

**Global Health Technologies Coalition Outside Witness Testimony for the Record
Subcommittee on National Security, the Department of State, and Related Programs
Addressing the Department of State**

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On behalf of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of more than 50 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 2027 (FY27) appropriations for global health programs funded through the Department of State and to urge Congress to maintain its FY26 funding ask of **no less than \$50 million for the Prevention, Treatment, and Response Initiative (PTRI) at the Department of State**. The recommendations outlined herein 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 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, continue to expand their investments in global health innovation.

In 2024, tuberculosis (TB) claimed the lives of **1.23 million people** worldwide, **1.3 million people** were newly infected with HIV, and **282 million people** were infected with malaria. In 2021, at least **1.14 million people** died from bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and **4.71 million deaths** were associated with bacterial AMR. Drug resistance is currently a major threat to malaria control and elimination. More than **1 billion people** worldwide are affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a group of 21 diseases caused by various pathogens. Women and children in low-resource settings are among the most vulnerable population groups.

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. 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 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.

For decades, the US government has been a leading supporter of global health R&D, with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) alone budgeting roughly \$250 million annually for this work according to its most recent available report. However, the integration of USAID into the State Department resulted in the termination of most health R&D-related awards, creating a significant gap in US support for the development of new global health tools.

Congress took an important step to address this gap in FY26 by establishing PTRI and directing the State Department to invest at least \$50 million in global health R&D. The State Department has also indicated its intent to operationalize an Innovation Fund to support this work, alongside bilateral country compacts. As these efforts move forward, it will be important to ensure that investments span the full R&D continuum, including both the scale-up of existing tools and the development of next-generation technologies through open, competitive mechanisms.

Support for the scale-up of proven products is vital and should be encouraged. At the same time, significant gaps remain in the tools needed to address persistent and emerging global health challenges, many of which require sustained investment in earlier stages of R&D. Universities, academic medical centers, and nonprofit product development partnerships have long played a central role in this pipeline, advancing affordable, fit-for-purpose solutions designed for low-resource settings. Ensuring these actors remain fully engaged in the US global health R&D ecosystem will be critical to maintaining American leadership and delivering durable health impact.

We encourage Congress to include report and bill language that details the State Department's new global health programs role in the research, development, and introduction of innovative technologies, as well as its consultative function across agencies, affected communities, and private and nonprofit organizations to ensure the most effective use of funds for biomedical product R&D. **We encourage Congress to fully fund PTRI at no less than \$50 million.**

Through PTRI, we urge Congress to renew its request for an annual R&D investments report from the Department of State and to review the report, which shows the value of these investments. At the request of Congress, USAID released this annual report on its health-related R&D investments and programs. These reports provided Congress and the global health community insight into how USAID was investing in global health research and progressing toward its health-related R&D strategy. For the State Department's new role in R&D, this request is critical to ensure 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.

In addition, we request that Congress appropriate **\$9.4 billion to Global Health Programs at the Department of State** in the FY27 appropriations bill. This includes continued support for preventing, preparing for, and responding to health emergencies; mitigating the effects of NTDs; 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, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund, and the United States' contribution to UNAIDS.

Beyond our broader funding requests, GHTC encourages Congress to closely examine how global health priorities are being reflected in the memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and the America First Global Health Strategy (AFGHS). Based on the limited number of publicly available MOUs to date, there appears to be relatively limited emphasis on global health R&D, which has long been a cornerstone of US global health efforts.

As these frameworks continue to evolve, it will be important to ensure that upstream R&D remains a core component of US engagement. Sustained investment in innovation has contributed to major advances, including progress toward an HIV vaccine, new tools to address drug-resistant TB, next-generation malaria vaccines, and efforts to expand access to HIV, TB, and malaria treatments for children. Maintaining this focus will be critical to preserving past investments and ensuring continued progress. We encourage Congress to reaffirm the importance of global health R&D within the State Department's portfolio as part of the FY27 appropriations process.

Our concern is not with the strategy's stated goals, but with how key elements are being reflected in early implementation, particularly with respect to upstream R&D. To be clear, we strongly support the success of the America First Global Health Strategy and welcome its emphasis on country ownership. Strengthening partner country capacity is essential to building more sustainable health systems and to enabling more effective collaboration on emerging infectious diseases and longstanding threats such as malaria and TB.

At the same time, recent transitions in the US global health architecture have created uncertainty for stakeholders and implementing partners. As responsibilities shift across agencies, there is an opportunity to reinforce transparency and clarity in how priorities are being operationalized. This includes ensuring that the MOU negotiation process is clearly communicated, that the Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy is adequately resourced to carry out its mandate, and that implementation remains aligned with congressional direction as outlined in the FY26 NSRP Joint Explanatory Statement and accompanying bill.

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 the State Department to prioritize research and development as core pillars of its global health mission; allocate sufficient resources to support this work; and reinstate detailed, public annual reports on State's health R&D strategy.

Thank you.