North, and North-East.
- Odessa: Central, and South.

Currently, 435,010 vials of monodose IPV vaccines are stored at the Ukrvaccina warehouse in Kyiv.

The MoH issued an order on distribution among 25 regions dated 22 of March. "Ukrvaccina" should ensure timely delivery of IPV, in accordance with the approved order. At reception, heads of health care of regional military administrations should distribute it among health care facilities.

Some regions (Kyiv, Kherson, Mariupol, Kharkiv, Zaporizhya, Chernihiv, Sumy) are under intense military operations which have limited access to supplies.

Life-saving medicines, food and water can be delivered only through humanitarian corridors; some of health care facilities have been damaged.

COMMUNICATION AND C4D

- Leaflets about routine vaccinations are being distributed in western regions. Polio outbreak is mentioned as a threat. Layout here: bit.ly/3N1vimO.
- Content for social media ([text](#) and [visuals](#)) with reminders about vaccination by age and for those who moved to the EU countries. Texts here: bit.ly/3Infk2N.
- A Promo campaign with routine immunization messages on Facebook have reached 6,4 million people.
- Next steps include collecting user-generated content on immunization.
