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Country: Algeria

Committee: World Health Organization (WHO)

Agenda Item: Eradication of Polio

Algeria is a nation in North Africa that is formally known as the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Algeria's neighbors include Tunisia to the northeast, Libya to the east, Niger to the southeast, Mali, Mauritania, and Western Sahara to the southwest, Morocco to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. It is seen as belonging to North Africa's Maghreb area. It has a semi-arid climate, with the Sahara dominating the south and the fertile north housing most of the inhabitants. With a total size of 2,381,741 square kilometers (919,595 sq mi), Algeria is the biggest country in Africa and the tenth largest country in the world.

A verified case of the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) exists in Algeria. A case of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) caused by circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) from Tamanrasset province in southern Algeria was reported to WHO on July 8, 2022. This is the nation's first case of cVDPV2 to be discovered. In addition to a proactive search for new AFP cases and a field investigation, a reactive immunization campaign is also being prepared by local public health officials. Polio is a highly infectious disease that largely affects children under five years of age, causing permanent paralysis. Surveillance has been strengthened for active search for additional AFP cases in and around the immediate area of the detected case.

To quickly identify any new virus importation and to enable a swift response, it is crucial that all nations, especially those with frequent travel to and contacts with polio-affected countries and areas, step up their environmental surveillance efforts and intensify their AFP case surveillance. To lessen the effects of any new viral introduction, nations, territories, and regions should also maintain consistently high regular vaccination coverage at the district level.

REFERENCES:

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