

# GALMUN 2017



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## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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**Research Report**

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **Background:**

In times of war, it is extremely difficult to control the spread of diseases. In areas of conflict, disease and infection are only one of the many problems that people have to deal with. These areas have limited access to health care, which makes certain diseases extremely dangerous. This limited access also means an inability to detect, diagnose and provide medication for disease. The populations in these areas experience defined periods of violence or long-term acts of violence. These acts of violence lead to a breakdown in health systems and therefore to an increased exposure to infection and disease.

As a result of war, many diseases spread out of control. Among these diseases are STDs- sexually transmitted diseases, which spread as a result of sexual violence. These infections, if left untreated, are dangerous and often put the person's life at risk. Another dangerous disease is Poliomyelitis, also known as Polio, and which mainly affects the younger section of the population. This disease infects the muscles and weakens them, causing paralysis. Polio is currently threatening large areas of Syria. Another dangerous disease is cholera. Cholera is an acute, diarrheal illness caused by the infection of the intestine as a result of contracting the bacterium *Vibrio Cholerae*. An estimated 3-5 million cases and over 100,000 deaths occur each year around the world. The infection is often mild or without symptoms, but can sometimes be severe. The disease broke out in Syria two years after the conflict started and has been spreading since causing people to suffer even more.

## **Questions to consider:**

- How can the spread of diseases in areas of conflict affect citizens, especially women and children?
- How can we decrease the spread of polio in areas of conflict such as Syria?
- How can we prevent STDs caused by violence in conflicted areas?
- How can we provide easy access to clean water in order to prevent the spread of cholera in refugee camps?

**Useful links:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26734465>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2014/09/least-15-children-syria-die-measles-immunization-campaign>

<https://www.iamat.org/country/syria/risk/sexually-transmitted-infections>  
<http://www.who.int/features/2015/polio-immunization-syria/en/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm>

<http://unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation>