



A report on the spreading of (leishmaniasis**) disease
in the village of Tseel
Daraa Province
Violations Documentation Center in Syria
May - 2013**





Introduction:

The leishmaniasis Disease: Also known as “Grain of Aleppo “ or “ Kala Azar” or “ Grain of the East “ , or the tropical pill, usually spreads through bites of tiny flies (called : sand fly or Phlebotomus fly) that are hard to see with the naked eyes, this fly hosts the parasite that causes the disease. The disease causes deformed cutaneous ulcers if not treated properly, and could cause more serious internal damages, the fly becomes a disease carrier when it bites a diseased animal such as dogs or rodents, and then it spreads it when biting a human or other creatures, the disease can also be transmitted by blood transfer or through the mutual use of contaminated needles.

Tseel Village – Dar’a Province :

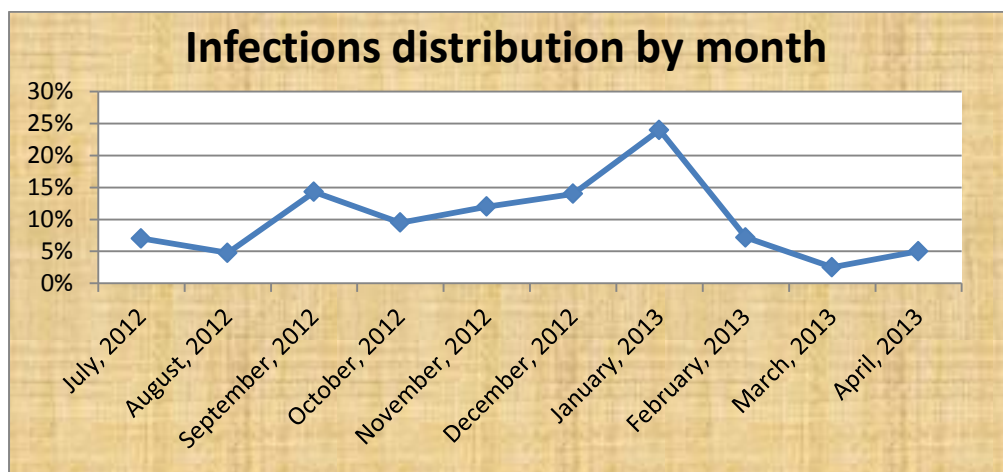
Tseel is situated in the northwestern side of Daraa City, 37 Km from city center, with a population of 23 thousand, a well-known agriculture village in Horan Area.

In Cooperation with the Village's local medical committee the VDC has documented more than 40 cases for people infected with leishmaniasis

Dr Nazeer Saleh, a member of the village’s medical staff has told the VDC that the first case was observed earlier in July 2012.

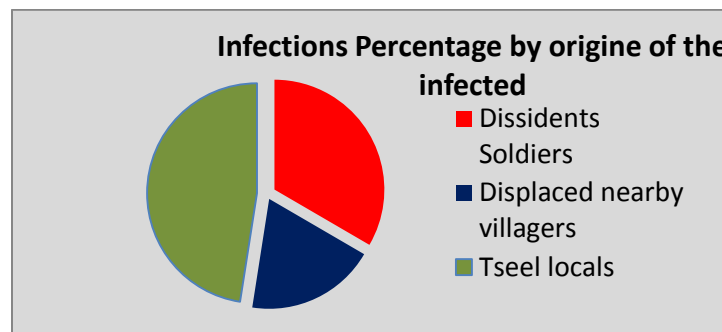
The following data and figures are published in cooperation with the village’s committee:

The first case was observed in July-2012, locals have attributed it to the change of the surrounding climates, and garbage accumulation which has significantly increased through the last few months, due to the deliberate government’s shortage in providing cleaning services, Infections have increased gradually till it peaked on January 2013, as dozens of cases were observed throughout the village.

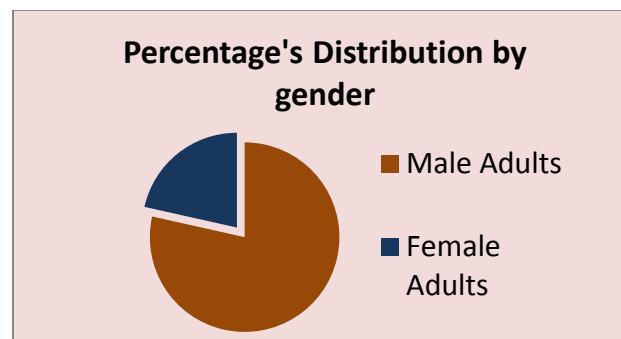




New 14 infections were documented in the village, among the dissidents' soldiers descending from different cities: Aleppo, Hama or Idleb, and 8 more cases were documented among displaced people coming from neighboring town and villages, as further 20 more infections were registered.



No infections were registered among children, only adults of both genders, as the total infected male adult count was 33, and the infected women count was 9, their ages ranged (25 – 40) year.



Noticeably infected areas were mostly poor neighborhoods, and areas with puddles of stagnant water, pushes, or those which are most close to dumpsters.

The disease has negatively impacted the infected people on the social level, as we were told by one of the infected locals that he feared that it might spread to other areas of his body, and that he started to feel socially isolated, knowing that the disease is contagious with high capacity to spread, and now it is more obvious to him that his relative and neighborhoods are more cautious of getting in touch with him than before, fearing that they might be infected as well.



Treatment procedures:

Leishmaniasis is treated through topical injection in the place of injury using ampoules of a drug called: "glucantime", where each box contains five ampoules. Despite the current high shortage in providing an adequate amount for each patient, the medical committee have confirmed the presence of additional twenty cases in an urgent need for medicine

In the event that medicine is not provided, the committee confirmed that it is highly likely that the disease will spread rapidly to other areas of a patient's body.

Photographs showing "glucantime"



Therefore, the medical committee has advised patients to follow some preventive measures, till adequate amounts of drug is provided. The committee has also provided some useful information; such as the fact that the parasite usually resides at the place of injury, and rarely spreads to other body parts.

Here below are some recommendations and methods of prevention:

Prevention:

- Avoiding trees and water ponds, especially at times when flies are most active through their daily cycle, this is usually from sunset till sunrise.
- Wearing clothes that cover the whole body at sleeping times.
- Disposal of waste far from populated places.



Treating the infection:

Infection usually forms permanent boils, which can ulcerate with time and destroy topical tissues, leading to disfigurement at the area of injury, Whereas preliminary injuries can be treated in one of the following alternative methods, at times when drugs are not available.

- **Garlic:** Placing garlic extract on the place of injury twice a day for ten days, or till the place of infection becomes black, where a crust is formed, and left to fall off on its own.

- **Ice-Ironing:** placing a piece of Ice on the infected area for 15 minutes twice a day till the place of infection becomes black, and a crust is formed and left to fall off on its own.

- **Salty water:** to boil three cups of water with a cup of salt, then the solution is left to cool down till it reaches a moderate temperature, after that a piece of cloth is moisturized in the saline solution and applied at the place of injury. Such procedure should be applied for 30 minutes twice a day until the lesion disappears. Treating the infection at the early stages is very important as it stops any further spreading, ulceration, and distortion of the infected area.

Snapshots showing infections on different parts of the body:





A Video footage showing one of the infected patients getting treatment through the village's medical staff:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=PkMLJxONZXo

Special thanks to the Local committee of the village of Tseel – Dar'a Province
To provide feedback or in case of inquiry, you can contact us on:

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