

Forum: The Arab League

Issue: Measures to cease the spread of future pandemics in the MENA region

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Introduction

In an advanced society, today's world focuses and depends on the medical discoveries of human health. [Health](#) plays an important role in every being's life - Which is why society is so focused on it. Good health means a good life. It keeps the human population intact and stronger than how it was before. [Modern medicine](#) has advanced thanks to the immense amount of well being that scientists have been able to contradict throughout their laboratories backed up by different Governmental Authorities and of course the [WHO \(World Health Organization\)](#) funded by the [United Nations](#). Scientists have figured out many ways to improve one's health & have increased general life expectancy by a significant factor.

[Pandemics](#) have been a sort of alert in the [MENA region](#) for a while now. When a specific virus spreads around starting a pandemic - it tends to either transfer from other regions to the MENA or start from the MENA region. They start to dismantle [global economies](#), education, as well as the unemployment rate rising as a whole. From 2003 [SARS](#) spreading to 26 countries, to 2012 [MERS](#) spreading to 14 countries, the MENA region has quite definitely suffered the easier side of pandemics as it did not affect the region as a whole till the global pandemic of 2019, [COVID-19](#). First cases resembling the [United Arab Emirates](#) was a country that took it more seriously than others and resembled in donating millions for testing equipment and medical services from countries such as China and Italy. Reassuring assistance for other MENA region countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. Ruining business accounting and other strategies for many companies, these pandemics arose as breaking the [cycle of the global economy](#).

[Vaccines](#) and [medication](#) have taken their place in restoring the faith in humanity when it came to [viruses](#), which caused viral infections worldwide. Humanity had to rely on doctors and scientists to discover vaccines which take around 1-2 years. Symptoms from viruses can be eased by different types of medications but cannot be cured such as diseases. As viruses are not bacterial infections and cannot be treated by [Antibiotics](#). When a new virus enters the body,

antibodies cannot quickly attack, as it takes around 14 days - Which is why governments have assured a two week (14 day) **quarantine** for people with virus like symptoms in the moment of a pandemic. A virus travels through the body, running its course before it leaves, however it won't leave until it's treated and fought off. There has been an advancement in modern society when it comes to viruses, as health has increased, and life expectancy has increased as well keeping society at a minimum when it comes to death rates caused by a virus. The purpose of the vaccine is to bring in a dead virus, for antibodies to know how to fight it off so when a real virus enters the body, it will kill it off nearly immediately. Reassurance from the United Nations that funding and educating has been a total serious thing when it comes to the pandemics, and reassures that the future will be brighter and to cease future pandemics everywhere as well as the MENA Region.

Definition of Key Terms

Health

From the WHO (World Health Organization) Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Modern Medicine

Modern medicine is sometimes called allopathic medicine. It involves the use of medication or surgical performances, often supported by counseling and lifestyle measures.

World Health Organization (WHO)

A part of the United Nations that deals with major health issues around the world. Ceasing future pandemics worldwide - The World Health Organization sets standards for disease control, health care, and medication, creates education and research programs, and publishes scientific resources and reports.

Pandemics

An epidemic over a whole country or the world, causing quarantine actions to be taken place.

MENA Region

MENA Region is an acronym for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The region includes approximately 19 countries.

SARS

An infectious virus with symptoms including fever and cough and in some cases progressing to pneumonia and respiratory failure if it gets severe.

MERS

Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is a viral disease that was first identified in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus found in 2019 that was first identified in China.

Economy Cycle

The economic cycle is the cycle of the economy between periods of expansion (growth) and decrease (recession).

Vaccines

A substance used to bring the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several viruses or diseases in the body.

Viruses

An infective agent that typically consists of a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat, is too small to be seen by light microscopy why electron microscopes are used.

Antibiotics

A medicine that inhibits the growth of or destroys microorganisms.

Antibodies

Antibodies combine chemically with substances which the body recognizes as alien, such as bacteria, viruses, and foreign substances in the blood. This is helped by using Vaccines.

Quarantine

A state, period, or place of isolation.

LEDC

LEDC stands for Less Economically Developed Country. Countries that are part of the LEDC definition are countries like Kenya, Nigeria, Yemen.

MEDC

MEDC stands for More Economically Developed Country. Countries that are part of the MEDC definition are countries like China, UK, USA.

NGOs

Non-Governmental Organizations that help and evaluate different issues around the world.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the percent of the labor force that is jobless.

Investments

The action or process of investing money for profit.

P5

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—collectively known as the P5. Any one of them can veto a resolution in the Security Council.

Veto

The P5 can use veto power (going against or with the whole committee) depending on what they want.

Black Death

The Black Death (also known as the Pestilence, the Great Mortality, or the Plague) was the deadliest pandemic recorded in human history. The Black Death resulted in the deaths of up to 75–200 million people in Eurasia and North Africa, peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351.

Swine Flu

A form of influenza which affects pigs, or a form of human influenza caused by a related virus.

Clinical Trial

Clinical trials are research investigations in which people volunteer to test new treatments, interventions or tests as a means to prevent, detect, treat or manage various diseases or medical conditions.

Digital Innovation

Digital innovation is the use of digital technology and applications to improve existing business processes and workforce efficiency, enhance customer experience, and launch new products or business models.

World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland that brings together its membership on a yearly basis to discuss major issues concerning the world political economy.

AI Strategies

AI Strategy is a road plan for the adoption and implementation of artificial intelligence.

Key Issues

Social Distance

Most of the world have been treating this pandemic carelessly, masks are not being forced in many countries especially countries such as the United States of America who hold the record of the biggest outbreak of the pandemic. With over 4.4 million cases, and more cases & deaths than recoveries everyday, The USA is accountable for not increasing the social distancing rules, increasing deaths and cases on the worldwide scale making this global pandemic seemingly one of the worst that the world has ever come to.

Lack of Social Distancing

Social distancing is when people distance themselves physically when they are near each other, this works when people are sick (ie. a cold) or have certain things that can spread such as lice. Social distancing is encouraged and should be mandatory when it comes to this horrendous global pandemic. It should be implemented everywhere and forced upon citizens worldwide the spread stops! The problem here is that Social Distancing is not being enforced in several places in the Arab countries, some countries such as Saudi Arabia & the United Arab Emirates have issued stricter rules to ensure that citizens and residents are keeping in place during this pandemic, however there isn't enough in many other countries such as the US, increasing the rates of cases and deaths in the region.

Lack of Masks

Masks are an essential priority for the public to use, to decrease the spread of any virus. The lack of masks being used by the public have been making the problem even worse as cases and death rates start to rise and recoveries start to drop. Masks work because it protects the mouth & nose from germs from entering the body, this will stop the increase in cases as less & less people catch the virus. There are a lot of people who seem to be aware that wearing a mask can help in the long term, however there is a large number of people who go against it by using the anti-mask movement, the anti-mask movement is proven to be one the most delusional movements by any humans. The anti-mask arguments are "can't breathe" & "uncomfortable" .. Which are not super strong arguments as Surgeons can wear a mask for 30 hours+ during a surgery.

Travel

Travel is an essential need for many workers such as businessmen, doctors, actors, singers, etc. Travel tends to be one of the hardest things to socially distance however many airlines have made it easier, changing their ways of serving food and other necessities, changing the way they book, the way they move around, shutting down certain public areas in airports to transfer passengers more quickly, easing the way they board etc. However, the issue with travel is that COVID-19 can easily be caught and spread all over again.

Hygiene

In the MENA region, there are many countries considered to be LEDC, and when it comes to **LEDC** societies, there is a decrease in good hygiene to maintain a healthy lifestyle and that is not a fault of theirs but due to the high levels of poverty, a pandemic that has a virus that spreads

rapidly can really affect the people who live in specific rurals, increasing the cases everyday and decreasing the recoveries on a worldwide scale.

Lack of Clean Water

Clean water is an essential [human right](#). Clean water is used for washing, drinking, and living. LEDC countries tend to lack the majority of clean water due to poverty, and because of this, they have no resource to clean themselves, to wash their hands every few seconds, working in agricultural areas, in labour camps, this is very bad for them as they can easily spread the virus without processing the rightful amount of cleanse that they need on a daily basis, which will create a huge increase in cases and deaths on a global scale.

Lack of Education on Hygiene,

To avoid future pandemics, and to ensure that people keep safe, they need to be educated from a young age, and for that to happen they need to learn and grow up knowing how to clean themselves properly and to keep themselves strong. [NGOs](#) have been trying their best to fix the issue on educating the majority on hygiene, and to ensure that they provide them with the rightful amount of hygiene. To perform better, live longer and of course stop the virus from spreading as a whole.

Economy in MEDCs

Business Failure

The pandemic arose to being one of the biggest hits to the business and economic cycles, many [MEDCs](#) in the MENA Region rely on certain businesses in their countries for their country as tourism is a great factor. So when it comes to the pandemic that caused a lot of destruction in the economy, business failure tends to fall in causing many small businesses to close down creating a huge negative impact on governments' economies leading to the [unemployment rate](#) to rise.

Oil Production

Oil is a great source of income, especially for MEDCs in the MENA Region, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia hold accountable for one of the largest oil distributions in the world, with Iran distributing 5.2 million barrels a day and Saudi Arabia distributing a whopping 11 million a day. The pandemic in 2020 affected the oil production by a lot, losing interest from many buyers and the prices of the oil decreased greatly making it cheaper, due to the worldwide demand being low. Although from the months of June & July 2020 the prices have been \$42 per barrel. It's a major

issue for MEDCs, as they rely on it so much for their countries' economies, which can lead to a lot of issues at hand from unemployment rates rising to the countries introducing high taxes from their citizens.

Lack of New Investments

Fresh and new investments are extremely important on businesses and companies, investing increases their certain markets, increasing the positive side of economies. MEDCs in the MENA Region rely on these businesses, because certain parts rely on business to succeed in developing the country based on the economy performing well. That the market is at risk at all times during specific pandemics.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Contributing to COVID-19, the UAE was the first country in the MENA region to attract COVID-19 cases. Although now being the country with the lowest number of cases, highest recoveries and lowest death rates, the virus was brought into the MENA Region by the UAE. The UAE, is also a major party involving the region's views because they provide the equipment for many countries within MENA, while educating them with their role modeling skills that social distancing is very important, so that the virus can stop spreading. The United Arab Emirates has been reassuring their strength and their weaknesses throughout the entire pandemic, proving to the world how they can solve the issue at hand. The UAE has been working with one another to encourage and mandataire social distancing along with helping out the drop in cases and death, doing so they have ensured liable ways of social distancing in public places and schools, examples of this include seating arrangements in public transportations, schools keeping students away from each, malls can only fit 70% of what they can usually fit to avoid the collision of cases with one another.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO have declared several pandemics in the past, with COVID-19 being one of the worst, they have relied on certain countries to take care of their population and to focus on ensuring that

their cases are decreasing while their recovery status is increasing by a lot. They play a major role in helping LEDCs with educational campaigns and resources to identify their every need when it comes to helping them during pandemics as LEDCs suffer a lot due to the poverty and the uncleanliness of their affairs. During the 2014 Ebola outbreak they had to help by providing the necessary resources ensuring the virus did not spread worldwide. On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization officially called the novel coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. Defined as the worldwide spread of a new disease, such a declaration is the first to be made since the 2009 H1N1 swine flu. Not even SARS or MERS affected the world this badly, they have stated.

The World Health Organization has been working with Governments around the world to encourage social distancing of one another, hoping to stop the spread of COVID-19. What they have been doing recently is persuading the people to wear masks to avoid a mix in the air circulation, different social distancing techniques in public areas and schooling as well as travel, which has been a big part of society and to ensure that people are traveling safely and distancing themselves takes a lot of hard work. The WHO has given resources and techniques for Airlines to ensure that collisions of the virus does not spread through one another.

United States of America (USA)

One of the strongest [P5](#) with an issuing [veto](#) right in the United Nations, the US has been struggling the most with this pandemic. The USA has had to deal with the most cases and the most deaths overall, which have deliberately caused a negative impact on the virus situation as a whole. The pandemic is starting to arise as a whole due to the country not solidifying their every mandatory right for their citizens, Due the the amount of people who follow the anti-mask and anti-social distancing movement, the cases continue to rise, causing the negative impact to increase as a whole. The rules are simple but enforcing these can present challenges. Masks are not forced, social distancing is not implied, events are still happening (concerts, etc) while the pandemic. The USA as an example, has not taken the pandemic seriously enough, and has treated it lightly. Due to this, countries have taken measures to prevent travel to the US along with trade.

China

The virus started in China, with China starting the virus spread, they are not even in the top 10 most infected countries as they have prioritized the virus and caused a huge positive impact in stopping the rise in the cases and death rates. China has suffered and has already recovered, being a major party involved because of how they identify their health rights and how the different

parties in the Government view how they act. The health of the Chinese is very strong and independent amongst other nations. Keeping up a way of countries to follow, makes are mandatory, help is provided to other struggling nations such as Italy who are no longer struggling as they did earlier. As well as being part of the P5 with veto power, China can help a lot with this pandemic.

The International Coordination Group (ICG)

The International Coordination Group (ICG) was established in 1997, following major outbreaks of Meningitis in the African region, as a mechanism to manage creating vaccines and antibiotics for different diseases and viruses. The ICG monitors its vaccine security global stock levels for several viruses to ensure availability of sufficient supply to respond to disease outbreaks when they occur. The ICG works towards working with different partners such as the World Health Organization, the ICG also works on creating vaccine stocks, negotiating vaccine prices through its networks or partners, evaluating interventions and standard protocols for managing diseases and viruses worldwide. More specifically, they have been providing different reports including different statistics to show what scientists, doctors and other specialists can do when it comes to creating the vaccine, the medication to ensure the cases of corona drops as a whole.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
3000 B.C.	Circa Pandemic.	Around 5,000 years ago a pandemic wiped out an entire village, the bodies were stored and burned.
250 A.D.	Plague of Cyprian	The pandemic of the plague was said to be one of the deadliest with 4,000 people dying a day in just Rome. In 2014, scientists reported that they have said this was when they thought the end of the world was going to take place.

1346	The Black Death	Spread by infected rodents, a bacteria which is thankfully gone today, it travelled through ships from Asia to Europe. Several antibiotics have been taken into measurement to ensure that the virus is treated, 25 million people have been killed.
1665	The Great Plague of London	Since the black death , Great Britain didn't suffer such a thing, until this specific plague by rodents spread throughout the hot summers caused 68,596 people to die from the virus.
1889	Influenza	Taking 5 weeks to reach mortality, the new flu (which is normal today) killed around 1 million people, and spread worldwide rapidly.
1948	Establishment of the World Health Organization.	Along with the United Nations, the WHO was established in 1948 to monitor future pandemics, the spread of viruses and of course disease.
1981	The AIDS pandemic	Although there's a lot of medications and safety equipment taken in place to avoid AIDS, and 2 being cured in 2020, the virus has

		spread rapidly and killed more than 35 million people.
2009	The Swine Flu	Killing 575,000 people infecting 1.4 billion people worldwide, originating from Mexico, the virus seemed to be one of the worst.
2012	MERS/SARS	First reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012, the virus has since spread to several countries at the time, 858 people died from then till now. It did not impact the world as other viruses.
2014	The Ebola Outbreak	With 28,000 cases and 11,000 deaths, the ebola outbreak went worldwide, while staying mostly in Africa, it transferred to other nations to some degree.
2019	The first COVID-19 Patient.	In 2019, the first patient was recovered before the world figured out that there was a new virus worldwide, in January 2020.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Restrictions on Certain Citizens traveling

Past pandemics in the modern world had the solution of restricting certain people from certain countries depending on their country's stability in order to prevent further contamination. For

example, the [Swine Flu](#) had a dramatic change in Mexican travel, as the Mexican people had to stay put in their country to prevent the virus from spreading. The situation is similar with COVID-19, countries are relying on stopping citizens from the United States and Brazil from traveling to their nations to avoid the spread. Traveling can spread viruses very easily through people's baggage, through airplanes and airports. The best solution was to ban certain people from traveling to ensure that the virus does not spread and to excel in decreasing the cases before a vaccine is introduced.

Vaccines / Testing

Another good solution was making it mandatory to take a vaccine of the certain virus that is being spread at the time, once the vaccine went through it's clinical trial. Many countries that people have been tested for certain viruses and need to bring a piece of paper, proving that they tested negative. The overall idea is very effective, however on the long term, it can not be effective for everyone such as people in LEDCs, when it comes to the MENA Region, as there is a lot of poverty, and because of the poverty that is involved, it is harder for Governments to stop the spread of specific viruses before the vaccine comes out. This is due to the fact that not many people can afford to take a test because of their insurance not paying for such expenses. To this day, HealthCare is not free everywhere, however of course there a lot of arguments and peace treaties to make HealthCare free.

Strengthen Early Warning Signs

In the past, pandemics have been classified as horrible moments that no generation should live through, although they will happen- as that is the cycle of viruses. So a lot of precautions to cease worry have been put in place as early signs to ensure people are prepared. Educating students on viruses to ensure that they are careful when it comes to all aspects of life is vital. Social distancing acts as an early warning sign, to ensure that the spread of the virus decreases. Early warning signs such as a curfew in many cities, on their phones they receive a message telling them what they have to do and when they have to do it. Early Warning signs are effective, it gives people the chance to stay safe & aware, so the pandemic doesn't spread rapidly worldwide.

Practice Good Hygiene

In past pandemics, scientists have insisted that people practice good hygiene. Although they're meant to be doing that on a daily basis. Scientists have brought back certain rules such as washing your hands every few minutes, to avoid touching any dirty surfaces, to sanitize and

sterilize public places and your home. Drinking lots of the liquids, especially drinks with lots of calcium, lots of herbs can kill specific germs in your home. Washing your hands is essential and wearing masks can help from passing the virus on, if you can get your hands on one which you must do to please ensure that the virus won't spread, finally, listen to public health experts. Science matters. Innovating your way out of this but it's going to take time to find a treatment let alone a vaccine. So listening to Public Health Experts can really be important.

Possible Solutions

A Digital Future

[Digital innovation](#) will play a very important role after the pandemic as Covid-19 is over. Due to the virus impacting a lot of the MENA country's schools & workplaces, it seems that digital innovation is inevitable and will undoubtedly result in further technological innovation. The use of digital platforms during the pandemic is up 50% in some parts of the world, according to the [World Economic Forum](#).

It is very well organized for specific governments to have created, or started to innovate, national [AI strategies](#) to focus on very important things like schooling and health, as they will need to more than double their productivity growth to sustain economic growth rates. The blend between the physical and digital world will be brought much closer. The best performing companies and organisations during this crisis were the ones who were better prepared in terms of using digital surfaces and using different internet strategies.

Accelerating Industries

In order to come back stronger, companies across all sectors will reimagine their business model as they return to full speed. During the current crisis, businesses have worked faster and better than they thought possible. Maintaining that sense of possibility will be an important source of competitive advantage. It will likely see an economy where businesses become more focused on identifying efficiencies, reducing costs and implementing new technologies. Accelerating Industries on the digital market, can help so much for future pandemic if so would happen, the industries can certainly still be strong and avoiding a collapse in many economies worldwide, Governments will not need to stress and unemployment rates will not increase, but will rather decrease by a

significant amount as the demand for higher purchase and higher employment will be needed. This is suitable for the economy of the Country, which will then be suitable for the rest of the countries worldwide, creating a balance in the world economy as a whole.

New Ways Of Business

The pandemic is accelerating new ways of working. Many chief officers that hold accountable many financial industries indicate they will take steps to improve the experience of remote working and will look to make remote work a permanent option. Different companies will look to preserve some of the benefits from remote working which will bring in effectiveness through communication and the majority of the workers will increase their confidence throughout, this can have a positive affect on climate change to reduce office carbon footprint with that said there are some companies in the country of the UAE felt they would move to remote working as a more permanent option rather than being in a certain office, this does not link to Covid-19, but it does silicify that it can be a two-way solution to two new issues. Company leaders will need to consider the use of different strategies, tools, behaviours and incentives that will enable employees to be productive, collaborative and creative.

Resources for LEDCs

In the MENA Region, you have certain countries that would suffer worse than MEDCs in a pandemic, due to a lack of resources. Based on educational resources and of course human right resources (food, water, etc). Their health depends on themselves to be aware of what could happen to them. Resources must be taken in place by the WHOs and different NGOs to ensure that countries such as Sudan or Yemen have the necessary necessities to avoid catching COVID-19, to avoid having the virus as a whole spread. Because of this being supplied for them, necessities like masks, sanitizers and health equipment are great resources for LEDCs when in a Pandemic especially. They can be educated well, they can start working harder and they can start providing for themselves, WHO is here to provide for those in need. They were created to do that. Other countries in the MENA Region such as the UAE provide testing equipment and different hospital stations to ensure that they can be taken seriously and not spread the virus as it is already spreading rapidly throughout the world.

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