

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPIC B:

Responsibly preventing and managing the spread of
Monkeypox, in preparation for a possible pandemic outburst.



I. Introduction of Topic:

This research paper addresses the topic of the prevention and managing of the spread of Monkeypox in preparation for possible pandemics. It will examine the roles of involved and affected countries, analyze the challenges posed by relevant resolutions, and evaluate the current situation. The paper seeks to define the issue, explore its underlying causes and notable examples, and propose potential solutions to address this pressing concern.

II. Definition of key terms:

Mpox: Historically limited to Central and West Africa, the monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus, transmits a zoonotic viral disease. However, because of its growing spread and possible pandemic danger, it is now a worldwide health issue.

Zoonotic Disease/Zoonoses: A medical condition that people may get from animals, usually via direct touch, ingestion, or exposure to polluted settings.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC): The World Health Organisation (WHO) formally declares an unusual occurrence that needs a coordinated worldwide response and poses a risk to public health due to its international spread.

Clade 1b Virus: A newly identified variant of the monkeypox virus with higher transmissibility and severity, contributing to global outbreaks.

Vaccination: The administration of a vaccine to stimulate an individual's immune system to produce immunity against a specific disease, such as the MVA-BN vaccine for mpox prevention.

Surveillance Systems: Public health systems designed to monitor, detect, and report disease outbreaks in real time, enabling rapid response to emerging health threats.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC): Measures implemented in healthcare settings to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including isolation protocols, use of personal protective equipment, and hygiene standards.

International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005): A legally binding framework adopted by WHO member states to enhance global capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats.

III. Background information:

The zoonotic viral illness known as mpox, or monkeypox, is brought on by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus. Due to its rising prevalence and potential for broad transmission, mpox, which was formerly limited to Central and West Africa, has suddenly become a worldwide health issue. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) in August 2024 in recognition of the growing threat posed by the disease. This statement emphasises how urgently robust plans to stop and control the spread of mpox are needed, especially in view of the potential for a pandemic.

As of August 2024, over 14,000 cases and 524 deaths have been reported globally, with significant outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and neighboring countries. The emergence of the clade 1b virus, characterized by higher transmissibility and severity, has further intensified concerns about the disease's pandemic potential. In response, WHO has issued standing recommendations to member states to eliminate human-to-human transmission and mitigate the disease's impact.

Preventing the spread of mpox requires a multifaceted approach, including enhanced surveillance and early detection, with trained healthcare workers and robust reporting systems. Vaccination, particularly with the MVA-BN vaccine, plays a critical role, and efforts to expand vaccine access are ongoing. Public education, community engagement, and strict infection prevention and control measures are also essential in reducing transmission and combating stigma.

IV. Major countries and agencies involved in the issue:

United States: The U.S. has been a key player in global health initiatives and emergency responses. Through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USAID, the U.S. has supported mpox surveillance, research, and vaccine distribution globally. The country has committed significant resources to contain outbreaks domestically and to assist other nations with laboratory testing and vaccination campaigns.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): As one of the countries most affected by mpox, the DRC plays a central role in understanding the disease's dynamics. Its health systems are often overwhelmed, necessitating international support for surveillance, case management, and community outreach programs.

Nigeria: Another hotspot for mpox outbreaks, Nigeria is critical to global understanding and response efforts. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with WHO and other partners, has focused on strengthening outbreak preparedness and addressing misinformation about the disease.

United Kingdom: The UK has contributed to global mpox responses through research funding, particularly for understanding zoonotic transmission pathways and vaccine development. It has also provided technical assistance to affected regions.

V. Previous treaties and events:

- <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-11/undp-usc-addressing-monkeypox-effective-science-and-rights-based-responses-ii.pdf>
- <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/mpox-risk-assessment-monkeypox-virus-africa-august-2024.pdf>
- [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-07-2022-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-\(ihr\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-multi-country-outbreak-of-monkeypox](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-07-2022-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-(ihr)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-multi-country-outbreak-of-monkeypox)

VI. Works Cited

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