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PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	3-January-2016
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	60,000
TITLE :	Medical Briefs – 80% of drugs are old, official says – Medical tests for street children – Plant for hyperdermic syringes soon
PAGE:	05
ARTICLE TYPE:	General Health News
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Medical Briefs

80% of drugs are old, official says

A NATIONAL project to produce raw materials used in the pharmaceutical products industry in Egypt is under study, according to Dr Mohamed Awad Tag Eddin, former Minister of Health.

He said that 80 per cent of the drugs now available on the local market are old, and their packaging is often changed for promotion purposes.

He said that one-third of the substances used in the pharmaceutical industry in Egypt is imported, which is dangerous since they might be unobtainable in wartime or because of industrial problems.

Medical tests for street children

MEDICAL tests and examinations will be carried out on homeless children in the streets, in coordination with the "Long Live Egypt" fund to ascertain whether they are free from Hepatitis C virus, said Dr Ghada Wali, Minister of Social Solidarity. She said mobile units were equipped to examine children in the streets, adding that the children resident at juvenile correctional centres in Giza would also be examined medically to be sure that they are free of disease.

Plant for hyperdermic syringes soon

PROCEDURES will be taken soon to establish a plant to make self - destroying hyperdermic syringes as a part of the Ministry of Health and Population's strategy to prevent virus infections.

In a statement issued recently, Dr Ahmed Emad, Minister of Health noted that a draft of co-operation protocol had already been signed by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Military Production and Engineering Authority for the Armed Forces. The plan is to produce 50 million syringes for a start and increase them after adding new production lines and operating a new factory to full capacity.