



advancing innovation to save lives

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

September 1, 2023

Dear Director Young:

As members 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 health tools to bring healthy lives within reach for all people—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 in the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) budget request.

US investment in the development and deployment of new vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and other health technologies are essential to addressing some of the world's greatest health challenges—achieving an AIDS-free generation; ending malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs); ending preventable maternal and child deaths; making progress against antimicrobial resistance (AMR); mitigating the enduring challenges associated with COVID-19; and preventing future outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs).

The early success of COVID-19 vaccines and other tools deployed during the pandemic is intimately tied to decades of investments by the federal government into global health R&D. The development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines on a dramatically compacted timeline was possible because of **past US government investments in global health R&D**, which fueled new biotechnologies, manufacturing platforms, clinical trial methods, and regulatory pathways. Nearly every COVID-19 vaccine candidate supported by the US government was built on previous vaccine research for other global health threats, including Zika, Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, and pandemic influenza.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored that R&D must be prioritized in our preparedness for, response to, and prevention of global health emergencies—but this R&D must consider the needs of all settings, including those settings with inconsistent or limited access to electricity, sanitation, health care expertise and workforce, and refrigeration. Inequitable distribution and a lack of tools designed for use in all settings to prevent and treat COVID-19 have left deep cuts in the global economy and health systems and investments in new technologies are still needed to address the pandemic in low-resource settings.

In response to the pandemic, public and private funders invested aggressively and often collaboratively to develop medical countermeasures (MCMs) to prevent, diagnose, and treat novel diseases. In the United States, this enabled progress toward at least 98 health innovations, including diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and medical devices. In 2020, public and private investment globally for COVID-19 reached \$3.874 billion—nearly equivalent to funding for product development in 2020 across *all*

neglected diseases, including HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, diarrheal diseases, and more than a dozen other diseases and conditions. **The unprecedented pace at which scientific progress was made for COVID-19 R&D is a testament to how quickly science could progress against poverty-related and neglected diseases with greater and more focused investment.**

As you develop the FY25 budget, we urge you to sustainably grow global health R&D investments at agencies within the Department of State, including the US Agency for International Development (USAID); and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA); and the Department of Defense (DoD). At this time of continued global crises, the administration must make forward-looking investments that respond to the next health threats while also committing to continue progress against the full range of enduring global health challenges.

As COVID-19 derailed or slowed programming against many other global health challenges, the global health community is urging funding increases for core global health programs in FY25—both to protect progress made against historic challenges in public health worldwide and to treat and mitigate COVID-19 and emerging health threats. To regain ground lost during the unprecedented global health emergency, GHTC’s minimum and recommended funding levels for FY25 are as follows:

<i>(IN MILLIONS)</i>	FY23 Omnibus	FY24 President’s Budget Request	House FY24	Senate FY24	FY24 RECOMMENDED	FY25 RECOMMENDED
USAID						
NEW: GLOBAL HEALTH R&D FUND (SIGHT FUND)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$250	\$250
HIV/AIDS	\$330	\$330	\$330	\$330	\$350	\$350
MALARIA	\$795	\$780	\$800	\$795	\$1,000	\$925
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	\$910	\$910	\$910	\$920	\$1,150	\$1,150
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES	\$114.5	\$114.5	\$114.5	\$114.5	\$150	\$125
NUTRITION	\$160	\$160	\$172.5	\$160	\$300	\$300
TUBERCULOSIS	\$394.5	\$358.5	\$394.5	\$394.5	\$1,000	\$1,000
GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY	\$900	\$1,245	\$475	\$900	\$1,000	\$1,000

	FY23 Omnibus	FY24 President's Budget Request	House FY24	Senate FY24	FY24 RECOMMENDED	FY25 RECOMMENDED
STATE DEPT.						
PEPFAR	\$4,395	\$4,395	\$4,395	\$4,395	\$5,140	\$5,140
GLOBAL FUND	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$2,000
CDC						
CENTER FOR EMERGING AND ZOOTIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES	\$750.8	\$799.3	-	\$750.77	\$900	\$900
GLOBAL HEALTH CENTER	\$692.8	\$764.8	\$370.7 7	\$692.8	\$1,002.3	\$1,002.3
OF WHICH GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION	\$293.2	\$353.2	\$100	\$293.2	\$456.4	\$456.4
OF WHICH GLOBAL TUBERCULOSIS	\$11.7	\$11.7	-	\$11.7	\$21	\$21
*OF WHICH PARASITIC DISEASES AND MALARIA	\$29	\$31	-	\$29	\$40	\$40
NIH						
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES	\$6,562.3	\$6,562	\$5,062	\$6,562	\$7,127.5	\$7,840.25

OFFICE OF AIDS RESEARCH	\$3,294	\$3,673			\$3,875	\$3,953
FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER	\$95.1	\$95	\$95.16	\$95.16	\$116.1	\$116.1
BARDA	\$950	\$1,015	\$1,100	\$970	-	-
NEW: EMERGING INFECT. DISEASES LINE	-	-		\$10	\$775	\$775
AMR IN ALL ACCOUNTS	-	-			\$500	\$500
ARPA-H	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$500	\$1,500	\$5,000	Robust funding for global health R&D
DOD	-	-			Robust agency-wide funding for global health R&D	Robust agency-wide funding for global health R&D

Notes: *CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria is shifting under the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases from Global Health Center, but the budget line has not yet changed.

Fiscal year 2023 (FY23)

Fiscal year 2024 (FY24)

Fiscal year 2025 (FY25)

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund)

Supporting Innovative Global Health Technologies (SIGHT)

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)

Advanced Research Projects for Health (ARPA-H)

Research and development (R&D)

US Department of Defense (DOD)

As evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the mpox outbreak, and the recent Zika and Ebola epidemics, health crises abroad often quickly become health crises at home. Furthermore, as the planet warms and climate change restructures habitable environments for vectors like mosquitos, as seen through the recent locally transmitted cases of malaria in Maryland, Florida, and Texas, global health threats are spreading. Protecting the well-being of Americans requires a globally focused, whole-of-government approach. Purposeful and coordinated investment in global health R&D is critical to both combating health threats abroad and promoting global health equity and security.

Each US agency involved in global health R&D occupies a unique niche in the fight against global disease and provides skills and leadership that are complementary in scope. Together, they support the

development, scale-up, and introduction of affordable health products, policies, and practices that promote health in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and the United States.

USAID

For decades, USAID has supported the development, introduction, and scale-up of affordable health products that save lives and lower health treatment costs in LMICs. Through partnerships with nonprofit and private-sector organizations, USAID has fostered impressive innovations for critical health technologies, including:

- Supporting research to develop safe, effective, accessible, and acceptable tools for use in low-resource settings to prevent **HIV/AIDS**, including investigational HIV vaccines and microbicides and a microbicide vaginal ring to prevent HIV infection in women.
- Playing a key role in the global effort to fight TB by supporting research to develop innovative, new drug regimens and diagnostics for drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB, including the world's first child-friendly TB medicines, developed with critical seed funding from USAID and introduced in 2015; a recently US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)–approved, all-oral six-month regimen for the treatment of drug-resistant TB also partially funded by USAID that is now a World Health Organization (WHO)–recommended standard of treatment; and a new, all-oral treatment regimen studied through CDC's Tuberculosis Trials Consortium and NIH–sponsored AIDS Clinical Trials Group that reduces the time it takes to treat drug-susceptible TB from six months to four. USAID expertise on the implementation and scale-up of these innovations is critical to the product development cycle and should continue to be prioritized.
- Supporting the development of vaccines, antimalarials, insecticides, and novel vector control tools against **malaria**, including a promising single-dose drug for preventing relapse of *Plasmodium vivax* and the child-friendly malaria drug Coartem® Dispersible. Since 2009, 450 million courses of this medicine have been distributed in more than 50 countries, saving an estimated 970,000 lives of children.
- Developing interventions to help **women and children** during childbirth in low-resource settings that may not have consistent access to electricity, refrigeration, trained health workers, or other resources, such as oxygen therapies.
- Supporting the development of drugs and diagnostics for a select group of **NTDs**, including point-of-care diagnostic tests for schistosomiasis, improved drugs for treating onchocerciasis (or river blindness), and tools to fight dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases that have been deployed from Indonesia to the Florida Keys with promising results.
- Innovating solutions to tackle **malnutrition**—which contributes to more than 40 percent of preventable childhood deaths and a myriad of other health effects—through evidence-based food technology solutions such as **micronutrient supplements, fortified foods, and biofortified, nutrient-rich staple food crops**.
- Sourcing and scaling up breakthrough innovations to combat **EIDs**, including COVID-19, Ebola, and Zika. USAID's investment in critical work through strong partnerships was crucial to combating COVID-19 globally by funding the development of and global access to new vaccines for EIDs with pandemic potential. USAID's Fighting Ebola Grand Challenge—led by the Center for Innovation and Impact—identified 1,500 innovative technologies to advance the fight against Ebola and advanced 14 by applying business-minded approaches to accelerate their research, development, and scale-up. One of these technologies is a low-cost, battery-powered tool used during both the

Ebola and COVID-19 responses that manages the flow rate of IV treatments with a simple gravity system, replacing the need for expensive, difficult-to-use infusion pumps. The Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge received more than 900 crowdsourced technology proposals and selected 26 projects to fund, which cut across vector control, surveillance, diagnostics, and other interventions.

- In March 2020, USAID issued a request for information for proposals for **low-cost, scalable innovations—including new products and service delivery approaches—that could support the international COVID-19 response**. It received hundreds of proposals, but **without dedicated funding to advance and scale them, USAID made limited investments despite the enormous scale of global need**.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, global health R&D at USAID was hindered by the lack of readily available, flexible funding. Over the past 15 years, while US funding for global health has nearly doubled, **USAID's spending on global health R&D has stagnated, shrinking as a proportion of total global health spending**. Now at less than 2 percent of overall US global health investments through USAID and the State Department, this funding has been far outstripped by the need for new tools amid growing AMR, shifting disease burdens, and emerging disease threats.

There are several structural limitations that contribute to this concerning trend. The USAID Global Health Bureau's approach to investing in R&D leaves funding decisions to the inclinations of individual disease and health area program offices within the Bureau without significant crosscutting or coordinated oversight. These offices face difficult decisions between funding immediate program and delivery needs and investing in innovations that might improve outcomes and reduce costs in the future—a perceived trade-off that tends to deprioritize innovation. But with progress plateauing across so many global health goals—even *before* the massive disruptions wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic—it is clear that these tactics will not get us across the finish line for global health challenges that the US government has invested in for decades. Scaling up global health tools that work and doubling down to develop innovations that work better are two sides of the same coin, and both must be resourced.

For these reasons, for FY25, GHTC proposes the creation of a new USAID Supporting Innovative Global Health Technologies (SIGHT) Fund with an initial appropriation of \$250 million. The SIGHT Fund would be a new and complementary source of flexible funding for global health R&D that would:

- Increase the net proportion of spending on R&D within the Global Health Bureau without siphoning off funds from disease-specific program offices.
- Provide more flexibility and predictability for USAID program managers who make R&D investment decisions and shift the risk burden of these investments away from programs already stretched thin by the requirements and secondary impacts of COVID-19, allowing them to make bolder, more forward-thinking R&D investment decisions.
- Enable greater investments in cross-disease health tools, which currently struggle to find support in the siloed, disease-specific funding structure of the Global Health Bureau—as well as innovations to address other challenges, such as AMR, which lacks a dedicated program office.
- Institutionalize innovation as a core USAID global health priority by creating healthy competition for R&D funding, prompting disease-specific program offices to more frequently and critically reflect on gaps and the innovations needed to fill those gaps to achieve US global health goals.

Like the more recently created USAID appropriations lines for global health security and NTDs, the SIGHT Fund would not need authorization from Congress since it would be an expansion of activities that the agency has done for decades. To ensure success, the SIGHT Fund should be housed within the Global Health Bureau, where it would be best positioned to support a variety of innovation needs across disease and health areas.

The administration of the SIGHT Fund could take many forms and we strongly recommend that, if established, USAID consult external stakeholders on how such a fund could operate to drive *inclusive innovation* that centers affected communities and local innovators in the product development process.

It is essential that the SIGHT Fund supplements, rather than supplants, existing funding and partnership models for global health innovation across the Global Health Bureau.

In addition to standing up this new R&D funding mechanism and maintaining support for existing bilateral health programs advancing health innovations, USAID should continue to partner with global institutions supporting health innovation for pandemic preparedness, such as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the World Bank's Pandemic Fund, in FY25.

As USAID works to implement its new five-year global health R&D strategy, it should continue to delineate bilateral investments in global health R&D and investments through outside partners. Furthermore, to improve transparency, the congressionally directed annual reports on this strategy should continue to include specific funding amounts dedicated to research and product development by each program; specific information about health product development goals and timelines; details about USAID's investments in drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and devices; details about collaborations with other federal agencies and private-sector partners; and an assessment of any critical gaps in product development for global health and recommendations for filling such gaps. This report is critical to providing insight and transparency into how USAID thinks strategically about R&D investments. In recent years, however, these reports have not consistently been made public—a trend that should be corrected to enable transparency and foster open collaborations among global health R&D stakeholders.

As health challenges persist in multiple arenas, **GHTC strongly recommends funding the Global Health Programs account at or above the minimum funding levels noted in the table above, urging USAID to invest in R&D for new global health innovations in each of the disease and condition areas within the account and support the creation of a new SIGHT Fund to center innovation as a core global health priority and support progress toward desperately needed global health tools.**

HHS

Institutions within HHS—including **CDC**, **NIH**, and **BARDA**—make major contributions to the development of new global health technologies.

CDC

CDC leads global disease surveillance, capacity-building, and the development of new tools and technologies critical to global health—such as diagnostics to identify global threats like COVID-19, Ebola, and the bubonic plague. It is a lead implementer in the Global Health Security Agenda, a partnership of more than 60 nations that works to build capacity in LMICs to rapidly detect global health risks, prevent them when possible, and respond effectively when they occur. Funding for Global Health Security at CDC

has also supported the development of national public health institutes in more than 25 countries over the past decade to help streamline public health activities and enable improved disease detection and outbreak responses. The thread connecting all of CDC's international activities is the agency's scientific and technical leadership, which makes CDC an integral part of the global health R&D ecosystem. For example, CDC has developed an HIV rapid test that can diagnose HIV in minutes and distinguish recent from long-standing HIV infections. This test, now commercialized by two manufacturers, is being integrated into routine HIV testing services in 17 US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-supported countries to establish a real-time HIV surveillance and response system.

Within CDC, the **Global Health Center (GHC)** provides expertise on immunizations, disease eradication, and public health capacity-building around the globe through its Divisions of Global HIV & TB, Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Global Public Health Protection, and Global Immunization. Among the far-reaching and high-impact work of GHC, one main priority is to "research, develop, and evaluate new tools and approaches to combat global health threats." As a global hub for infectious disease research, GHC is uniquely equipped to develop and validate tools for disease surveillance and diagnosis. These tools are critical for both tracking events of public health importance, such as EIDs, and monitoring the impact of US global health programs in settings that might otherwise have limited data collection capacity. GHC operates in some countries where USAID does not have a presence, extending the reach of US global health programming, and provides critical scientific and technical support to other agencies and interagency global health initiatives, such as PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, and USAID's NTD Program.

Historically housed as a division of GHC but in the process of migrating under the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), the Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria (DPDM) works to protect Americans and those living abroad from malaria and other parasitic diseases that can cause blindness, malnutrition, and disfigurement. One of DPDM's priorities is to develop tools for detecting, preventing, and eliminating parasitic diseases, with an emphasis on curtailing drug and insecticide resistance. The additional funding requested by the administration in FY24 and continued budget growth in FY25 for DPDM are essential for course-correcting a long-stagnated budget and resourcing the division to manage a growing domestic and global workload supporting innovation for improved tools, especially given recent reports of malaria transmission within the continental United States.

In complement to GHC, CDC's **NCEZID** provides advanced laboratory services and molecular detection techniques that enable researchers to understand and monitor infectious diseases, identify new infectious diseases of unknown origin, and develop new diagnostic tests and other tools to combat global health challenges. For example, NCEZID developed Trioplex, a diagnostic that can differentiate between Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses, and supports early-stage R&D of vaccines for infectious diseases such as Nipah virus infection and dengue, Lassa, and Rift Valley fevers.

The NCEZID Office of Advanced Molecular Detection uses DNA sequencing and advanced computing technologies to study infectious diseases, revealing insights about their basic biology that is critical to developing diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines. For instance, the office has played a vital role in determining the genetics of Ebola and Zika, as well as tracking COVID-19 variants. NCEZID serves as an international reference hub for vector-borne viral and bacterial diseases and plays a leading role in the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria to prevent, detect, and control outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant pathogens—including drug-resistant TB—that pose a growing threat to public health.

Prior to the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, TB was the world's leading infectious disease killer, impacting individuals and families around the world—including in all 50 states of the United States. The **Tuberculosis Trials Consortium (TBTC)** is a collaboration of researchers from CDC and other domestic and international partners that conduct research on the diagnosis, clinical management, and prevention of TB infection and disease relevant to improving TB programming, such as that led by USAID. TBTC has a strong record of research success: its clinical trials—which have enrolled more than 14,000 patients and volunteers around the world over the past 20 years—have supported the development and implementation of new lifesaving TB technologies and significantly improved global TB treatment and prevention guidelines. TBTC studies have enabled TB programs to cut the duration of TB prevention and treatment regimens in half. Ongoing and planned TBTC studies will further optimize TB prevention regimens, extend their benefits to children, and help accelerate the development of the next generation of TB drugs and even shorter treatment regimens for TB.

TBTC is operated by the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) within the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. Funding to DTBE has been nearly stagnant for 20 years, resulting in a 57 percent loss in real funding between fiscal years 1994 and 2021. Further, between fiscal years 2005 and 2016, DTBE reduced its share of spending on TB research from 20 percent to 10 percent. DTBE needs sustainable funding increases to continue and build on its progress in TB research. This is especially critical now because COVID-19 research, which has benefited from past investments in TB R&D, has redirected respiratory disease control resources and expertise from DTBE and its ongoing TB research. The Global Plan to End TB 2023-2030 recognized these losses and called for increased global financing for TB R&D by 2030, especially for TB vaccine R&D. Funding for TB R&D at CDC, in addition to other US agencies, including NIH, USAID, BARDA, and ARPA-H, should be increased to reach the United States' fair share funding target as identified at the 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB, which would amount to just 0.1 percent of US gross domestic expenditure on R&D.

CDC was appropriated significant supplemental funding in the COVID-19 relief bills, including robust funding for global activities, but its core annual appropriations must continue to be steadily increased to sustain this vital work and prepare the world for the next global health challenge. Investments in CDC's global activities have a direct impact on American global health security. As health systems around the world are stretched to their limit, years of hard-won progress against persistent global health threats like HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, and NTDs are at risk. Robust funding for all of CDC's global health functions is essential to mitigate this damage and ultimately ensure that Americans are protected from a range of enduring and emerging health threats. These investments are all interrelated and complementary: CDC's investments in global health security have laid the foundation for the agency's global response to COVID-19, and these investments were built on decades of sustained efforts to combat HIV, malaria, and TB; eradicate polio; and prepare for and detect influenza and other pandemic threats. The entire ecosystem of CDC's global health work requires robust funding if our efforts to prepare for the next pandemic and protect global health security are to succeed.

NIH

NIH excels at basic and early-stage biomedical research, unlocking scientific discoveries that can later be translated into lifesaving global health technologies by the private sector, nonprofits, and other US agencies. While NIH primarily facilitates basic research on global health challenges through intramural programs and external grants to universities, nonprofits, and other organizations across the United States, its ongoing investments in clinical trials for HIV/AIDS—and increasingly, trials for malaria and TB

products—also makes it one of the biggest global funders of clinical development in each of these disease areas.

Strong, steady investments in NIH over the past decade enabled the agency to lead the development of new technologies to combat COVID-19 at unprecedented speed. There are only two other known coronaviruses that can cause fatal diseases: SARS-CoV, which appeared in 2002, and MERS-CoV, which appeared in 2012. NIH funded and conducted extensive research on both, developing animal models, scientific techniques, treatments, and vaccines. These past investments enabled NIH scientists to quickly understand and immediately respond to COVID-19 with focused research and accelerated development of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccine candidates.

Because of this foundation of research on coronaviruses, made possible through robust funding, NIH scientists, within two weeks of discovering COVID-19, were able to determine how the virus enters cells; within two months, develop the world's first COVID-19 vaccine to enter human trials; and within five months, devise a comprehensive strategic research plan and distribute more than 310 research grants, averaging \$1.5 million each. After COVID-19 emerged, NIH launched and led two public-private partnerships to create new therapeutics and diagnostics for COVID-19, the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines, or ACTIV, public-private partnership and the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics initiative. Eventually powered by significant supplemental funding from COVID-19 relief bills, ACTIV was initially driven by the agency's discretionary funding, an example of how growing base funding for NIH allows for the rapid reallocation of resources as health needs emerge and shift.

For decades, NIH has been a driver of innovation for a range of enduring global health threats, with several institutes and centers serving as hubs for different elements of R&D.

The Fogarty International Center (FIC) plays an important role in accelerating science, partnerships, and technical assistance to advance new technologies for some of the world's most pressing health challenges. With less than one-fifth of one percent of the total NIH budget, Fogarty delivers significant scientific returns for global and American health, forging international partnerships to facilitate truly global research. Many FIC-trained scientists now hold high-ranking academic and government positions around the world and have made critical contributions to long-standing global public health challenges, such as HIV/AIDS, and recent threats, like COVID-19, Zika, and Ebola.

Ultimately, FIC investments abroad improve public health in the United States. FIC's investments in scientific capacity globally improve our ability to detect emerging and novel disease threats sooner. The center also creates a platform for partnerships between scientists in the United States and around the world. When FIC investments lead to new tools or interventions designed for low-resource settings, these innovations can be deployed back in the United States, where they can drive down costs and improve access to health care in rural settings—an exchange known as reciprocal innovation. Progressively increasing FIC's base budget would allow it to pursue a wider range of research priorities with extramural partners. **GHTC joins other advocacy organizations in calling for an additional \$10 million to be appropriated to FIC in each of the next three fiscal years to support sustainable growth and long-term planning in pursuit of its mission of building research capacity in partner countries.**

For over six decades, most NIH funding for neglected disease R&D has flowed through the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**, which conducts research across a range of global infectious disease threats, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, NTDs, influenza, Zika, Ebola, and now COVID-19. NIAID scientists, in partnership with Moderna, developed the first COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA-1273,

and moved the vaccine to human clinical trials just 65 days after the genome of the virus was shared—a record far shorter than any previous vaccine development timeline.

Beyond COVID-19, NIAID has recently contributed to several major global health innovations:

- NIAID supported, through a public-private partnership, the development of an innovative, automated diagnostic for TB—the Cepheid Xpert® MTB/RIF test—which is simple to use and provides results in less than two hours. In comparison, older diagnostic methods can take several weeks.
- NIAID supported clinical research demonstrating that a combination of two newer drugs, bedaquiline and delamanid, could be safely taken together to treat drug-resistant TB in HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals.
- NIAID supported preclinical research that contributed to the development of pretomanid, a new drug recently approved by the FDA for use as part of a combination therapy for highly drug-resistant forms of TB.
- NIAID developed an Ebola treatment, mAb114, which was found to dramatically improve the survival rate of infected patients in a clinical trial carried out amid a recent outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The technology underpinning this treatment has also been used in research on therapeutics for COVID-19—illustrating how continued investment in a range of global health challenges helps prime our research infrastructure and scientific knowledge base for emerging threats.
- NIAID established the Antiviral Drug Discovery Centers for Pathogens of Pandemic Concern as part of the Antiviral Program for Pandemics. These centers will work with industry to study viral families with high pandemic potential with the aim of developing new drugs that target those viral families and prepare for future pandemics. Most recently, this initiative is advancing the new AI-driven Structure-enabled Antiviral Platform.

The **Office of AIDS Research (OAR)** has led NIH’s groundbreaking work in HIV/AIDS R&D since 1988. NIH researchers first identified the HIV virus as the cause of AIDS, developed the first blood test for HIV/AIDS, and created strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the disease. One study estimated that 14.4 million life-years have been gained since 1995 by using HIV/AIDS therapies developed through NIH-funded research. Furthermore, the HIV Prevention Trials Network, a worldwide collaborative clinical trials network funded by NIH, is dedicated to the discovery and development of game-changing breakthroughs, including recently FDA-approved long-acting injectable cabotegravir. Today, as we seek to accelerate progress toward the end of HIV/AIDS in the United States in this decade and stem the tide of the disease globally, continued investment in NIH’s HIV research will pay dividends by increasing the effectiveness of our prevention and treatment tools—the need for which has increased exponentially as COVID-19 has derailed global goals to end the HIV epidemic. This request is based upon the most recent analysis of need as part of OAR’s congressionally mandated FY25 Professional Judgment Budget.

GHTC supports strong, steady increases to NIH funding to protect against the lingering impacts of COVID-19 on the US research ecosystem and to enable continued progress toward vital R&D targets and regain ground lost tackling the global fights against TB, malaria, HIV and NTDs. From any increase in overall NIH funding, there should be proportionate increases for FIC, NIAID, and OAR.

ARPA-H

GHTC supports robust appropriations for ARPA-H given the agency's potential to reduce health disparities and inequities in the United States and around the world—as referenced in the HHS announcement of the establishment of the ARPA-H Health Equity, Dissemination, and Implementation Office. We encourage the administration to ensure that ARPA-H programs have global relevance, especially in areas most likely to be neglected by the market, and produce technologies that can operate in many settings, especially settings with limited resources. We also encourage ARPA-H to ensure that researchers from around the globe are able to compete for research projects to ensure that the best ideas are funded, regardless of where they originate.

BARDA

BARDA, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the Department of Health and Human Services, supports the advanced development of vaccines, drugs, and other MCMs to protect Americans against threats to public health, including EIDs, AMR, and pandemic influenza. BARDA is perhaps the world's leading institution for developing MCMs against global health security threats through public-private partnerships. BARDA works with industry to bridge the “valley of death” between basic research and product development—so-called because many potential medical innovations stall after public funding for basic research drops off but before other public, private, or nonprofit R&D funders pick up later-stage product development efforts. Through unique contracting and incentive mechanisms, BARDA's partnerships ensure promising research is translated into urgently needed medical products by creating commercial incentives for private-sector partners to invest in R&D.

Over the past decade—and to an unprecedented extent since the emergence of COVID-19—BARDA has played a critical role in advancing the development of MCMs for a range of health threats, including naturally occurring threats, but **funding for the agency through base appropriations has not reflected this growing mandate.** The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 specifically authorized BARDA to implement “strategic initiatives” to develop MCMs against EIDs, pandemic influenza, and AMR. BARDA, however, was established in response to the anthrax attacks, and this historical legacy has bent the agency toward developing MCMs for man-made threats over naturally occurring and infectious disease threats.

Through emergency supplemental appropriations, BARDA has made a significant impact during global health emergencies. Between 2015 and 2017, BARDA helped advance at least three Ebola vaccine candidates, at least six diagnostics for Zika, and at least five Zika vaccine candidates. BARDA has also worked on a broad-spectrum antiviral called galidesivir, which has the potential to treat a variety of pathogens, including Ebola, Marburg, yellow fever, and Zika, and was tested in clinical trials against COVID-19. In response to COVID-19, BARDA has supported at least 127 products, including vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, and devices through \$25 billion in emergency supplemental funding appropriated through COVID-19 relief bills—more than 43 times its base fiscal year 2020 appropriation.

As we have all now seen firsthand, the delay between the emergence of a health threat and the development of appropriate tools to combat it costs lives and disrupts the most fundamental functioning of our global society. We cannot let this cycle repeat itself. **To fully engage BARDA's capacity to develop tools for naturally occurring EIDs—including Disease X, pandemic influenza, pan-coronaviruses, and antimicrobial-resistant pathogens—the agency needs significant increases to its base funding for these critical challenges.**

In BARDA's five-year strategic plan (2022-2026), the agency plans to establish a division for EIDs. Instead of relying on reactive funding that cannot keep pace with emerging threats, **the administration should propose to Congress a new funding line for this division with an annual appropriation of \$775 million to sustain BARDA's work on EIDs.** Creating a robust, protected funding line for this work would bolster BARDA's capacity to support the development of MCMs for the full range of priority infectious disease threats identified by health experts as most likely to cause the next pandemic or have an impact on US health security.

BARDA should also prioritize funding for tools to combat AMR. Research published in *The Lancet* in January 2022 estimated that in 2019, more than 1.27 million deaths could be attributed to AMR. This number is only expected to grow without greater investment in R&D and prevention. BARDA has already made significant contributions to the global effort to curb AMR, including through the founding of the Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X), as directed by the US National Action Plan on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. Since 2017, CARB-X has supported 92 R&D projects in 12 countries. Of these, 18 projects have already advanced into or completed clinical trials; 12 remain active in clinical development, including late-stage clinical trials; and two diagnostic products have reached the market. Indeed, BARDA is a leader across three critical stages of R&D to combat AMR, spread across three programs: preclinical research supported by CARB-X, clinical research funded through the Broad Spectrum Antimicrobials Program, and post-approval funding from the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund.

Welcoming last year's commitment to CARB-X of up to \$300 million over ten years, **GHTC recommends no less than \$500 million in funding for BARDA's work on AMR in FY25, including additional funding for CARB-X in FY25 to ensure that it has adequate resources to launch new funding rounds and replenish a clinical pipeline that WHO recently described as "insufficient" to tackle the challenge of increasing emergence and spread of AMR. Strong funding should also be provided for late-stage AMR candidates. Both additional funding to CARB-X and strong funding for late-stage AMR candidates would be in line with US support for the 2022 G7 Health Ministers' Declaration on AMR.**

To continue this progress across all BARDA programs engaged on AMR, GHTC urges that BARDA's AMR work continue to support highly innovative new classes, new mechanisms of action, and non-traditional alternatives, including support for pediatric indications; multidrug-resistant sexually transmitted infections; and CDC's full list of antimicrobial-resistant threats, including as detailed in its *Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019* report. The latter includes drug-resistant TB, the leading cause of death globally from AMR. Progress against TB is at great risk as drug resistance grows. BARDA currently conducts no research on drug-resistant TB despite its repeated identification as a global health security threat by experts and as a "leading health security threat" to the United States in congressional testimony provided by CDC. Resourcing all these elements is critical to preventing a post-antibiotic era that would threaten global health security and reverse antibiotic-dependent medical advances.

As noted in the above funding table, GHTC strongly recommends that NIH, CDC, and BARDA be funded as robustly as possible and that the administration encourage their work in global health R&D. At a moment when public health is in the spotlight as never before, CDC's role to prevent, detect, and respond to global health threats—including through robust R&D for new and improved interventions—is of utmost importance and requires increased, sustainable funding. From any increase in overall NIH funding, there should be a proportionate increase for NIAID, OAR, and FIC. BARDA's authority to pursue strategic initiatives against naturally occurring threats—reinforced in the

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019—is today significantly contributing to our nation’s response to a variety of health threats, including COVID-19, but this authority must be supported with robust base appropriations for all naturally occurring infectious disease threats, rather than a continued reliance on emergency supplemental funding as new threats emerge.

DoD

DoD responds to infectious diseases many Americans may never see up close—such as malaria, leishmaniasis, and cholera—but which military service personnel stationed in LMICs are exposed to alongside local communities. The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) contribute significantly to this mission.

For instance, because service members deployed by the US military comprise most of the healthy adults traveling each year to malarial regions on behalf of the US government, the US military has taken a primary role in the development of antimalarial drugs and an important role in malaria vaccine development. Nearly all the most effective and widely used antimalarials were developed in part by US military researchers, a remarkable accomplishment. With the latest generation of malaria medicines increasingly facing drug resistance, however, there is an ongoing need for medicines to evolve and for the development of an adult vaccine to adequately protect deployed service members, for whom taking prophylactic drugs at regular intervals is difficult.

While focused on protecting and treating US armed forces, the global health efforts of DoD and its partners include substantial R&D, infrastructure, and capacity-building programs that also benefit countries with few health care resources and improve our diplomatic relationships with other nations. For example, a new single-dose treatment approved in 2018 for a strain of malaria that sickens around 8 million people annually—including US service members—stems from research conducted at DoD and military research centers. The world’s first malaria vaccine (RTS,S/AS01), whose development traces back to the work of WRAIR and GSK in the 1980s, has now reached more than 1 million children across the three pilot countries. Data generated over the first two years of the pilot introduction showed that RTS,S reduced all-cause mortality by nearly 10 percent and significantly reduced deadly severe malaria. In addition, published results from the first three years of a phase 3 study show that combining seasonal vaccination of RTS,S with seasonal malaria chemoprevention reduced severe malaria episodes and deaths in children by about 70 percent compared to either intervention alone. RTS,S has now been recommended by WHO for widespread use.

We strongly encourage funding for DoD’s malaria drug and vaccine development programs to continue despite recent internal attempts at DoD to eliminate malaria drug and research funding—a shortsighted move that, in the midst of a global pandemic when the need for R&D capabilities for infectious diseases is at its highest, would risk the loss of world-leading infectious disease researchers, the US government’s only bench-to-bedside malaria research capabilities, premier malaria research labs, and an insectary utilized by researchers worldwide. **GHTC urges the administration to make malaria R&D for vaccines, treatments, vector control, and other related technologies a continued DoD priority and to ensure that WRAIR and NMRC are funded for this work at no less than fiscal year 2018 levels.**

We also strongly encourage continued funding for DoD’s leishmaniasis program. Leishmaniasis, like malaria, is a parasitic disease and is spread through the bites of small sandflies. DoD has historically

been a funder of leishmaniasis research, but, again, in recent years, this research has been increasingly defunded despite the need for further research and the development of a vaccine.

Another critical infectious disease with implications for both US military readiness and global health is HIV/AIDS. For decades, DoD has sponsored important HIV research. The US Military HIV Research Program led the first HIV vaccine clinical trial that showed a reduction in the risk of HIV infection in humans. This research holds promise for ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic at home and abroad.

DoD also supports research on global health security threats. WRAIR led the first clinical trials for a Marburg vaccine developed by NIH. Marburg—a deadly cousin of Ebola—is on WHO’s list of top emerging diseases likely to cause major epidemics. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of Operation Warp Speed (now the Countermeasures Acceleration Group), DoD’s Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense and WRAIR were instrumental in advancing research on vaccine candidates. DoD’s unique capabilities in developing health tools designed for use in austere settings make it an invaluable player in the global health R&D ecosystem.

DoD’s infectious disease research must be robust. If cuts to the infectious disease research programs continue, the core capabilities of DoD’s infectious disease research labs will be weakened, and researchers will be lost. When COVID-19 emerged, DoD leveraged these labs and researchers to address the pandemic by developing a safe and effective vaccine. In the future, these labs will be needed to quickly pivot to whatever new threats soldiers may face, but this adaptability requires consistent funding.

As you consider funding for DoD, we strongly recommend that you consider increases for these accounts within DoD, as well as for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, and protect agency-wide funding for global health R&D. It is critical to support infectious disease research at WRAIR, NMRC, and the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense, including their work on chemoprophylaxis, disease surveillance technologies, novel vaccines, and other countermeasures for diseases of military and global health importance.

In summation

Each agency’s work in global health research and product development is unique and contributes to a vital, whole-of-government response to developing medical technologies urgently needed to save lives around the world and protect Americans at home. These efforts are critical and must be resourced appropriately.

In addition, **investments in global health R&D are a net cost savings** compared to continued spending to treat complicated, costly health conditions and emergency spending to counter global pandemics:

- **Before COVID-19, large-scale disease pandemics were estimated to potentially cost the global economy more than \$60 billion** a year, while an investment in **R&D to prevent these pandemics was estimated to cost only \$1 billion** per year. In 2020, it was projected that COVID-19 cost the global economy more than \$375 billion *per month*. We must continue to invest in innovations to recover from COVID-19 and prevent future pandemics.
- Investments in global health R&D create jobs, grow the economy, expand US R&D capacity, stimulate private- and nonprofit-sector funding, and save costs in health treatment and services—returns that far outweigh the investment. In fact, **89 cents** of every US government dollar directed to global health R&D from 2007 to 2015 were **invested within the United States. Global health**

R&D, which improves the lives of people around the world while creating jobs, spurring economic growth, and supporting US interests and health security, is a win-win investment from both a strategic and humanitarian perspective.


- **The economic costs averted thanks to seasonal malaria chemoprevention for children was \$4.26 per malaria episode, \$144 per disability-adjusted life year, and \$14,503 per death. Seasonal malaria chemoprevention is a highly cost-effective medicine.**
- **A \$26 million investment in polio vaccine R&D in the 1950s has saved \$180 billion in polio treatment costs in the United States alone.**
- **It cost \$50 million to develop a 50-cent vaccine to combat meningitis A.** By the end of 2020, the vaccine, developed with critical support from USAID, was **predicted to have saved \$9 billion** in treatment costs.

Global health research that improves the lives of people around the world—while at the same time supporting US interests, creating jobs, and spurring economic growth at home—is a win-win investment. We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health and global health innovation, and we ask that support for global health R&D not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts. At this time of crisis, the administration must make forward-thinking choices to respond to the emergency before us and draw on the painful lessons emerging from it to ensure that we are primed and ready for the next health threat—while also committing to continue progress against the full range of global health challenges.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC Executive Director Jamie Bay Nishi at jnishi@ghtcoalition.org if you have questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



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