



Country Backgrounds

Brazil

- Brazil has been successful in curbing the spread of communicable diseases like HIV and caring for those living with it.
- Brazil partnered with many local organizations to aggressively attack the spread of this virus.
- The country saved \$2 billion in medical costs between 1996-2004 by giving citizens access to effective treatment and saving on hospitalization costs.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an American national health institution, established an office in Brazil in 2003 to help monitor disease outbreaks.
- "As a member of the Global Health and Foreign Policy initiative, Brazil has been actively engages in the debates on health issues that require international cooperation and political attention, such as the control of infectious disease, the management of human resources for health, response to natural disasters and crises, and provision of affordable medicines, among other challenges." - Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, former Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, July 8, 2009

Zambia

- Zambia is one of the African countries most highly affected by communicable diseases, particularly for young people.
- The high infection rate in Zambia has made it difficult for young people to get jobs, which contributes to the high poverty rate.
- The main reason for the high rate of disease contraction is lack of access to knowledge (how diseases are spread and how to prevent them).
- Zambia's government has been working with the UN on strategies for disease prevention.
- "My government continues to re-organize and manage the health sector to ensure significant improvement in health service delivery. On 27th January 2012, government launched the national health strategic plan for the period 2011 to 2015. This strategy is aimed at addressing both non-communicable and communicable diseases." - Michael Chilufya Sata, President of the Republic of Zambia, September 2012

China

- China has made great progress in the control of communicable diseases at the national level. However, major outbreaks of communicable diseases and the importation of serious non-endemic diseases are always a risk for China due to its population of more than 1.3 billion people.
- More than half of the population of China lives in densely populated urban areas.
- The 12th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (2011–2015) urges further strengthening health-care system reform to meet people's basic health care demands.
- "Health outcomes for poor people across the world are under pressure from the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable disease, demographic change, urbanisation and new



infectious diseases. China is already an important contributor to global health efforts, and as a board member of the WHO and the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The launch of the Global Health Support Programme demonstrates China and the UK's shared commitment to strengthen further global health through innovation and collaboration." - UK-China Press Release, January 16, 2013

India

- India accounts for 21% of the world's global burden of disease.
- India has made significant progress towards polio eradication in recent decades.
- Although life expectancy continues to increase, communicable diseases are still widespread and constitute major public health issues.
- India faces many challenges with its healthcare system including high out-of-pocket costs, insufficiency and uneven distribution of staff, service provision (overwhelmingly in private hands) and quality.
- "As far as India is concerned, we are faced with the triple burden of communicable diseases, new and re-emerging infections and the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases. More than half of all deaths are now attributed to Non-Communicable Diseases." - Ghulam Nabi Azad, India Minister of Health and Family Welfare, September 19, 2011

Indonesia

- Communicable diseases are a major cause of death in Indonesia. As such, Indonesia would be highly susceptible to an outbreak of the zombie virus.
- Responding effectively to complex disease patterns and potential threats to health is likely to remain a major set of challenges for the country during the coming years.
- Improvement of surveillance, monitoring and health information system through active community participation in reporting health problems will increase the effectiveness of Indonesia's response to an outbreak of the zombie virus.
- "The availability and affordability of medical supplies remain one of the major challenges faced by developing countries in promoting health services. The provision of quality health care depends on the availability and affordability of quality instruments, diagnostic and curative machines and tools." - Ambassador Yusra Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Indonesia, June 3, 2013

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- North Korea (DPRK) had achieved an efficient and effective free universal health-care system by the 1990s. However, the system suffered a severe blow as the entire national economy fell into recession in the 1990s.
- One of the areas in which the health care system is suboptimal is inadequate sterilization of equipment. This would be of particular concern during an outbreak of the zombie virus as the virus is transmitted through contact with bodily fluids of the infected.



- The World Health Organization's Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) established a country office in the DPRK in 2001. The first Country Cooperation Strategy for the DPRK was developed in 2004.
- "Non-security issues such as climate change, global warming and communicable disease have become preoccupying issues for the future of humanity. The implications are so enormous that they have actually become major security issues." - Choi Young-jin, Former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, April 14, 2007

Russian Federation

- Russia has faced a difficult period of economic and social transition. Severe recessions in the 1990s were accompanied by reduced financing of the health system and consequent reductions in the availability of health care services.
- The lack of quality healthcare options in Russia has resulted in a high rate of communicable disease infection (nearly 1 million Russians suffer from HIV).
- Russia would likely be underequipped to handle a mass outbreak of the zombie virus.
- One of the key areas where Russia can improve its disease prevention strategy is by educating citizens on how infectious diseases are spread.
- "The national legislation of the Russian Federation guarantees access for all the citizens to free large-scale prevention programs and HIV-testing, and for HIV-infected people – access to free high-quality medical care and protection of their rights." - Professor Veronika Skvortsova, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, June 9, 2011

Switzerland

- Switzerland is a developed country with low rates of communicable diseases. Swiss citizens enjoy access to quality healthcare.
- Switzerland is involved in bilateral cooperation with developing and developed/emerging countries contributing to improved global health and, in the event of a global outbreak of the zombie virus, would likely provide finances and services to those countries hit hardest by the disease.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- "A number of health-related international organisations have their headquarters in Switzerland, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria." – Switzerland Mission to the United Nations

United Kingdom

- In order to minimize the risk for communicable disease outbreaks, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) offers support to member states, such as the UK, to strengthen their defenses against infectious diseases.
- ECDC helps to quickly mobilize outbreak assistance teams, whose expertise may include epidemiology, clinical medicine, public health, infection control, etc.
- The UK has spent over \$1 billion over the past 10 years to help combat the spread of communicable diseases like HIV in developing countries. These f



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unds have helped coordinate and strengthen international responses to disease outbreaks.

United States of America

- In the US, rate of communicable disease infection, as well as education and understanding, varies by state. This is dangerous because many people infected with diseases like HIV are unaware that they have it.
- Young adults are the most at-risk for communicable diseases, with African Americans representing 70% and Latinos representing 17% of the HIV diagnoses among teenagers.
- Should a communicable virus be detected, a network of communication must be activated to involve intelligence personnel, healthcare administration, local and state health departments, FBI field offices, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Regulations provide for the apprehension and examination of any individual believed to be infected and who is moving or about to move from one state to another state.
- "Beyond the Global Health Initiative, U.S. health diplomacy focuses on promoting pandemic preparedness, implementing the International Health Regulations, addressing environmental health issues and emerging infectious diseases, eradicating polio, and responding to biosecurity threats." - Ambassador Rick Barton, U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, December 9, 2010