

# Case Study 1:

## Outbreak of the Vaca virus

This simulation recreated the governance decisions of an outbreak of 'Vaca Virus' in the country of 'Esperanza'. Students were allocated to small groups, each taking on a different role in stakeholder groups in either Esperanza or in external organizations. The selected examples below illustrate the range of different profiles that were created – Government organisations, lobby groups, political parties, for-profit organisations (all of which had to be imagined) and organisations that do exist and would normally play a role during a pandemic.

**Please note:** the simulation was designed in August/September 2019 and students participated in the simulation in December 2019 i.e. before the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Esperanza - Ministry of Health

The Minister of Health was once in the inner circle of the President Lopez-Dorso administration. However, he/she was ousted from being in the President's power clique, after a series of disagreements with the Lopez-Dorso government about funding and the application of the Institute Protocols on a series of doctors. The Minister of Health is known for his/her diplomacy and even handedness in handling employees, despite his/ her extreme political views.

The Ministry of Health, although recently being aligned with the opposition of the President Lopez-Dorso, is not known for work sympathetic with the indigenous Mabaz population, or supporting the health of this group. The Minister of Health was elected in her/ her constituency because of their xenophobic platform against minorities, especially against the indigenous population. He/ She was once called the **Esperanzan Jair Bolsonaro**. But he/she can recognise that the threat of the pandemic overrides the social and political policies that he/ she once advocated for in her campaigning against ethnic minorities.

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The Minister of Health does not have a background in the health sciences. The Minister of Health is an ex-lawyer who worked in-house with an insurance company; they are familiar with the legal applications of the [Pandemic Influenza Preparedness \(PIP\) Framework](#); and, the [Standard Material Transfer Agreement \(SMTA\) 2](#).

The Ministry of Health in recognising the Vaca Virus as a PHIEC consulted the [International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#), in depth.

## The Beef Industry Lobby

The Beef Industry Lobby feels powerless in the midst of the pandemic. The Beef Industry Lobby feels unprepared and worried about their constituents and is not acquainted with the language of pandemics. Personnel in the Beef Industry Lobby often seek to make new alliances with different Ministries and government officials. The Beef Industry Lobby often seeks to especially support the mandate of the Minister of Trade and Finance; but often feels isolated from conversations on how to meaningfully support the application of the relevant frameworks and processes.

As the Ministries and government officials are all under resourced and under supported in their efforts to manage their own workloads, they offer the Beef Industry Lobby a series of supporting documents, without explanation.

- [Update on the economic impact of the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic on Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea](#)
- [The International Health Regulations: The Governing Framework for Global Health Security](#)
- [CDC advice on Pandemic Flu](#)

**Please note:** There were additional documents linked to in this section originally, but these are not now available online.

The Beef Industry Lobby attempts to use the documents and materials shared with them to justify that a PHEIC should not be declared; or, to use the language of international frameworks to assert economic even-handedness in any policy that is required to mitigate the risks of the Vaca Virus within.

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## The Children of Diaz-Santiago Party (the CDSP)

The CDSP has an eclectic platform with no clear political ideology. The CDSP has no clear leadership: the majority perceive of Miranda Acuna as the leader of the CDSP, but a significant minority of party members support former President Correa as the true leader in absentia. This has often led to a fractured political culture but there are key principles as to the social and political mandate of the CDSP.

The CDSP is the primary advocate for the rights of the Mabaz population in Esperanza and works to mitigate the impact of the Vaca Virus on indigenous persons. The CDSP, with Acuna, often uses strong rhetoric to counter the administration of President Lopez-Dorso. Acuna works with Brazilian indigenous groups and finds [the government of Bolsonaro and Lopez-Dorso similar in their aims and tactics against indigenous persons](#):

The CDSP is also concerned with [how indigenous persons are disproportionately impacted by pandemics](#), traditionally.

Acuna also promotes a strong culture on promoting gender parity in Esperanza. She asks representatives of the CDSP to reference the disproportionate impact that pandemics have on women and children. Acuna often refers to the 2014-2015 Ebola crisis and its impact on women and children, she asks for the CDSP to advocate for a progressive platform that will mitigate the impact of the Vaca Virus on women and children in Esperanza.

A list of texts for further reading were included.

## Pointus (Pharmaceutical Company)

Pointus is a pharmaceutical company based in Melbourne, Australia; run by CEO, Quinn Watson, an egomaniac who has a penchant for crypto investments. The pharmaceutical company is a subsidiary of the Noosa corporate group. The Noosa corporate group is subject to a number of lawsuits and is close to bankruptcy due to Watson heavily investing in unstable crypto currencies. Pointus is also subject to significant instability due to the combative nature of Watson. Watson has accused a number of other pharmaceutical companies of "being Theranos in disguise"; conversely, Watson has been described as the Australian Martin Shkreli. Watson has also been known to bait the media with speculation to cultivate public interest in Pointus products.

Watson perceives of himself as a Jordan Belfort like-character and attempts to negotiate with other parties, aggressively. He seeks to use the lack of enforceability in international frameworks that govern the development of vaccines and anti-virals. Watson has made himself familiar with the laws and procedures of the [Standard Material Transfer Agreements 2 \(SMTA2\)](#).

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**Background reading:**

[Pharmaceutical lobbying and pandemic stockpiling of Tamiflu: a qualitative study of arguments and tactics](#)

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)**

The primary thrust of the work of the Red Cross is to work with the community to support non-pharmaceutical interventions to mitigate the impacts and potential spread of the Vaca Virus. Under the auspices of the Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) Programme, the Red Cross supports response activities “like communicating life-saving messages in communities” and “to train staff and volunteers and first responders” in Esperanza.

The Red Cross wants to attempt to “prepare and adapt local education and communication materials” in Trubea and Nivea “to engage different actors in developing multi-sectoral pandemic preparedness” in Esperanza.

The Pandemic Preparedness of the Red Cross is primarily concerned with countries in the African continent. As of May 2019, the Red Cross announced that it would seek to expand into South America. The original plan was to pilot similar programs that were occurring in South America from June 2019 in Peru, Brazil and Chile – but the Red Cross pivoted to working in Esperanza in South America.

**Background information on the pandemic preparedness and strategies of the Red Cross**

- [Epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#)
- [Epidemic preparedness tools and resources](#)

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