EMR, Lebanon
School Name:
Delegate Name:

The Republic of Lebanon would like to bring attention to the growing dual-burden disease in the state, marking the issue as an imminent threat to the present and future health of its people. The food predicaments often results in either a stress on communicable diseases, or non-communicable diseases, however, the Republic of Lebanon is burdened with both. As the Republic of Lebanon's infrastructure expands, and globalization of food reaches Lebanon, global health predicaments are affecting state citizens. The lack of infrastructure in the form of education and nutrient monitoring, as well as implications from conflict in neighboring countries is cause for concern and should be considered an immediate emergency.

The Global Health Predicament affects Lebanon on two fronts. Lebanon spent the years between 1975 and 1991 fighting its own civil war. Health indicators during this time were extremely poor, with high child and maternal mortality rates, and low life expectancies at birth.[1] Diseases of poverty such as infectious diseases and communicable diseases as a result of poor health and economic infrastructure plagued the region during the conflict, and continue to stress improving infrastructure. At the same time, the improving conditions of Lebanon's condition has created rise to another burden, that is the rise in non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, obesity, and cancer. Lebanon has consistently been ranked in the top 20 for most obese countries with about a 32% of the country holding a BMI of 30 or above.[2] This is due to the introduction of western fast food and a decrease in physical activity. Obesity, as a lifestyle choice, is a proven cause for various non-communicable diseases. As the rate of obesity escalates, the population is also showing signs of widespread micronutrient deficiencies. Poor quality diet due to misinformation and poor nutrition education make citizens more susceptible to non-communicable disease, which will result in a strain on healthcare resources and the health of the population in the future. The long-term effects of a population facing a dual burden of disease significantly affects the states' current health, and the states future health, thus requires immediate attention.

The Republic of Lebanon actively is taking steps to alleviate the stress of the growing dual-burden of disease. Since the end of the Lebanon Civil War, infrastructure to fight long-term communicable disease threats have been implemented. As of 2015, safe water and sanitation programs have given 92% of the population access to improved drinking water conditions. This is up from 85% of the population with access in 2000, which significantly reduces the population's risk for waterborne illnesses.[3] To further reduce communicable disease rates, a joint immunization campaign between UNICEF and the Republic of Lebanon targeting infectious diseases, like polio and measles, with aims to vaccinate 80% of the states' population to prevent a future outbreak.[4] Initiatives to improve nutrient health aims to reduce the risk of developing chronic non-communicable diseases by providing micronutrient supplements as well

as monitor the nutrient inadequacies across the state have been implemented. Suboptimal nutrient status is associated with the risk of several chronic diseases.[5] The Republic of Lebanon has taken multiple steps to develop infrastructure and improve the health condition of the population with the resources available.

While the Republic of Lebanon has seen a fair amount of progress since the end of its own civil war, its infrastructure is still lacking. Gaps in information results in widespread micronutrient deficiencies, food security has not reached all communities, and improving maternal-prenatal health is still in progress. Its limited resources are working towards improving the standard of living for its own citizens, but are not enough to provide for refugees and asylum seekers in neighboring countries in conflict. The Republic of Lebanon calls for an international resolution to conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Conflict in the EMR has plagued the region for decades, and is escalating in certain states, specifically Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The burden of conflict falls to neighboring countries, such as the Republic of Lebanon, to take in refugees and asylum seekers at unprecedented rates. This stresses Lebanon's resources and infrastructure at the expense of Lebanon's peoples. Deescalating conflict in the region would not only benefit the people of Lebanon, their health and food predicament, but that of the whole region.

The Republic of Lebanon is calling for action on the international level as it pertains to the global health predicament. Lebanon, as a state, is still recovering from its own civil war, and building up the infrastructure for its people. Unfortunately, the Eastern Mediterranean Region conflict has escalated during the same time frame. While Lebanon attempts to build up its health infrastructure for its people, they are also morally obligated to take in refugees from neighboring countries in conflict such as Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. These extra bodies using the scarce resources of Lebanon places a stress on the infrastructure at the expense of Lebanese citizens. The Republic of Lebanon calls for an international solution to the global conflict, especially in the Easter Mediterranean Region in order to improve the global food predicament of Lebanon.

References

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