

The Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House, headed by Professor David L Heymann, examines key global health challenges and how they manifest themselves as problems of international affairs and global politics. It seeks to inform policy by offering evidence-based, politically and economically feasible solutions and related policy options that help decision-makers around the world take actions that improve global health security. It does so by conducting independent research and analysis and facilitating discourse between the international affairs and public health communities.

The IDRAM Initiative

Extractive Industries Infectious Disease Risk Assessment and Management

Three-quarters of new human infectious diseases are believed to have emerged from animal reservoirs. Environmental and social changes that affect how people, pets, livestock and wildlife interact can create conditions that threaten human populations with diseases such as avian influenza, viral haemorrhagic fevers (Ebola and Marburg) and SARS. Disease outbreaks can lead to pandemics, with potential significant local, regional and global economic, security and development impacts.

Activities around extractive industry operations in disease hotspots frequently bring humans and animals into closer contact. This can potentially modify virus transmission patterns at the human—animal interface. There is currently no established framework for evidence-based risk assessment and risk management of outbreaks with pandemic potential related to human activities in global hotspots.



The IDRAM Initiative

Chatham House is facilitating interaction between the extractive industry (oil and gas, mining, timber) and international development and finance institutions, national government stakeholders and science leaders to address this important and complex challenge. Sectors and constituencies that do not often come together are encouraged to identify a sense of common purpose and incentives for meaningful dialogue. The initiative facilitates a collegial, open and transparent environment and platform where key organizations and constituencies can work productively towards common understanding of and solutions to a complex global challenge.

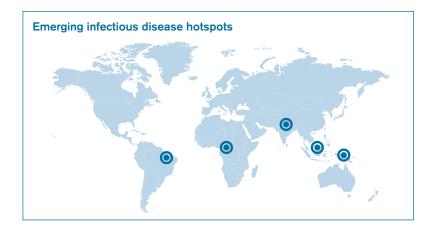
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Staff

The initiative is led by Dr Steven C Phillips, a Senior Fellow at Chatham House and Project Manager for the IDRAM Initiative. He was formerly Medical Director for Global Projects at Exxon Mobil Corporation. He has worked closely with governments, NGOs, foundations, UN agencies, multilateral and faith-based organizations and the private sector in fostering public—private partnerships as a development platform to address urgent global health priorities.





Key stakeholders are involved to build consensus and common frameworks and tools around the risk management of infectious diseases associated with extractive industry activities. This will lead to a policy discussion and framework for addressing and mitigating these risks at a global level.

The IDRAM Initiative will:

- Engage key stakeholders in a structured policy dialogue about the risks of emerging infectious disease outbreaks, and in particular at the human–animal interface in tropical hotspots.
- Identify the nature of these risks and mitigation measures, and raise these issues on the agenda of key decision-makers within the extractive industry.
- Propose ways of moving towards the formulation of a global collaborative strategy – involving all stakeholders – to assess risks and establish a longer-term strategic approach.

IDRAM results

- Risk assessment and management strategies and tools addressing emerging pandemic threats and other infectious disease risks specific to the activities of the extractive industry in global hotspots.
- A summary of the best available science and public health knowledge that drives recommendations for mitigation strategies for zoonotic emerging infectious diseases.

IDRAM next steps

- Follow-up will respond to gap-closure strategies identified through the initiative, and its perceived value for participant organizations.
- Successful partnerships established through IDRAM will drive further collaborative strategies in areas where global cooperation adds value in mitigating pandemic risk.

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