

# Leishmaniasis

Information for internally displaced persons and refugees

## Source of infection

Vector-borne disease transmitted through the bites of infected female phlebotomine sandflies, which feed on blood to produce eggs.



## Type of exposure & prevention

It is caused by bite of an infected female sandfly (phlebotomine), a tiny 2–3 mm long insect vector. Internally displaced persons and refugees are at high risk of leishmaniasis because of increased chances of contact with sandflies. Control it by:



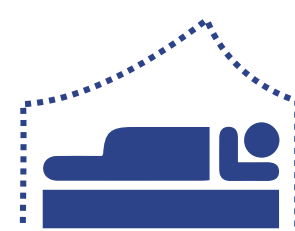
Remaining vigilant of sandflies, especially when outdoors



Keeping your home clean from waste and sewerage



Covering windows to avoid sandflies from entering



Avoiding sleeping outside or on ground



Destroying sandfly breeding sites through use of insecticides



Covering full body with clothing and using insecticide-treated nets to avoid sandfly bites

## Symptoms

Leishmaniasis has three forms: visceral (Kala-Azar, most serious form); cutaneous (most common); and mucocutaneous. Depending upon its type it can be fatal. Symptoms include:

### Visceral leishmaniasis



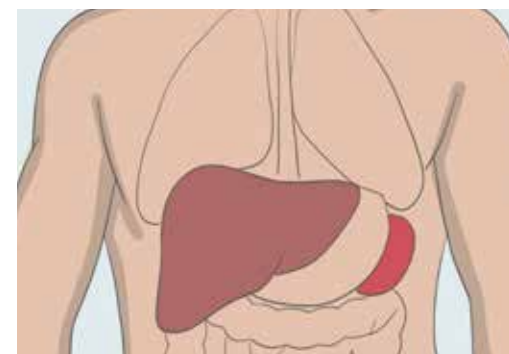
Irregular fever



Anaemia



Weight loss



Spleen and liver enlargement



Rash usually on face, upper arms, trunk and other parts of the body

### Cutaneous leishmaniasis



Ulcers on exposed parts of the body (face, arms and legs)



Disfigured skin lesions after recovery

### Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis



Lesions in the mucous membranes (nose, throat or mouth)

Actions to take in case of symptoms:



Treatment is complex and should be administered by highly experienced health personnel. See a doctor in case of symptoms.



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean