Yemen’s Cholera Crisis: Fighting Disease During Armed Conflict

Yemen is currently facing the world’s worst cholera epidemic. As of August, the WHO reported that over 500,000 suspected cholera cases and nearly 2,000 associated deaths had occurred since the end of April alone. One of many factors that has caused such a large-scale outbreak is the ongoing armed conflict. How do you fight disease during an armed conflict?

In light of this multidimensional humanitarian crisis, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action brought together medical experts and humanitarian practitioners, including:

- Dr. David Sack, DOVE Director and Professor, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins University
- Johannes Bruwer, Deputy Head of Delegation, ICRC Yemen
- Samuel Cheung, Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR Yemen
- Nadine Drummond, Media and Communications Manager, Save the Children Yemen
- Jamie McGoldrick, Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations, Yemen

The experts discuss the epidemiological implications and medical treatment of Yemen’s cholera epidemic amidst an active armed conflict, as well as the ongoing challenges of maintaining humanitarian assistance and protection operations to mitigate the devastating impact of this crisis on vulnerable populations.

Listen to the podcast in full below or on the Advanced Training Program on Humanitarian Action webpage:

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Published on DOVE: Stop Cholera (https://www.stopcholera.org)

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