

Cholera Deaths in Northwest - Syria up to W44

1- **A 28-year male patient** (from Mishmishan village, Darkosh sub-district, Jisr Ash Shugur district, Idleb governorate)

The date of onset was on 28-Sep-2022 with Acute diarrhea (mild), vomiting, and abdominal pain

On 3-Oct-2022, at 2.00 AM came to Al-Rahmah hospital, in Darkosh for 2-4 hours, then he discharged on his responsibility

On the same day at 6.00 AM ,the patient returned to the hospital in bad condition, collapsed, dehydrated, and died in 10 minutes despite the diffusion of I.V fluid.

The patient was suffering from recurrent episodes of acute diarrhea with abdominal pain (each 3-6 months) in the last couple of years with no clear diagnosis.

The RDT and stool culture results came negative on 5 October.
The WASH situation was good

Possible reasons

- The patient had the same attacks for two years
- the family of the patient has no knowledge of the existence of a cholera outbreak
- There were no difficulties accessing to hospital or problems caring for or referring the case

Recommendations

- Increase efforts to educate the population about cholera and encourage them to go to medical centers to receive medical services

2- A 65-year-female (Mashhad Rohein camp in Atmeh community, Dana subdistrict, Harim district, Idleb governorate), had a history of DM, HTN, HF

The date of onset was on 17– Oct- 2022 at night, with acute watery diarrhea (severe – rice watery), and vomiting. The patient went to the Dar Fateh Center, which gave the patient (Divomet) and then sent her home

On 18 – Oct – 2022 in the morning, the patient came to Al-Quds hospital in Dana, in a bad situation, collapsed, dehydrated, hypotension, and disturbance of consciousness

On 19 -Oct – 2022 in morning, the patient died

There are 4 contact cases with symptoms of suspected cholera

Possible reasons

- The Civil Defense was informed, but an ambulance was not available to transport the patient
- Fateh Dar Center did not respond to the situation properly
- the family of the patient was not aware of cholera in the area

Recommendations

- Emphasis on health centers to immediately notify any suspected case of cholera
- Emphasis on health centers for coordination to refer patients with cholera
- Provide the Civil Defense with adequate ambulances
- Increase efforts to educate the population about cholera and encourage them to go to medical centers to receive medical services

3- A 7-year female patient (from Midanky village, Sharan subdistrict, Afrin district, Aleppo governorate), she had a history of thalassemia major

The date of onset was on 19 – Oct – 2022 with acute diarrhea (10 times a day), where she went to a pharmacy to get meds (antibiotics)

On 20 –Oct – 2022, at 11.00 AM she came to Al-Hakim facility with fever, diarrhea, vomiting, collapse, and pallor, The center provided primary services + blood transfusion, then notified the facilities in Afrin to receive the patient, but no HF received her.

At 2.30.00 PM, the child was transferred to Al-Firdous Hospital (in Daret Azza) in coordination with the Referral Department (SRD staff), where there was some delay due to the security situation (about 2 hours)

In Al-Firdous Hospital the child developed generalized convulsions and aspiration pneumonia, on 23 – Oct – 2022 she died.

stool culture results came negative
The WASH situation was good

Possible reasons

- Hospitals in Afrin refused to receive the case
- Delay in transferring the case due to the security situation
- The referral department was efficient and cooperative

Recommendations

Activate temporary centers to treat severe cases until they are transferred to specialized treatment centers

4- 6 months old male infant (Kafarnbodeh camp in Atmeh community, Dana subdistrict, Harim district, Idleb governorate)

On 20 – Oct – 2022, the patient came to Kafar-Oon facility with an upper respiratory infection

On 29 – Oct – 2022 the infant suffered from Acute diarrhea (only twice - mild)

On 30 – Oct – 2022, the infant suffered fever, vomiting, dry cough, and moderate acute diarrhea (The infant was given the cough suppressant "**Toplexil**" by the mother without medical advice)

On 31- Oct – 2022 at 10.00 AM, the infant arrived at the HIH hospital dead

Rectal swab or stool was not collected

The brother of the infant had acute diarrhea a few days ago

Recommendations

Health awareness messages to the community

5- A one-year-old infant (Watan camp in Kafar-Jalis community, Maaret-Tamsrin subdistrict, Idleb district, Idleb governorate)

The date of onset was on 30 – Oct- 2022 at 2.00 AM, (acute diarrhea – vomiting)

One 30 – Oct – 2022, at 10.30 AM (after 8 hours), the infant arrived Kafar-Jalis center dead

Note: The family is very poor, and the team couldn't tell how often diarrhea occurred because the mother didn't change the diaper until the leak was done

Possible reasons

- the family of the patient has no knowledge of the existence of a cholera outbreak
- There was no problem with access to the center

Recommendations

- Activate community awareness teams, especially in the camps

6- A 1,2-year-old infant (Harbanosh community, Maaret Tamsrin subdistrict Idleb district, Idleb governorate)

The date of onset was on 31– Oct- 2022 at 10.00 AM, (acute diarrhea – vomiting)
The infant visited the Al-Rahmeh hospital in Harbanosh, where he was given ORS then discharged. At home, vomiting continued

One 1 – Nov – 2022 at 10.00 AM, the infant arrived at the hospital dead

Possible reasons

- The health center did not explain to the parents that the child might have cholera
- Treatment advice is not adequately explained to parents
- There was no problem with access to the center

Summary of the reasons for the deaths

- Health education for the population about cholera
- Coordination between different health sectors
- Assessment of cholera cases in health centers
- Admitting cholera patients to health centers (especially severe cases)

Other reasons

- Access of cases to treatment centers
- Preparations and equipment in the treatment centers