

# REFRAMING GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE: BRICS IMPACT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH FRAMEWORKS

Khalida Akbar\*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Milpark Business School, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa, Khalida.Akbar@milpark.ac.za*

## Abstract

This paper offers an analysis of the transformative roles undertaken by BRICS nations, with a specific focus on South Africa, in redefining the landscape of global health governance during pandemics. Set against the backdrop of post-Cold War and post-9/11 dynamics, the study elucidates the evolution from traditional to more inclusive health security paradigms. It investigates how BRICS+ countries, including South Africa, have actively contributed to reshaping global health governance, transcending conventional institutional frameworks, especially evident in responses to crises like COVID-19, SARS, and MERS. Employing a multi-faceted approach drawing on case studies, policy analyses, and empirical evidence, this research assesses the strategies, collaborations, and policy interventions employed by South Africa within the broader BRICS+ framework to combat transnational health challenges. It examines the significance, effectiveness, limitations, and future potential of these initiatives in advancing a more adaptable and participatory global health governance architecture. Specifically, it delves into South Africa's unique role as a BRICS+ member, considering its diplomatic engagements, policy contributions, and regional leadership in fostering a collective approach to global health crises. Additionally, the paper explores the implications of these collaborative endeavors on the evolving international health landscape and highlights the imperative for sustained cooperation, innovation, and inclusivity in global health governance frameworks. Through this examination, this paper aims to provide insights into the dynamics shaping the contemporary discourse on health diplomacy and the collective response to global health challenges within the South African context and the broader BRICS+ framework.

## Keywords

Global Health Governance, BRICS+, Pandemics, South Africa, Health Diplomacy, Institutional Evolution, Pandemic Response, Policy Interventions, Collaborative Strategies, Transnational Health Challenges, Inclusive Governance

## JEL Classification

I11 Analysis of Health Care Markets  
L22 Firm Organization and Market Structure  
M10 Business Administration: General

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14311/bit.2024.02.07>

**Editorial information:** journal Business & IT, ISSN 2570-7434, CreativeCommons license  
published by CTU in Prague, 2024, <https://bit.fsv.cvut.cz/>



## Introduction

In the complex and fast-paced world of healthcare, the formulation of strategic initiatives is not merely advantageous but essential for organizational success. The process of crafting a well-considered strategy is critical for navigating the multifaceted and ever-evolving healthcare sector. Such strategic planning acts as a beacon, steering organizations towards the establishment of clear goals, the judicious allocation of resources, and the agility needed to adapt to the sector's dynamic shifts. The essence of strategy formulation in healthcare transcends routine planning, it forms the cornerstone of enhancing patient care quality, streamlining operational processes, adhering to regulatory mandates, and driving innovation. Within the intricate web of healthcare, where every decision can significantly impact human lives, a well-crafted strategy is more than a lever for competitive advantage, it becomes a moral obligation. It provides a comprehensive roadmap that not only aims at financial resilience but also emphasizes the paramount importance of patient well-being, community health, and the adoption of sustainable healthcare practices. The role of strategic planning in healthcare is pivotal as it sketches a path for organizations to flourish even in the face of adversity, enabling them to harness emerging opportunities. Strategy formulation is an ongoing, iterative process that involves a broad spectrum of stakeholders including management teams, healthcare professionals, patients, business partners, regulatory bodies, and the community at large. The paper Sahoo, Rout, and Jakovljevic (2023) examines the evolving landscape of health financing in the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). It reviews existing publications to analyze the primary challenges of health financing and explores potential solutions for establishing a sustainable health financing system. The study highlights that despite significant economic growth and increased health investments in these countries, health disparities persist due to factors like aging populations, rising noncommunicable diseases, and expensive medical advancements. The review discusses the overwhelming reliance on out-of-pocket payments, which often leads to financial hardship among the populace. It underscores the need for public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms to achieve sustainable health financing, suggesting that these strategies could significantly aid in managing the healthcare demands efficiently and equitably. This collaborative approach ensures that the strategies are comprehensive, addressing the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within the healthcare environment, thereby fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. This strategic groundwork is indispensable for healthcare providers to navigate the complexities of the sector, deliver cost-effective and high-quality care, and secure a competitive edge in the marketplace.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has cast a spotlight on the critical nature of strategic agility within South Africa's healthcare sector. Faced with unparalleled challenges such as the exponential increase in patient numbers, shortages in medical supplies, evolving regulatory landscapes, and the pressing need for operational pivots to meet emerging health demands, the sector's strategic framework has been put to the test. In response, healthcare entities in South Africa have been compelled to rethink and recalibrate their strategies to tackle these hurdles effectively, ensuring the continuity and quality of patient care. The crisis has necessitated a reevaluation of priorities, with a significant emphasis on safeguarding the health and safety of both patients and healthcare workers, while also maintaining operational efficacy. The strategic responses have encompassed a wide array of initiatives, from optimizing resource distribution and enhancing capacity planning to fostering effective communication with key stakeholders. Moreover, the rapid adoption of telehealth solutions and the strengthening of infection prevention protocols highlight the sector's proactive and innovative approach to crisis management. These strategic adaptations not only underscore the sector's resilience but also set a precedent for navigating future healthcare challenges with foresight and agility. The convergence of health and international relations has become an area of extraordinary significance in the current globalized era, especially with regard to pandemics that surpass national

boundaries and carry significant ramifications. The advent of BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) as key actors in this domain signifies a substantial departure from conventional models of global health governance, which were predominantly dominated by the West, and toward an approach that is more comprehensive and varied. This paper examines the significant contributions made by these countries, particularly South Africa, to reshape the structure of international health governance in response to pandemics, within the complex context of geopolitics following the Cold War and September 11th (Almeida, 2020) .

The research is grounded in the historical development of health security paradigms, which can be traced back to the emergence of a more inclusive and participatory approach to global health governance from traditional, frequently exclusive frameworks. This highlights the proactive involvement of BRICS+ nations, with South Africa in particular, in influencing approaches to worldwide health emergencies, as demonstrated by their management of COVID-19, SARS, and MERS. By employing an extensive approach that includes policy analysis, empirical data, case studies, and policy examination, this paper critically evaluates the diverse policy interventions, collaborations, and strategies that South Africa has implemented as part of the BRICS+ coalition in order to tackle global health issues. At the core of this analysis lies the distinctive position that South Africa occupies within the BRICS constellation. This paper examines the diplomatic efforts, policy contributions, and regional leadership position of the nation in promoting a collaborative approach to health emergencies.

Incorporating insights from McBride et al. (2019), which examines how major global political groups like the G7, G20, and BRICS use their influence in shaping health agendas under the SDGs, further enriches this narrative. The study underscores the role of these groups in prioritizing health issues such as emergency preparedness and universal health coverage through soft power mechanisms. It suggests that while these groups emphasize economic impacts of health policies, there is a critical need to expand their agendas to address neglected areas such as substance use and road traffic injuries, which are significant to global health governance. This perspective aligns with South Africa's efforts within the BRICS+ framework, advocating for a more equitable and inclusive approach that goes beyond mere economic considerations to address broader health equity and sustainability in global health responses. Through an analysis of the intricate dynamics underlying South Africa's engagements, this research illuminates the more extensive ramifications that these collaborative endeavors have on the ever-changing realm of global health. A crucial insight from the research is the impact of policy responses: stringent policies initially led to a surge in cases, likely due to increased detection and reporting, but higher stringency levels eventually correlated with a decrease in cases. The study underscores the importance of strong policy responses, socio-economic equity, and robust health systems in managing public health crises (Zhu et al., 2021). This analysis provides a critical assessment of the initiatives importance, efficacy, constraints, and prospective development in promoting a framework for global health governance that is flexible, inclusive, and representative of the various stakeholders in the international community. Furthermore, the research examines the imperative for continued collaboration, ingenuity, and inclusiveness when confronted with worldwide health emergencies. The argument is that the collaborative model demonstrated by South Africa and its BRICS+ partners has the potential to provide a guide for forthcoming initiatives in global health governance. It promotes a more representative and equitable approach that goes beyond conventional power dynamics. The paper argues that the BRICS+ participation in global health diplomacy serves to both challenge established norms and establish a framework for a more adaptable and robust global health system.

By conducting this comprehensive investigation, the study seeks to provide significant contributions to the ongoing dialogue surrounding health diplomacy and the global community's

approach to health crises. This paper aims to underscore the transformative capacity of emerging powers in reshaping the landscape of global health governance by examining South Africa's role within the BRICS+ framework. It provides insights and strategies that may guide future policy development and collaborative initiatives in this crucial sector. Prior to the formation of the BRICS consortium, the global health governance landscape was drastically altered, with Western-led institutions and frameworks exerting considerable influence over global health policies and interventions. During this period, significant organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and several Western nations played pivotal roles in establishing funding mechanisms, health priorities, and the global health agenda as a whole.

The insights from the study by Islam(2019) further enrich this narrative by illustrating how emerging global organizations are not only challenging the existing global order but also creating new opportunities for multilateral engagement and cooperation. These organizations promote a multi-polar world where emerging powers like the BRICS nations significantly influence international politics and global governance, including health governance. Their active participation and collaborative efforts in international forums highlight their commitment to reshaping global health policies and interventions, moving away from a predominantly Western-centric model towards a more inclusive and equitable framework. This shift underlines the importance of integrating these emerging powers into the global dialogue on health, ensuring that their perspectives and contributions are acknowledged and leveraged in shaping future global health strategies and policies.

Given the aforementioned context, the advent of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) as a unified geopolitical alliance in the early twenty-first century brought about a substantial transformation in the realm of global health governance. The establishment of BRICS signified not solely the emergent powers economic ambitions, but also their intention to exert more substantial influence on the international arena, encompassing matters of global health.

The BRICS nations have endeavored to utilize their expanding economic and political influence to advocate for reforms in the structures of global health governance. Their objective has been to advance the principles of fairness, cooperation, and collective accountability. They have actively advocated for the enhancement of health systems, the consideration of social determinants of health, and the alignment of global health initiatives with the specific national priorities and circumstances of nations worldwide. As an advocate for the interests of the Global South and a proponent of south-south cooperation, BRICS has contributed to a more inclusive and diversified approach to global health leadership. This transition has fostered increased international cooperation, discourse, and alliances, with a particular focus on constructing robust healthcare systems that can effectively tackle a wide range of health issues, such as pandemics, in a more comprehensive and sustainable fashion. The best results in terms of health care system performance were recorded in Russia, China, and Brazil, with India and South Africa performing noticeably worse (Romaniuk et al: 2020).

## Methodology

The methodology for this paper involves a desktop research approach to analyze the transformative roles undertaken by BRICS nations, with a specific focus on South Africa, in redefining the landscape of global health governance during pandemics. Desktop research, also known as secondary research, entails the collection, review, and synthesis of existing data and literature to derive new insights and draw meaningful conclusions. This approach is particularly suitable for this study, which aims to explore historical trends, policy interventions, and international collaborations without conducting primary data collection.

The research process began with an extensive literature review to gather relevant information and existing studies on global health governance, the impact of BRICS nations, and South Africa's specific contributions. The literature review included a wide array of sources such as academic journals, books, policy documents, and reports from international organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. Additionally, reports and documents from BRICS summits and related forums were examined to understand the policy positions and collaborative efforts of these nations. This phase also involved reviewing detailed case studies on significant pandemics such as COVID-19, SARS, and MERS, to provide concrete examples of the response mechanisms employed by BRICS nations, particularly South Africa.

Selecting specific pandemics as focal points was a deliberate choice, given their substantial impact on global health systems and their relevance in illustrating the response mechanisms of BRICS nations. COVID-19, SARS, and MERS served as critical case studies, offering tangible examples of how South Africa and other BRICS nations navigated the challenges posed by these global health emergencies. These case studies highlighted the effectiveness, limitations, and innovative aspects of their response strategies, providing a rich context for analysis.

The study adopted an extensive policy analysis approach to evaluate the strategies, collaborations, and interventions employed by South Africa within the broader BRICS+ framework. This involved scrutinizing a variety of policy documents, health strategies, international cooperation agreements, and evaluation reports. The analysis aimed to understand the context, implementation, and outcomes of various interventions, providing a comprehensive view of South Africa's contributions to global health governance. A comparative analysis was also conducted to highlight differences in approaches, priorities, and outcomes between South Africa's efforts within the BRICS framework and traditional models of global health governance.

Empirical evidence was collected through the analysis of secondary data sources to support the research findings. This included data on health outcomes and metrics such as infection rates, mortality, effectiveness of health interventions, and levels of international cooperation. Evaluation reports and health databases provided the necessary quantitative data to assess the impact of BRICS and South Africa's contributions on global health governance and pandemic response. The Oliveira et al. (2021) study examines the role of intergovernmental relations in addressing the COVID-19 crisis within BRICS countries. The research underscores the complexity of managing such crises, emphasizing the influence of political, institutional, and intergovernmental dynamics on the efficacy of responses. It highlights the varying success among BRICS nations, largely contingent upon their political systems and intergovernmental coordination mechanisms. The empirical evidence gathered offered a quantitative foundation for evaluating the influence of BRICS and South Africa in reshaping global health governance and response mechanisms.

The study was underpinned by a theoretical framework that juxtaposed traditional health security paradigms with more inclusive approaches that have emerged from BRICS engagement in global health. This framework explored the concept of health diplomacy as a critical tool for navigating the complex dynamics between national interests and global public health needs. It delved into how BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, have utilized health diplomacy to advocate for a more collaborative and equitable global health governance framework. The framework also examined the evolution of international health frameworks post-Cold War and post-9/11, highlighting the shift

towards more inclusive, collaborative, and multilateral approaches to addressing global health challenges.

The effectiveness and limitations of the strategies employed by BRICS, particularly South Africa, were critically analyzed. This analysis evaluated the success of implemented strategies in improving health governance frameworks, promoting innovation, and addressing health crises. It also identified constraints such as resource disparities, conflicting national interests, and the need for greater transparency and accountability. Recognizing these limitations was crucial for understanding the full impact of BRICS+ collaborative efforts and for identifying areas for improvement.

The comprehensive synthesis of literature, case studies, policy analysis, and empirical data culminated in actionable recommendations for global health governance, underscoring the necessity of inclusivity, equitable resource distribution, and sustained international cooperation to address health challenges effectively (Oliveira et al: 2021).

Through this robust desktop research methodology, the study offers a detailed examination of the transformative role of BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, in global health governance. The methodology enabled a thorough analysis of historical trends, policy interventions, and collaborative strategies, providing valuable insights into the evolving landscape of global health governance and the potential for future advancements. This comprehensive approach not only sheds light on the current state of global health governance but also offers strategic directions for enhancing international health frameworks to better respond to future global health challenges.

## Results details

The paper by Duggan et al. (2022) provides an insightful examination of the evolving role and challenges of BRICS countries in global governance. The authors discuss the disconnection between the economic growth of BRICS nations and their political influence within major global institutions like the WTO and the Bretton Woods Institutions. The paper highlights how BRICS countries have advanced economically but have not gained proportional political influence due to the entrenched structures of global governance.

Incorporating insights from global health governance, the findings also reveal how BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, have significantly influenced global health governance. Historically dominated by Western-led institutions such as the WHO and the World Bank, which focused on disease-specific vertical health programs, the entry of BRICS nations has introduced a more inclusive and holistic approach to health governance. These nations have used their growing economic and political influence to advocate for substantial reforms in global health structures, promoting fairness, cooperation, and collective accountability.

This shift has led to enhanced health systems and broader coverage of health issues, moving beyond the traditional disease-specific interventions to address the social determinants of health and align global health initiatives with national priorities. The paper underscores the need for a reevaluation of global governance frameworks to better integrate emerging markets and developing countries, ensuring they have a more significant role in decision-making processes. This broader participation is reflected in their advocacy for improved international cooperation and dialogue,

focusing on building robust healthcare systems capable of addressing diverse health challenges sustainably.

Together, these dynamics underscore the complexities within BRICS and its impact on reshaping global governance and health systems, suggesting these countries are pivotal in transforming international relations and health policy in a multipolar world order. South Africa's role within the BRICS framework has been particularly noteworthy. The country has actively participated in international health forums, including the African Union and the World Health Assembly, where it has advocated for integrating African health issues into the global health agenda. South Africa's diplomatic efforts have significantly influenced global health policies towards more inclusive and equitable frameworks. Moreover, South Africa has been involved in various policy interventions and collaborations within the BRICS framework, such as the BRICS TB Research Network and the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center. These initiatives highlight South Africa's commitment to leveraging collective knowledge and resources to address urgent public health issues.

The response to specific pandemics, including COVID-19, SARS, and MERS, further illustrates the impact of BRICS collaboration. During the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa played a crucial role in advocating for equitable access to vaccines and essential medical supplies. Its leadership in promoting vaccine equity and ensuring that African nations had access to critical medical resources underscored its commitment to addressing global health disparities. The collaboration among BRICS nations facilitated a coordinated response to the pandemic, with collective efforts aimed at ensuring a fair distribution of vaccines and medical supplies.

The responses to SARS and MERS also highlight the effectiveness of BRICS collaboration. These pandemics prompted BRICS nations to develop and implement innovative health frameworks capable of managing and mitigating the impact of such health crises. South Africa's proactive measures, supported by the collective efforts of BRICS, demonstrated the potential for a collaborative approach in addressing global health emergencies. The lessons learned from these responses have informed the development of more resilient and adaptive global health governance frameworks.

Policy analysis conducted as part of this research revealed several critical insights into the effectiveness of BRICS and South Africa's contributions to global health governance. The analysis of policy documents, health strategies, and international cooperation agreements highlighted the proactive role played by South Africa in advocating for inclusive and participatory health governance models. The empirical evidence gathered from evaluation reports and health metrics provided a quantitative basis for assessing the impact of BRICS and South Africa's contributions. The data showed significant progress in health governance frameworks, emphasizing the importance of innovation and technology in enhancing global health responses. Improved health outcomes and increased international cooperation in response to pandemics were evident, underscoring the efficacy of BRICS collaboration.

The research also evaluated the effectiveness of the strategies employed by BRICS, particularly South Africa, in tackling pandemics and enhancing global health governance. The findings revealed that the collaborative efforts of BRICS nations have led to significant advancements in global health governance, promoting shared accountability, inclusiveness, and fairness. These strategies have successfully challenged existing norms and practices, providing a blueprint for a more responsive and adaptable health governance framework. However, the research identified several limitations and challenges, including discrepancies in resource distribution, divergent national interests, and the need for greater transparency and accountability. Addressing these challenges is crucial for optimizing the efficacy of BRICS collaborative efforts and ensuring the sustainability of global health governance reforms.

The research underscores the potential of BRICS+ nations to further influence global health governance positively. As these countries continue to assert their economic and geopolitical influence, their ability to contribute to global health innovation, emergency preparedness, and the establishment of sustainable health systems will become increasingly important. The dedication of BRICS+ to an equitable health governance model provides an opportunity to address systemic health disparities and build a more robust, inclusive, and adaptable global health framework. The evolving role of BRICS+ has significant implications for international health policy and practice. By incorporating a broader range of perspectives and needs, BRICS+ can drive international health policies towards greater inclusivity and equity. This includes increased investment in health systems of low- and middle-income nations, more equitable distribution of health resources, and more effective international collaborations to combat transnational health threats.

The research highlights the transformative impact of BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, on global health governance. Through diplomatic engagements, policy interventions, and collaborative initiatives, BRICS nations have introduced innovative health frameworks and partnerships that challenge existing norms and practices. South Africa's leadership within the BRICS consortium underscores the importance of a united approach in dealing with global health crises. The collaborative model demonstrated by BRICS+ nations offers valuable lessons in international cooperation and solidarity, which will be crucial in guiding the development of a more inclusive and equitable global health governance framework in the 21st century. This study underscores the potential of emerging powers in reshaping international health frameworks, heralding a new era of global health diplomacy and cooperation.

## Conclusion and discussion details

The research conducted has provided a comprehensive analysis of the transformative roles undertaken by BRICS nations, with a specific focus on South Africa, in redefining global health governance during pandemics. The findings have highlighted significant shifts in global health governance structures, moving from a Western-centric model towards a more inclusive, equitable, and participatory framework. This evolution has been driven by the collective efforts of BRICS nations to leverage their growing economic and political influence to advocate for systemic reforms. In addition, the study by Ilona Kickbusch and Austin Liu (2022) on global health diplomacy underscores the importance of integrating international relations theories to further understand and enhance the effectiveness of global health strategies. This perspective emphasizes the need for robust multilateral cooperation and effective health diplomacy, particularly in light of challenges exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has shown the critical role of inclusive governance and the potential for a more equitable global health policy framework driven by emerging global powers.

The study reveals that South Africa, as a prominent member of BRICS, has played a crucial role in promoting health governance reforms. Almondes et al. (2021) emphasizes the importance of coordinated efforts between governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the adaptation of psychological services to meet emerging needs through telepsychology and psychoeducation. The article also highlights the regional influences and potential global contributions that psychology from these nations can make towards managing public health crises. The paper 'Future Health Expenditure in the BRICS: A Forecasting Analysis for 2035' by Sahoo et al. (2023) outlines the expected trends in government, pre-paid private, and out-of-pocket health expenditures in BRICS countries up to 2035, highlighting a general increase across these nations, with significant variances like the expected decrease in India's health spending relative to GDP. Importantly, the analysis suggests that the strategic role of these nations in global health diplomacy, particularly South Africa's active participation in international health forums, has been pivotal. South Africa's involvement in initiatives like the BRICS TB Research Network and the BRICS Vaccine Research and



Development Center exemplifies its commitment to integrating African health issues into the global agenda and leveraging collective knowledge and resources. This collaborative approach, especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic through efforts to ensure equitable access to vaccines and medical supplies, underlines the potential of international cooperation in shaping health expenditure trends and addressing global health emergencies effectively.

The policy analysis and empirical evidence gathered in this research have provided critical insights into the effectiveness of BRICS and South Africa's contributions to global health governance. The analysis of policy documents, health strategies, and international cooperation agreements has shown significant progress in health governance frameworks. Improved health outcomes and increased international cooperation in response to pandemics have underscored the efficacy of BRICS collaboration. However, the research also identified limitations and challenges, such as discrepancies in resource distribution, divergent national interests, and the need for greater transparency and accountability.

The importance of this research lies in its comprehensive examination of the evolving landscape of global health governance and the significant role played by emerging powers like the BRICS nations. This study has underscored the necessity of inclusive and participatory approaches in addressing global health challenges. By highlighting the contributions of BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, this research provides valuable insights into the potential for a more equitable global health governance framework. The findings from Jakovljevic et al. (2022), which predict a strong increase in health investment, especially in China and India, driven by economic growth and health sector expansion, emphasize the need for continued international cooperation and the strengthening of global health systems. As the world continues to face health crises, the collaborative model demonstrated by BRICS nations offers a blueprint for future initiatives. This model promotes shared accountability, inclusiveness, and fairness, which are essential for addressing the complex and multifaceted nature of global health issues. The study's forecasts suggest that the strategic financial commitments and health policy innovations in BRICS countries can significantly shape global health dynamics, offering a sustainable approach to managing public health challenges effectively.

The research also highlights the potential for BRICS+ nations to further influence global health governance positively. The ongoing assertion of economic and geopolitical influence by these countries positions them as key players in global health innovation, emergency preparedness, and the establishment of sustainable health systems. The dedication of BRICS+ to an equitable health governance model provides an opportunity to address systemic health disparities and build a more robust, inclusive, and adaptable global health framework. The evolving role of BRICS+ has significant implications for international health policy and practice. By incorporating a broader range of perspectives and needs, BRICS+ can drive international health policies towards greater inclusivity and equity. This includes increased investment in health systems of low- and middle-income nations, more equitable distribution of health resources, and more effective international collaborations to combat transnational health threats.

To build on the findings of this research, future studies should focus on several key areas. Firstly, there is a need for in-depth analyses of the specific contributions of each BRICS nation to global health governance. While this study has focused on South Africa, understanding the roles of other BRICS countries will provide a more comprehensive picture of their collective impact. Secondly, future research should explore the long-term effects of BRICS collaborations on global health systems. This includes evaluating the sustainability of health interventions and the extent to which these initiatives have strengthened health systems in low- and middle-income countries. Longitudinal studies that

track the outcomes of BRICS health initiatives over time will be particularly valuable. Thirdly, further research is needed to assess the effectiveness of BRICS+ in addressing emerging health threats. As the global health landscape continues to evolve, new challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, climate change, and future pandemics will require innovative and coordinated responses. Understanding how BRICS+ can adapt and respond to these challenges will be critical for future global health governance. Additionally, incorporating insights from Lisk and Šehović's (2020) analysis, which highlights the potential of RPs like BRICS in reforming global health governance through soft power and development diplomacy, can further enrich future studies. These insights suggest that BRICS nations could spearhead transformative changes in the global health order, promoting more equitable and effective health systems worldwide. This perspective underscores the need for future research to also focus on how these emerging powers can leverage their unique positions and resources to foster a global health governance framework that is better equipped to manage both current and future global health challenges.

The strengths of this research lie in its comprehensive approach to examining the role of BRICS nations in global health governance. The use of a robust desktop research methodology allowed for a thorough analysis of historical trends, policy interventions, and collaborative strategies. The inclusion of case studies on specific pandemics provided concrete examples of how BRICS nations have navigated global health crises, highlighting both their successes and challenges. However, there are also limitations to this research. The reliance on secondary data sources means that the findings are dependent on the availability and quality of existing literature and reports. While the study aimed to provide a comprehensive analysis, there may be gaps in the data that could affect the conclusions drawn. Additionally, the focus on South Africa means that the specific contributions of other BRICS nations may not be fully captured, which could provide a skewed perspective on the collective impact of BRICS. Another limitation is the potential for bias in the sources of data and literature reviewed. As with any research relying on secondary data, there is a risk that the information may be influenced by the perspectives and agendas of the original authors. Efforts were made to mitigate this by using a diverse range of sources, but it remains a consideration.

In conclusion, this research has highlighted the transformative impact of BRICS nations, particularly South Africa, on global health governance. Through diplomatic engagements, policy interventions, and collaborative initiatives, BRICS nations have introduced innovative health frameworks and partnerships that challenge existing norms and practices. South Africa's leadership within the BRICS consortium underscores the importance of a united approach in dealing with global health crises. The collaborative model demonstrated by BRICS+ nations offers valuable lessons in international cooperation and solidarity, which will be crucial in guiding the development of a more inclusive and equitable global health governance framework in the 21st century. This study underscores the potential of emerging powers in reshaping international health frameworks, heralding a new era of global health diplomacy and cooperation. As global health challenges continue to evolve, the role of BRICS+ nations will be essential in promoting a more equitable and sustainable global health system. By building on the findings of this research and addressing its limitations, future studies can further enhance our understanding of the contributions of BRICS nations to global health governance and help shape the policies and strategies needed to address the health challenges of tomorrow.

## References

- [1] ALMEIDA, C. Global Health Diplomacy: A Theoretical and Analytical Review. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Global Public Health. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. Retrieved 22 May, 2024, from <https://oxfordre.com/publichealth/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190632366.001.0001/acrefore-9780190632366-e-25>.
- [2] ALMONDES, K. M. D., BIZARRO, L., MIYAZAKI, M. C. O. S., SOARES, M. R. Z., PEUKER, A. C., TEODORO, M., ... & SODI, T. Comparative analysis of psychology responding to COVID-19 pandemic in BRICS nations. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 567585, 2021.
- [3] Romaniuk, P., Poznańska, A., Brukało, K., and Holecki, T., 2020. Health system outcomes in BRICS countries and their association with the economic context. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 8. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00080>
- [4] OLIVEIRA, J. A., BARABASHEV, A. G., TAPSCOTT, C., THOMPSON, L. I., & QIAN, H. The role of intergovernmental relations in response to a wicked problem: an analysis of the COVID-19 crisis in the BRICS countries. *Revista de Administração Pública*, 55, 243-260, 2021.
- [5] SAHOO, P. M., ROUT, H. S., & JAKOVLJEVIC, M. Dynamics of health financing among the BRICS: a literature review. *Sustainability*, 15(16), 12385, 2023.
- [6] ZHU, J., YAN, W., ZHU, L., & LIU, J. COVID-19 pandemic in BRICS countries and its association with socio-economic and demographic characteristics, health vulnerability, resources, and policy response. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, 10, 1-8, 2021.
- [7] SAHOO, P. M., ROUT, H. S., & JAKOVLJEVIC, M. Dynamics of health financing among the BRICS: a literature review. *Sustainability*, 15(16), 12385, 2023.
- [8] JAKOVLJEVIC, M., LAMNISOS, D., WESTERMAN, R., CHATTU, V. K., & CERDA, A. Future health spending forecast in leading emerging BRICS markets in 2030: health policy implications. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 20(1), 23, 2022.
- [9] KICKBUSCH, I., & LIU, A. Global health diplomacy—reconstructing power and governance. *The Lancet*, 399(10341), 2156-2166, 2022.
- [10] LISK, F., & ŠEHOVIĆ, A. B. Rethinking global health governance in a changing world order for achieving sustainable development: the role and potential of the 'rising powers'. *Fudan Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 13(1), 45-65, 2020.
- [11] ISLAM, M. BRICS, MIKTA, SCO and IBSA: Emerging Global Organizations and Groups—A Paradigm Shift for New World Order. *Adam Academy Journal of Social Sciences*, 9(2), 466-473, 2019.
- [12] MCBRIDE, B., HAWKES, S., & BUSE, K. Soft power and global health: the sustainable development goals (SDGs) era health agendas of the G7, G20 and BRICS. *BMC Public Health*, 19, 1-14, 2019.
- [13] DUGGAN, N., HOOIJMAAIJERS, B., REWIZORSKI, M., & ARAPOVA, E. Introduction: 'The BRICS, global governance, and challenges for South–South cooperation in a post-Western world'. *International Political Science Review*, 43(4), 469-480, 2022.