

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Chair  
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
2470 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Chair  
Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Lee and Coons and Ranking Members Rogers and Graham:

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of the inclusion of **\$250 million in the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill to establish the Supporting Innovative Global Health Technologies (SIGHT) Fund at the US Agency for International Development (USAID)**. A new and additive source of flexible, catalytic funding is needed for USAID to expand its support of critical **research, development, and deployment of global health products through *inclusive innovation***—centering the perspectives of the end users of these tools in their development while strengthening global scientific capacity and collaboration.

Our organizations are not all directly involved in global health research and development (R&D)—yet we all depend on its continued progress to realize our mission to address the world’s most pressing health challenges. New and improved global health products, such as diagnostics, treatments, medical devices, vaccines, and other health tools, are needed to deliver quality care to all people, no matter who they are or where they live.

R&D is essential to our efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation; curb the spread of malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases; end preventable maternal and child deaths; address antimicrobial resistance; confront the growing global burden of noncommunicable diseases; and prevent future pandemics and emerging threats. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the return on investment in R&D clearer than ever as Americans have benefited from vaccines, at-home diagnostics, and innovative treatments developed in record speed thanks to our country’s biomedical innovation ecosystem. Yet, the continued struggle to equitably distribute these tools globally underscores the need to develop products designed for settings where infrastructure is limited, electricity is unreliable, and trained health workers are scarce, among many challenges.

USAID has excelled in facilitating globally focused, use-driven R&D for decades. Many US government science agencies contribute to health innovation, but only USAID has a primary mandate to advance global health and development, making it uniquely positioned to support the later-stage development and deployment of new or improved global health tools. The agency’s far-reaching international footprint, combined with its deep understanding of community needs and culture, makes it critical for developing new health tools that are appropriate, affordable, and accessible for widespread uptake in low-resource settings—including for populations historically neglected in R&D, such as children and pregnant or lactating people. USAID has sponsored the development of dozens of game-changing

technologies, including better treatments for tuberculosis and malaria, rapid diagnostics for HIV, insecticide-treated bednets to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses, devices that save the lives of newborns and their mothers, and a meningitis A vaccine that has virtually eliminated this disease wherever used.

However, a fresh approach to funding innovation is needed to solve three interrelated challenges confronting the agency: a trend of **declining funding for R&D** relative to overall USAID global health spending; a **siloed, disease-specific approach** to innovation investments that limits opportunities for USAID to support multipurpose health tools and a responsive research portfolio that can be refocused during emergencies like COVID-19; and **growing demands on all global health funding** lines that can force difficult decisions between either using imperfect tools to drive immediate impact or developing more powerful tools to drive long-term progress. A dedicated new source of flexible R&D funding, supplementing current avenues for funding innovation from existing global health appropriations lines, could be tapped for different health challenges as needs evolve and scientific opportunities emerge, improve research coordination across the USAID Global Health Bureau, and enable the agency to make forward-looking investments by centralizing the risk inherent in funding R&D.

The SIGHT Fund could address these challenges and stock the global health toolbox of tomorrow with a dual mandate of ensuring that the process of innovation centers the perspectives of the people who will use these tools in every stage of product development and prioritizing research partnerships that strengthen scientific capacity globally, reflecting the agency's growing commitment to inclusive development.

Today's bedrock global health tools—like antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS, oral rehydration therapy to save lives from diarrheal diseases, and vaccines that have dramatically reduced child mortality globally—are the product of robust R&D investments by the US government and global partners over the past several decades. We must invest proactively in innovation today to ensure continued progress in global health in the years to come. **The SIGHT Fund, established with an initial investment of \$250 million, a level of funding representing less than 3 percent of current US spending on global health, could catalyze the development of tools that accelerate progress against emerging and enduring global health challenges**—saving US taxpayer dollars, maximizing the impact of programs, and ultimately improving and saving lives around the world.

We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health innovation and ask that support for global health R&D, including through the creation of this new funding line for innovation, not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts. We recognize that Congress faces many important budget decisions and believe that continued robust investment in global health, including through the establishment of the SIGHT Fund with a \$250 million appropriation in FY23, should be prioritized as America continues its rich tradition of global leadership.

Please contact Emily Conron at the Global Health Technologies Coalition at [econron@ghtcoalition.org](mailto:econron@ghtcoalition.org) should you have any questions about this proposal. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Signed,

1,000 Days  
3rd Stone Design  
Advancing Synergy  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

AVAC  
Bay Area Global Health Alliance  
BEMPU Health  
Better World Campaign  
Bilimetrix s.r.l.

BIO Ventures for Global Health  
Boston University Social Innovation on Drug  
Resistance Program  
Bridges to Development  
Bugworks  
Burnet Institute  
Catalysts for Change  
Center for Global Health Innovation  
Center for Innovation in Global Health, Georgetown  
University  
Christian Connections for International Health  
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations  
Coalition for Health Research and Development  
CONRAD  
Consortium of Universities for Global Health  
CORE Group  
Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (DSW)  
Dr Marri Channa Reddy Foundation  
Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Emory University  
EpiPointe  
Equalize Health  
FIND  
FREO2 Foundation  
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS,  
Tuberculosis and Malaria  
Global Antibiotic Research and Development  
Partnership  
Global Health Council  
Global Health Innovative Technology Fund  
Global Health Strategies  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
Global Impact  
HarvestPlus  
Hemex Health  
IAVI  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Innovative Vector Control Consortium  
International Business & Technical Consultants, Inc.  
International Partnership for Microbicides  
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung  
Disease  
International Vaccine Institute  
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security  
KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation  
Linux Foundation Public Health  
Little Sparrow Technologies, Inc.  
Lucky Iron Fish

Makerere University School of Public Health  
Management Sciences for Health  
Mbarara University of Science and Technology  
Medical IMPACT  
Medicines for Malaria Venture  
Modula S Inc.  
MRIGlobal  
MustER  
ONE Campaign  
PAI  
PanAfricare  
Pandemic Action Network  
Partners In Health  
PATH  
Panorama Global  
Pathfinder International  
Policy Cures Research  
Population Council  
Population Services International  
Research!America  
RESULTS  
Rice University Institute for Global Health  
Technologies  
Sabin Vaccine Institute  
Sanaria Inc.  
Seed Global Health  
Shot@Life  
Sightsavers  
Sinapi Biomedical  
Smile Train  
Society for Children Orphaned By AIDS Inc.  
South Africa Health Technologies Advocacy Coalition  
Speak Up Africa  
Texas Children's Hospital  
TB Alliance  
The BroadReach Group  
The END Fund  
The Task Force for Global Health  
Treatment Action Group  
UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences  
United to Beat Malaria  
Unlock Aid Coalition  
Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health  
Washington Global Health Alliance  
WCG Cares  
What To Expect Project  
White Ribbon Alliance  
Women in Global Health  
Zenysis