



Three Years Harvest Diseases Spread in Syria

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The scope of the report: A quick review of diseases and epidemics that are spreading in Syria

Introduction

One side of the Syrian crises is the deterioration of the human situation which includes the lowering living standards and the loss of means of living. This was reflected on the medical situation which was even worsened by siege.

SNHR is expressing here deep concern that some diseases like hepatitis B and hepatitis C are spreading now because of the lack of sterilization in blood transfusion in field clinics. Another reason for the spreading of these two diseases is the lack of medical equipments in areas under siege such as Damascus Countryside and Homs.

In addition to that, there are some diseases that are becoming widely spread:

First: Leishmaniasis or “Aleppo Button”: A parasitic disease that is caused by the sting of the phlebotomist fly. It has got coetaneous and pleonastic forms; the later is the most dangerous. This disease used to spread in the north of Syria, especially Aleppo. However, because of the deteriorated medical situation, the damage in the infrastructure, dislodgment, pollution and the lack of the means of treatment and prevention caused the spread of this disease in areas that it didn't use to in the past, like Al Qusair and Arrastan in the countryside of Homs.

Second: Hepatitis A: A virosis disease that is transmitted through excrement and polluted water. The spread of the disease increased lately because of dislodgment and homelessness and the cutoff in potable water on lots of the areas as part of the siege and punishment applied by the government forces.





Third: Tuberculosis: An infectious bacterial disease that travels in the air. It used to be spread in Syria in the past. The current situation provided conditions appropriate to its spread again. The biggest group of the infected with the disease now is the prisoners in Aleppo Central Prison.

Many doctors and members of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Aleppo told SNHR:

“Diseases and epidemics increased in Aleppo because of the current situation, where the number of people infected with Hepatitis A is escalating because of the pollution in drinking water and the lack of the means of diagnosis due to the poor potentials of medical laboratories in districts that are under the control of Free Syrian Army.

As for Leishmaniasis, it is the biggest threat to residents because of its rapid spread. Leishmaniasis spread on a fearful scale in the summer of 2012 after rebels entered the city. That was in part because of the accumulation of rubbish in the city. The spread of the disease was great in areas which witnessed shelling and clashes and in which there were no municipal services, especially those close to surfaces of stagnant water, areas planted with trees and places close to landfills. There are expectations that the number of infected people will hugely increase in the light of the obvious lack of necessary medicine and the high cost of it if ever available, where the price of one ampoule containing five pills is 5000 Syrian Lira.

The biggest group of infected with tuberculosis now is the prisoners in Aleppo Central Prison, where hundreds are infected. About 300 prisoners died in this prison after being infected with this disease. The Arab Syrian Red Crescent entered tuberculosis medicines into this prison many times.”

We mention here that we didn't shed light in this report on diseases and syndromes that need continuous medical care like hemophilia, thalassemia, diabetes, high blood pressure and oncology. The medicines of the above mentioned syndromes are either unavailable or very expensive.

The international community must shoulder its responsibilities in areas that are out of the control of the government forces and not leave them under the threats of diseases and epidemics. The Security Council must take a decision to allow humanitarian aid enter the country through Turkey and Iraq.

