

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 50 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses advancing the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for global health—we write to highlight the critical role of US programs that support global health research and development (R&D) and encourage your continued support for this important work.

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 increase their investments in global health innovation. Over the past several months, the critical R&D work conducted through US Agency for International Development (USAID) funding has hit a standstill. Many of our coalition 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.

Our request: In fiscal year 2026, we strongly urge the Committee to support global health research by:

- Sustaining FY24 funding levels for global health programs under the US Department of State and the USAID.
- Again, including report language directing USAID to increase global health innovation spending.
- Again, including report language requesting that USAID produce an annual report on its global health research programs.

Global health R&D is a practical and moral imperative

Why global health matters: Global health is a bipartisan cornerstone of US foreign policy. Supporting the public health of partner countries has practical and moral justifications:

- It protects Americans from national health security threats, increases global political stability, lifts economies, and most importantly, saves millions of lives.
- **Investments in global health are highly effective.** In the last 20 years, investments in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief alone have saved more than 25 million lives and were integral to the COVID-19 response in affected countries. This comes from the relatively modest investments from SFOPS global health related programs at USAID and the State department which accounted for approximately 6 cents on every 100 dollars budgeted for FY 23.
- Investments in global health R&D also lead to economic gains in the US and in partner countries. As told in a recent analysis conducted in partnership with Policy Cures Research and GHTC, between 2007 and 2022, \$46 billion in global health R&D investment led to \$102 billion in economic activity and the creation of over 600,000 jobs country-wide. This is not to mention the follow-on effects of the innovations the US invested in during that time period which are projected to generate \$251 billion and counting for the US economy.

Still, millions of people die every year because we do not have the technologies to save them.

The challenge: In 2022, 1.3 million people were killed by tuberculosis, 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 bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and 4.71 million deaths were associated with bacterial AMR. More than 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neglected tropical diseases—a group of 21 diseases caused by a variety of pathogens. Women and children are often most vulnerable, especially in low-resource settings.

The United States, as a biomedical research powerhouse, can change history through relatively small public investments.

New medical products are needed to overcome neglected diseases; to beat AMR; to replace outdated and toxic treatments; to defeat future pandemics; and to better reach low-resource, remote, and unstable settings. Examples of the technologies we need include:

- New tools to prevent, diagnose and treat drug-resistant microbial infections.
- A vaccine against HIV infection and a cure for HIV/AIDS.
- Innovative treatments and prevention technologies for malaria.
- Shorter tuberculosis treatment regimens and a more effective vaccine.
- Better diagnostics and treatments for many neglected tropical diseases.

Why public investment is needed: US government support for this research is critical because the private sector typically does not invest in technologies that have limited profit potential.

- Public investments often support Product Development Partnerships—not-for-profit organizations that convene government, science, private sector, and community partners to develop new global health technologies.
- Investments in new global health technologies for low-resource settings will naturally benefit rural and frontier communities in the US either directly or through the creation of modular platform technologies.

- Empowering countries through global health investments that lead to healthier populations lead to stronger economies and stable nations.

USAID's critical role in global health innovation

The US Agency for International Development has provided unparalleled support for the late-stage development of global health technologies for decades. **We urge Congress to affirm USAID's role in research and development in the FY26 process.**

Why it matters: USAID 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 research and clinical trials, and scales new technologies to communities in need.
- USAID uses novel financing models, builds interagency and multisectoral partnerships, and applies a business mindset to stretch the US government dollar for maximum impact.
- USAID's value-add is driving late-stage research and scale-up of global health products that offer significant public health benefits but are not supported by other public or private funders.

What's needed: We encourage Congress to include report language that details the role USAID's global health programs play in the research, development, and introduction of innovative technologies as well as its consultative function across agencies, affected communities, and private organizations to ensure the most effective use of funds for biomedical product research and development.

Request for USAID reporting on health-related research and development

At the request of Congress, USAID releases an annual report on its health-related research and development investments and programs. **We urge Congress to renew its request for this report.**

Why it matters: 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 and is aligning with the broader US global health development and security goals.

- 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 research and development strategy. This is an important accountability measure for the agency.

What's needed: We encourage Congress to include report language that **1) requests the report to be publicly posted on USAID's website and 2) either references or matches the detail of [Senate Report 116-126](#):**

Not later than 60 days after enactment of the act, the USAID Administrator shall submit the annual report to the appropriate congressional committees on USAID's health-related research and development strategy, which shall include: (1) specific health product development goals, including timelines for product development; (2) details

ongoing and planned investments in drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and devices, including collaboration with other Federal agencies as well as private sector partners; (3) a detailed description of the mechanisms for collaboration and coordination in support of global health product development between Federal agencies; (4) an assessment of any critical gaps in product development for global health; and (5) recommendations for filling such gaps to ensure that U.S. investments in global health research are efficient, coordinated, and effective.

This language is critical to ensuring that US investments in global health research are efficient, coordinated, and maximally effective.

We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health and global health innovation and ask that support for global health R&D not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts.

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC's US Policy and Advocacy Officer Alex Long at along@ghtcoalition.org if you have questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kristie Mikus

Dr. Kristie Mikus, GHTC Executive Director and GHTC member organizations listed below



American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



**AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
MICROBIOLOGY**

American Society for Microbiology



AVAC



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, U.S.



Bugworks



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation



Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*

Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



FIND



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Global Health Technologies Coalition



Global Antibiotic Research and Development
Partnership



Global Health Council



Impact Global Health



Innovative Vector Control Consortium



Medicines for Malaria Venture



PATH



Public Health Ambassadors Uganda



Population Council



Treatment Action Group



TB Alliance