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Burkina Faso: Dengue Fever

Jorune Gurevicius

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

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General & Political Information:

Location:

- Burkina Faso is located in Africa and has the neighboring countries of Mali, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, and Togo.

Political Structure:

Presidential Republic

- The Prime Minister is the head of the government and of a multi-party system, while the president is the head-of-state (Central Intelligence Agency, 2017).
- The people elect the President for a five-year term. Their democratic-presidential election allows the country to know the results within twenty-four hours, after polls close. (Scott, 2015).
- President chooses the Supreme Court judge (Central Intelligence Agency, 2017).



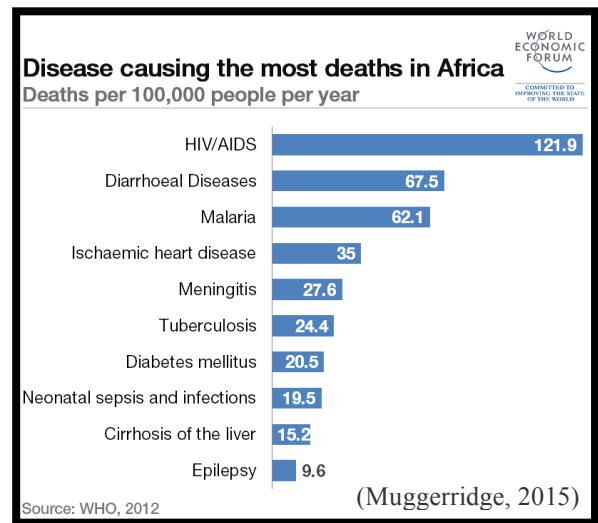
Challenges:

Internal (Africa and The World, 2017):

- One of the poorest countries in the world; about 45% of the population lives below the poverty line
- Lowest literacy rate in the world (36%)
- Lack of clean water due to droughts and desertification
- Overpopulation, deforestation, and over grazing of farm animals are making the environment deteriorate

External (Africa and The World, 2017):

- In 2016 there were 95,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Burkina Faso and 3,100 deaths occurred because of it
- Cases of dengue fever, malaria, yellow fever, rabies, bacterial and protozoa diarrhea, and typhoid fever also occur



Demographics of Burkina Faso:

2017 Population: 17.3 million

Religion ("Religious Beliefs," 2017)

- Islam (61.1%)
- Roman Catholic Christianity (19%)
- Traditional African Religious and/or Folk Beliefs (11.3%)
- Protestant Christianity (5.5%)
- Atheist or Agnosticism (1.0%)
- Other Beliefs (2.1%)

Race & Ethnicity ("Largest Ethnic," 2017)

- Mossi (50.2%)
- Fulani (9.4%)
- Bobo (5.9%)
- Gurma (5.8%)
- Mandé (5.3%)
- Senufo (4.9%)
- Gurunsi (4.8%)
- Lobi (4.7%)
- Other Beliefs (6.5%)

Dengue Fever In Burkina Faso

Dengue Fever is a viral infection, which is transmitted from infected mosquitoes to humans. Anyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito is at risk for the condition (World Health Organization, 2017).

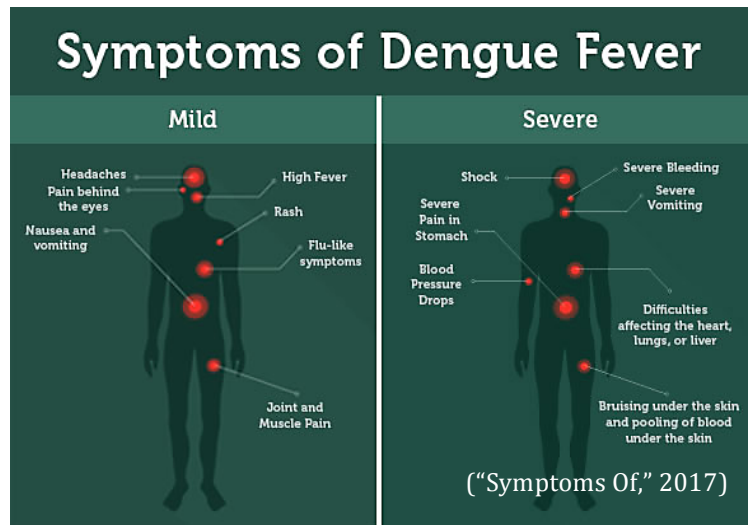
People are more likely to get Dengue Fever if they live in populated urban areas versus rural areas. Travelers are advised to spend their time in air-conditioned buildings, avoid high-populated areas (Tarnagoda et al., 2018).

The outbreak started on September 28, 2017 and quickly spread over Burkina Faso (Ridde et al., 2016). There were a total of 9,029 cases, and 18 deaths reported in the country as of November 6, 2017. The virus has spread to all of the thirteen health zones of Burkina Faso and 60.8% of the cases come from the central region, in Ouagadougou City (World Health Organization, 2017).

There are no treatments or vaccines available, but there are measures that can be taken in order to prevent the virus from further infecting people. People can limit their chances of exposure to the virus by using repellent, wearing neutral colors and long sleeves, soaking their clothing in permethrin and making sure that all doors and windows properly close (Centers for Disease Control, 2016).

Personal Suggestions:

People of Burkina Faso should be educated on the different ways that Dengue Fever is spread. The government should assemble groups of people to travel around the country and talk to the people about the variety of steps that they can take in order to prevent themselves from catching the illness.



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