To investigate the growing threat of Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD) and to offer a platform for debate, the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) has commissioned an ‘industry first’ white paper which highlights the challenges to tackling VBD.

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Many VBDs suffer from insufficient government funding not just to incentivise the development and distribution of vaccines, but also to facilitate broader management and control.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

There is considerable evidence that changes in the phenology and distribution of a wide range of arthropod species have occurred in response to climate change worldwide. This is particularly true for ticks, and there is also some evidence of effects on mosquitoes.

**SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PRESSURES**

Social and economic pressures, in combination with inadequate housing conditions, both domestic and wild, and poor quality water, sewer, and waste management systems, allow for increased transmission. For example, major irrigation and flood prevention systems have been built in the past 50 years without regard to their effect on vector-borne diseases.

**HABITAT CHANGE**

Habitat change can have a significant impact on VBD incidence e.g., major irrigation and flood prevention systems; urbanisation in developed countries, in combination with inadequate housing conditions, both domestic and wild, and poor quality water, sewer, and waste management systems, allow for increased transmission. For example, major irrigation and flood prevention systems have been built in the past 50 years without regard to their effect on vector-borne diseases.

**PRESSURE FOR ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS**

In developed countries, environmental and health concerns have led to restrictions on the types of chemicals that can be used to control outbreaks. These concerns are now spreading to a global level.

**INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE**

For many VBDs, e.g., malaria, dengue, and Rift Valley fever, evolution of resistance is a major threat. The use of insecticides is often the only effective means to combat single species of vectors in traditional pest management practices.

**TRAVEL & TRADE**

The increased movement of goods, human, livestock and companion animals is changing the geographic and environmental footprint of VBD. It is also an important mechanism by which the transmission of novel vectors and diseases are introduced.

To read the full white paper report, visit www.ifahsec.org

This report is based on research funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings and conclusions contained within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.