

# Infectious Disease Risk Assessment and Management

## The IDRAM Initiative:

### Bringing the Extractives Industry & Public Health together to fight Infectious Disease

---



#### About the Centre on Global Health Security

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 Centre on Global Health Security is supporting the extractive industry to understand, assess and mitigate the risk posed to the sector by infectious disease outbreaks.

---

## Extractive industry and health

Extractive industry operations bring about changes in local environmental, social and economic conditions that increase the potential for contact between wildlife, livestock and human populations. These changes act as major drivers of disease emergence. In effect, the extractive industry alters local ecosystems and this could facilitate the spread of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs).

Concurrently, extractive industry projects are vulnerable to EID outbreaks, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and therefore have a direct interest in supporting prevention strategies and strengthening the response capacity of national health systems.

---

## Project focus

IDRAM aims to develop tools and evidence that will enable the extractive industry to reduce the risk of EID outbreaks and better prepare for them. IDRAM also encourages greater collaboration between the extractive industry, the public health sector and other actors (multilateral agencies, NGOs) to improve preparedness and response capacity when an outbreak does occur.



## What we have achieved

- In 2014, an IDRAM pilot study in the Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) evaluated an audit toolkit developed by USAID for improving EID risk assessment and management on established mining sites.
- A qualitative study showed that mining companies have good internal systems in place for disease control and prevention, but cannot control outbreaks alone and have limited capacity to influence the conditions in surrounding communities.
- A series of desktop exercises in various international settings raised awareness of how to identify gaps in preparedness and improve coordination of a response to an infectious disease outbreak.

## Future activities

Further desktop exercises will illustrate how EID outbreaks can challenge business operations in the extractive industry and will stimulate discussion of how the sector can collaborate with national health systems to build successful response strategies.

The Centre on Global Health Security will also oversee an economic study that will investigate the cost-effectiveness of extractive companies investing in EID control and prevention measures, using mining companies in Ebola-affected countries as a case study.

A literature review will identify the barriers to, and opportunities for, broadening collaborations between the private and public sectors during an outbreak of an infectious disease. The IDRAM pilot study in the DRC found that extractive companies do sometimes collaborate with national health systems during health emergencies.

Building on these ad hoc partnerships and capturing the experience gained is important and IDRAM will seek to bring together a cross-section of private and public sector stakeholders to improve communication, understanding and cooperation with tackling future EID events.

IDRAM partners:



The Royal Institute of International Affairs  
Chatham House  
10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE  
T +44 (0)20 7957 5700 F +44 (0)20 7957 5710  
[contact@chathamhouse.org](mailto:contact@chathamhouse.org) [www.chathamhouse.org](http://www.chathamhouse.org)  
Charity Registration Number: 208223

**For more information:**

Abbas Omaar, Project Coordinator  
Centre on Global Health Security  
[aomaar@chathamhouse.org](mailto:aomaar@chathamhouse.org)  
+44 (0)207 314 3646