

Committee: World Health Organization

Topic: Mosquito Borne Diseases

Background of the Committee:

WHO is the World Health Organization that is an integral part of the United Nations. The goal of WHO is to ensure the healthiest life for citizens of all countries. They deal with every issue concerning healthcare and general wellbeing of the world. They also combat diseases and take medicines to places in need. It was established on April 7th 1948 in Geneva, Switzerland. Deriving from the Health Organization from the League of Nations, the WHO is a hands on committee that acts on issues around the world almost instantly! Since it was created, the WHO has helped with the eradication of smallpox and is currently trying to combat HIV/AIDS, Ebola, malaria, and tuberculosis.

Goals of the Committee:

The goals of this committee encompass diplomatic debate between delegates from different nations and coming up with short term and long term solutions to combat these issues which have been affecting people all around the world. We will begin with substantive debate about feasible solutions pertaining to the each country's policy, then proceed to forming draft resolutions to virtually implement to combat the issue. We will debate and caucus in a professional manner and to hopefully come to a committee-wide consensus.

Background of the Topic:

The first identified case of the zika virus was in 1947 monkeys perpetually in Uganda. In 1952, it was first discovered in humans and as the years passed on, the first dynamic outbreak of the virus occurred in 2007 in the Island of Yap. Zika is a flavivirus transmitted mainly by mosquitos in the genus Aedes. These outbreaks were typically of mild conditions and no one had reportedly died of this disease. During 2013 and 2014, the virus had a neurological connection to Guillain-Barré syndrome. This syndrome is when the body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system. They syndrome affects the motor and nerve control. Many are known to recover from even the most severe cases, but in other rare situations, it can cause total paralysis. This syndrome is linked with the mosquito borne diseases.

UN Involvement:

Since its first discovery, there has not been many incidents reported on humans with the mosquito borne diseases. In 2013 and 2014 new reports were established on the numerous and wide ranged incidents concerning the mosquito borne diseases. It has been reported to the UN that many of these occurrences are happening near the Americas, parts of Africa and Pacific Islands mostly. The United Nations has developed many protocols to combat this threat to human health. The United Nations Population Fund has been trying to increase access to contraceptives in an effort to decrease the rate of pregnancy for women. By decreasing pregnancy rates, the mosquito borne diseases will not be as harsh of a condition to females than

it is to pregnant females. mosquito borne diseases' symptoms can be the most detrimental to a child that is premature and has not yet been born.

While the United Nations has done very little to combat this topic right away, other organizations such as the World Health Organization and Project Hope. WHO has been supporting countries that have the virus prominent in their country by responding to the Zika Strategic Response Framework protocol that was established. The protocol states that in order to stop this virus from spreading further, WHO is prioritizing research into finding a cure for Zika by convening experts and other professionals. Finding a vaccine for this virus is their number one priority as of now. The protocol also mentions strengthening education for society to learn more about the mosquito borne diseases and refrain from transmitting it to others. This includes refraining from sexual activity or using contraceptives to decrease the spread. Lastly, the protocol promotes the aiding of professionals to reduce the Aedes mosquito population.

Bloc Positions:

- Western Bloc: This bloc consists of North America, Australia, and Western European countries who have higher influence and economic power. These nations have been able to fund the WFP to provide food and extra services to those nations who were responding to disease outbreaks.
- Eastern European Bloc: With so many diseases breaking out in the Middle East, there are so many efforts being made to cure these mosquito-borne diseases. There is only so much that can do with the current situation at hand in these countries. They are provided a bednet to prevent mosquito bites in the middle of the night for those who do not have solid flooring in their homes.
- Asian Bloc: The Asian bloc has been able to provide aid to the countries affected with outbreaks because many South Eastern countries have partnered with the World Health Organization to fund emergency risk management capacities. Furthermore, there is a large emphasis on education about prevention from these diseases because of the amounts of outbreaks that have happened in the past. There are many precautions taken in households in these areas such as nets around beds and creams.
- African Bloc: With Ebola originating from West African countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Papua New Guinea, the African bloc is in dire need for strengthening of emergency health response. In addition, due to lack of infrastructure, potable water, financial needs, hygiene, healthcare, and basic resources, these developing nations have a higher chance of creating and contracting diseases such as SARS, malaria, and yellow fever.
- Latin American Bloc: This bloc is also greatly affected by disease outbreaks, noting that about four million people are currently living with mosquito borne diseases. Since there is an abundance of tropical diseases in this region, it is difficult for ministers to control them. This bloc needs to focus on treating people first before they move to prevention.

They must establish public health surveillance systems to instigate the early detection of outbreaks.

Questions to Consider:

1. How is your country interacting with the WHO or any other branch in the UN to combat mosquito borne diseases?
2. Does your country have any short term solutions that are effective temporarily to aid neighboring countries who may be experiencing lots of trouble?
3. Is there any other protocol that is being taken to protect the people from infected mosquitos?
4. How are your solutions going to benefit both first world countries and developing countries?
5. What are specific tactics and plans that have been successful for your country in the past? How can your country mend these plans or plans of other countries to further restrict other mosquito borne diseases?

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