



The Director of Health in Aleppo explaining to the WHO's Representative in Syria the successful rehabilitation process of the Centre 26 September 2018, Syria – The only tuberculosis (TB) control centre in Aleppo governorate is ready to open its doors again. Damages sustained during the conflict in 2016 forced the centre to close, leaving more than one thousand tuberculosis patients without access to life-saving treatment. Extensive renovations, made possible by a generous donation from the Government of Japan, have allowed the centre to reopen its doors to TB patients in Aleppo and other parts of northern Syria.

The rehabilitation of the TB control centre in Aleppo is timely. Rates of tuberculosis in Syria are increasing, and recent figures show that one third of all TB cases in the country are found in the Aleppo governorate. Lack of access to health care services, poverty and severe overcrowding create conditions ripe for the spread of the disease.

TB is a bacterial disease that can be transmitted from one person to another by air. Staff who work in these centres are therefore at a higher risk of becoming infected with TB. The centre in Aleppo has been designed with this in mind. It includes isolation units and specialized ventilation systems to help safeguard health care workers against TB.

“Fortunately, TB can be cured with timely and appropriate treatment,” said Dr Walid Sankari, a pulmonologist and professor at the University of Aleppo. “In Syria, we have been fighting TB through vaccination efforts, the expansion of TB control centres, and close cooperation between central and local health authorities. New drug-resistant strains of TB have emerged but treatments for these strains are being developed. Overall, TB remains a curable disease.”



© 2015 WHO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the World Health Organization.