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Global Trends

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease typically occurring in the tropical and subtropical areas around the globe. It is the leading cause of vector-borne viral disease in humans. The risk of transmission is at its highest during and after the wet season, which typically takes place from May to November (Philippines). In the Philippines there have been 216,927 dengue cases and 706 deaths. From January 2023 to February 2023, 148 cases were reported in the country and cases continue to rise (Bayoran). The virus can result in severe Dengue that creates additional health complications, potentially leading up to death. In 2015, the Philippines became the first country in Asia to license the dengue vaccine (Shim). Unfortunately, many Asian countries do not have access to the vaccine, therefore when the virus circulates to other areas resources will be limited. It is imperative the disease is targeted and contained to prevent a global crisis.

Community based interventions should be organized to stop the progress of Dengue virus. For instance, community leaders should carry out health promotion and advocacy strategies. In 1993 the National Dengue Prevention and Control Program was created to diagnose and manage the disease. This also includes vector surveillance, outbreak response, and intensive research. Additional funding should be allocated to these programs to make the disease a priority. Providing grants and education has the ability to prevent thousands of deaths. The Philippines have been tackling this issue for years and it is critical they produce long term solutions to end the dengue epidemic. The threat has been identified and few steps have been taken to eradicate the disease but as the cases are increasing in 2023 there is a likelihood that they will implement greater ways to protect themselves.

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