**Check Point 1:**

For this checkpoint, students are required to have identified a list of 5 problems related to their global health issue based on their research, and to have selected the specific problem they will be focusing on. For this checkpoint you will:

* Write a short summary that outlines your research findings about your global health issue assigned to your group– make sure you use proper citations (both in-text and a reference/citation list) for all your sources. All citations must use APA style.
  + In this summary make sure to also include background information about your population.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country in central Africa. The DRC has a population of 85,281,024. The biggest religion in the country is Roman Catholicism, as 50% of the population identify as catholic. Life expectancy is 58.1 years. In 2014, health expenditures only made up 4.3% of the country’s GDP. GDP in 2017 was $41.44 billion dollars. The DRC has struggled with chronic poverty despite a growing and somewhat healthy economy. This is

possibly due to a corrupt government (Central Intelligence Agency, 2019).  According to WHO,

as of April 2019 there have been a total of 1,100 EVD cases, 58% were female and 29% were

children under the age of 18 (World Health Organization, 2019). As of now there are no official

vaccines for EVD. According to Doctors without Borders, during the ebola outbreak in

Democratic Republic of Congo, an unofficial licensed vaccine was given to healthcare workers,

and individuals who have a high risk of becoming infected were vaccinated with rVSV-ZEBOV,

about 13,750 people have been vaccinated (Doctors Without Borders, 2018).

* List the 5 problems you have identified and describe their impact on your global health issue. Remember to include references!
  + **Sanitation/Hand washing:** This problem impacts our issue because without proper hand washing and sanitation, germs and diseases can be easily spread. According to Capps, Nijiru, and deVries (2017) research, “92% of their respondents knew that Ebola can be avoided by contact with an infected person, 81% respondents knew that proper hand washing could help prevent spread” (p. 76). In the Democratic Republic of Congo they lack access to clean water and have poor sanitation which makes a huge impact health threat to the public (Mosello, Chambers, Mason, 2016). According to World Bank, 52% of the DRC population has improved water facilities and 29% has access to improved sanitation (Hirn & Rodella, 2017). Meaning the other 48% that do not have access to safe water are at a huge risk of EVD.
  + **Availability of Medical Resources:** There is very little health care available to the people in Congo. According to USAID, about 70% do not have access to basic healthcare. There are a lack of resources like human personnel and medical supplies. Hospitals lack medical supplies and funding, which causes patients to pay high bills. This would then lead to people not being able to afford treatment. In addition, some hospitals buy their medical tools from India and China. These tools are very cheap and unreliable. The Democratic Republic of Congo have several solutions to help combat this problem. First, the involvement of the government is important because they can help regulate and provide funds. Secondly, human resources are needed because doctors and nurses are limited. Next, finances are very low which prevent the country from establishing. Lastly, service delivery is a method used to solve a problem for a specific group. For an example, women and children usually are first priority.
  + **Equipment for Burial Ceremony:** When someone with ebola dies, their body still has the ability to pass on the ebola virus to people who come into contact with it. According to the WHO, the most safe way to do this often means having trained professionals be responsible for transporting the body and lowering it into graves (World Health Organization, 2017). In the DRC, Red Cross responders are sent to retrieve the bodies of people who died while having ebola. They are to assist with the burial to make sure that no one is at risk of contracting the disease. This has resulted in pushback from citizens who refuse, and even violent resistance (Aizenman, 2018). The main problem here is, there is currently no safe way for families of ebola victims to bury their family members.
  + **Treatment for EVD:** Treatment for EVD varies based on the individual’s immune system and how early the individual has received interventions. There is no official licensed antiviral drug for EVD based on the U.S. FDA (U.S. Food & Drug, 2014). Also according to Doctors without Borders, during the ebola outbreak in DRC doctors used a vaccine called “rVSV-ZEBOV” without an official license (Doctors Without Borders, 2018). Furthermore the Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated that they are exploring possible treatment based on blood transfusion and mechanical filtering of blood. Since there is no official vaccine for EVD there is no cure for EVD (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017).
  + **Difficulty diagnosing EVD:** EVD is difficult to diagnose for a variety of reasons. The main reason that EVD is so hard to diagnose is due to the fact that symptoms of this disease in the early stages are identical to other symptoms to other diseases like the flu or common cold. So by the time that Ebola is detectable, the virus has already attacked the body’s immune system, making the individual extremely vulnerable to contracting other diseases which they would not be able to fight off as easily pre-ebola. To determine if an individual has Ebola, they must contract the disease 21 days before they show onset symptoms. It may take up to 3 days after the symptoms start for the Ebola virus to be detectable (CDC).
* Lastly, select a specific problem you will be focusing on, and write a short summary explaining the rationale behind the selection of this problem.

Due to limited medical supply, inadequate facilities, and lack of equipment; the problem we will focus on is the availability of medical resources (Lapão and Silva, 2015). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, medical supplies are either bought from India and China. These tools are very cheap and unreliable making treating ebola difficult. Due to the scarcity of these tools, the cost to get treatment is very expensive. In addition, about 70% of Congolese do not have access to the healthcare they need.

**Citation**

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