

**Global Health Technologies Coalition Outside Witness Testimony for the Record
Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
Dr. Kristie Mikus, Executive Director, Global Health Technologies Coalition**

On behalf of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of more than 45 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses advancing policies to accelerate the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools that bring healthy lives within reach for all people, I am providing testimony on fiscal year 2026 (FY26) appropriations for global health programs traditionally funded through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). These recommendations reflect the need expressed by our members working in the United States and around the globe to develop new and improved technologies for the world's most pressing health issues and ensure national and global health security. We appreciate the Committee's historic bipartisan support for global health, particularly for continued research and development (R&D) to advance new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for long-standing and emerging health challenges. We also encourage the Committee to sustain the funding for global health accounts at USAID and at the Department of State.

Stronger global health R&D positions the United States to be better prepared for the next pandemic, saves lives, and builds research capacity both at home and abroad. Public funding for global health research is a strategic investment that strengthens our economy, supports US leadership in innovation, and keeps Americans safe. We cannot afford to fall behind in this area as other nations, including China, increase their investments in global health innovation.

I am testifying today because we still do not have the technologies that we need to achieve a future where pandemics are prevented and health is within reach for everyone. In 2022, **1.3 million** people were killed by **tuberculosis (TB)**, **1.3 million** people were newly diagnosed with **HIV**, and **249 million** people were infected by **malaria**. In 2021, at least **1.14 million** people were killed by **antibacterial resistance**. Today, more than **1 billion people** worldwide are still affected by neglected tropical diseases. As we look toward the future, we cannot afford to wait for the emergence of pandemic threats with the potential to match or exceed the disruption of COVID-19 to pursue the discovery and development of new tools to protect us. Recent cuts to lifesaving programs threaten to reverse progress. Without sustained investment and congressional leadership, these numbers will only grow—with significant global health security consequences, both globally and here at home.

To develop the innovations and technologies that we need to defeat these diseases and to prevent future pandemics, the US government needs to sustainably increase—not reduce—its investments in global health research programs. Public funding is critical for this sector because, despite their lifesaving uses, commercial incentives to invest in R&D are lacking—either because the affected populations have limited purchasing power or, in the case of emerging threats, no viable market yet exists.

Furthermore, the return on investment for the United States is substantial. Data from the past 16 years show that investments in global health R&D led to economic gains in the United States and in partner countries. As told in a recent analysis conducted by a partnership between Impact Global Health and GHTC, between 2007 and 2022, \$46 billion in US government investment in global health R&D led to \$104 billion in economic activity and the creation of more than 600,000 jobs countrywide. In addition, follow-on effects from US-backed innovations are projected to generate \$255 billion for the US economy.

Over the past several months, the critical R&D work conducted through USAID funding has hit a standstill. Many of our members have had their programs terminated, putting progress toward tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges on an indefinite hold. GHTC urges Congress to assert its funding and oversight authority over programs that keep Americans safe, save lives, and maintain international stability—a key facet of our national security. We, as members of the broader global health advocacy community, respectfully request that Congress maintain the fiscal year 2024 funding for global health programs at USAID and the State Department, with inclusions of previously agreed upon increases to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Regardless of how the reorganization of USAID programs is conducted, we request that Congress appropriate **\$4.025 billion to global health programs that were being run by USAID** in the FY26 appropriations bill. This includes continued support for preventing, preparing for, and responding to health emergencies; mitigating the effects of neglected tropical diseases; reducing maternal and child mortality; developing and distributing new health technologies and vaccines—including through contributions to Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and many other programs; and supporting cornerstone initiatives like the President's Malaria Initiative and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Similarly, we request **\$6.395 billion for the global health programs at the State Department**, which accounts for the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund, and the United States' contribution to UNAIDS.

Beyond our broad asks, GHTC strongly urges Congress to view the recent USAID contract terminations as a cautionary signal that lifesaving programs—particularly those focused on global health R&D—are being deprioritized. After reviewing the list of active contracts, we found that almost none support global health R&D, which has long been a cornerstone of USAID's work. These cancellations risk squandering progress and previous US funding toward innovations such as the world's first HIV vaccine, new tools to combat drug-resistant TB, next-generation malaria vaccines, and preparedness aimed at improving access to malaria, TB, and HIV medications for children. **These bipartisan projects must remain a core part of USAID/State Department's mission and be reaffirmed in the FY26 appropriations bill.**

USAID has provided unparalleled support for the late-stage development of global health technologies for decades. It is the only US agency with a mandate to improve global health that supports the development of global health products from early-stage concepts to delivery around the world. USAID identifies innovation gaps, sponsors clinical trials, and scales new technologies to communities in need. Additionally, USAID uses novel financing models, builds interagency and multisectoral partnerships, and applies a business mindset to stretch the US government's dollar for maximum impact. The agency's unique value lies in its ability to drive late-stage R&D and scale-up of products that offer significant public health benefits but would not otherwise be funded. This unique capacity should be preserved and strengthened as part of any reorganization.

To be clear, we are not opposed to a thoughtful review of programs to ensure efficiency and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. We urge Congress to renew its request for an annual R&D investments report from USAID and to review the report, which shows the value of these investments. At the request of Congress, USAID releases this annual report on its health-related R&D investments and programs. These reports provide Congress and the global health community insight into how USAID is investing in global health research and progressing toward its health-related R&D strategy. The strategy is an important articulation of USAID's

health innovation mission and (together with the reports) is an essential accountability tool to ensure that USAID is on track to meet its health R&D goals. This request is critical to ensuring that US investments in global health research are efficient, coordinated, and impactful. This type of oversight is an essential component of responsible spending and effective programming.

It is clearer than ever that increases in investment for global health innovation are critical. There is still much that can be done—and must be done—to protect Americans' health and security. GHTC urges the Committee to continue to direct USAID/State Department to prioritize science, technology, and innovation as core pillars of its global health mission; allocate sufficient resources to support this work; and continue producing detailed, public annual reports on USAID's health R&D strategy.

Thank you.