QATAR: SWEET EPIDEMIC

VIDEO
RIVER FRONT/MAN MADE
ISLAND THE PEARL
SHOPPING MALLS
CONSTRUCTION/PEARL
FAMILIES SHOPPING AT PEARL
YACHTS PARKED

AUDIO
MUSIC OR ELECTRONIC TONES
NARRATION:
Qatar’s bounty of wealth has transformed the lives of many from a nomadic lifestyle …to one of luxury… and leisure. (7.5)

But this shift in lifestyle has come at a significant price // one that’s affecting the health of some 215,000 people.

ABDULRAZAQ: (In Arabic) M
“…Before I used to go normally in the car without any problems. But now, I have to use a wheelchair.” (11.5)

NARRATION:
Abdulrazaq was 25 years old when he was diagnosed with diabetes – a condition in which there are high levels of sugar in the blood. Known as the “silent killer”, a staggering twenty percent of the nation’s population is living with the disease. (16)
Manal Mussalam is a doctor at Qatar’s largest medical institution, Hamad Medical Corporation.

"I can’t say there is any family without a diabetic patient in Qatar.”

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 350 million people worldwide – almost 5% of the world’s population – are living with the disease. It’s estimated that this number could double within the next 20 years.

Experts blame the rise partially on genetics. But sedentary lifestyles…and skyrocketing obesity rates also contribute to the problem.

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Fast food chains now dot the landscape across the Gulf region.

"The people like the junk food.”

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NARRATION:
Once a talented sportsman, at 52, Abdulrazaq is now confined to his home, leaving only to go to the hospital for frequent medical checks and treatment. He's also relegated to a lifetime of prescription medications, injections, and constant monitoring of his blood sugar levels. (18.5)

Despite his compliance, the disease is rapidly claiming different parts of his body. (5)

“…I cannot see in my left eye.” (4)

Now his kidneys are failing. Abdulrazaq relies on his son to take him to the hospital three times a week. His physician, Dr. Adal Shabaan says dialysis is keeping him alive. (12.5)

“I think his health improved significantly since he started dialysis.” (4)

Alarmed by the rapid spread of the disease, The Qatari Government is working with international partners to find a cure. And through genetic analysis, it hopes to determine a person’s likelihood of developing the disease. (14)

And while there's hope for the future, for now Abdulrazaq is on a waiting list for a kidney transplant. Without this operation, his chances of survival remain slim. (11.5)
NARRATION:

This report was produced by Mary Ferreira for the United Nations. (4.5)