

DEBATE

Michel Kazatchkine, Special Advisor to the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

We have time for one or two burning questions. Yes, Jean? Can we have the microphone?

Jean de Kervasdoué, Professor Emeritus of Economy and Health Management at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (Cnam), Founder of the Pasteur/Cnam School of Public Health, former Consultant to the OECD

I just wanted to ask if the diffusion of insects has to do with the ban on pesticides, because you assume that it was related to climate change. From what I know, insects love water more than heat. We had malaria in Europe in the 19th Century and malaria disappeared because we used insecticides. What do you think of that point of view?

Michel Kazatchkine

Thank you. Maybe I can turn that question first to Antoine, and then maybe, Minister, would you like to add something? Antoine?

Antoine Flahault, Director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva, Director of the Swiss School of Public Health

Yes, thank you for this question, Jean de Kervasdoué. I think you are right. It is a complex issue and it is not just a question of climate change for insects.

What is not completely true is that the role of temperature is key. It depends on the vector. For Anopheles, for instance, having warm temperatures and flooding favors its propagation and proliferation.

We have seen, for instance, in the high lands of Zimbabwe, to take one example, when the mosquito was not able to proliferate where Harare, the capital, is. It is now a place, due to global warming, which is prone to the vector proliferation.

For the dengue mosquito, it is another story because the warm weather and the dry conditions favor, surprisingly or paradoxically, the proliferation of the mosquito. Because of the drought, you collect water and you store the water close to your home, and then the mosquito proliferates very close to you in the garden, where you have this collection of dormant water for weeks.

Therefore, it is a complex issue. It is not only a question of global warming, but global warming plays a leading role.

**Michel Kazatchkine**

Thank you. Minister?

Maha Barakat, Assistant Minister for Health and Life Sciences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE

Thank you. Just very briefly to add to that, just to show the point, there are areas in the world that have eliminated malaria that are now seeing new locally-sourced malaria. For instance, some states in the United States of America are facing new cases of malaria caught within the country and not brought from another. That is a real example of the implications of what we are talking about.

Michel Kazatchkine

Thank you. With this, I see we are on time and I would like to ask you to join me in thanking all our panelists for a fantastic session. Thank you, all.