Global Health Technologies Coalition

Advancing innovation to save lives

Health innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global plan of action—comprised of 17 distinct goals—that will guide development efforts over the next 15 years to reduce poverty and increase economic prosperity worldwide. The SDGs follow and expand upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which achieved significant progress in global development. The new "global goals" are more expansive and ambitious than the MDGs—challenging the global community to reach statistical zeros on hunger, poverty, child and maternal deaths, and other targets.

Goal 3: Global health

Goal three is to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." Within that goal are specific targets for achieving progress on child and maternal health; HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis (TB), neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and other health challenges; and supporting research and development (R&D) for and providing affordable access to vaccines and medicines for diseases primarily impacting the developing world.

Global health R&D is essential to achieving the SDGs

We will not reach the ambitious health targets for saving mothers and children and ending the epidemics of HIV, TB, malaria, and NTDs with today's health tools. We need to develop new and improved health technologies to prevent and treat existing diseases and health challenges, address growing drug resistance, and make care more affordable, accessible, and effective.

Why should Americans care about the SDGs?

Shared responsibility and commitment: The SDGs were developed through an unprecedented collaborative process—incorporating views from governments, individuals, nonprofits, and other stakeholders—and were designed to be universal, with all countries collectively responsible for their implementation and success.

Reflection of core American values: The US has endorsed the SDGs as a reflection of our longstanding commitment to humanitarian assistance. In addition, the SDG principles of partnership and shared responsibility resonate with America's overarching development and national security goals.

Moving beyond aid: The SDGs go beyond aid and work to marshal new domestic resources from all countries, catalyze private-sector investment, and encourage innovative financing to transition developing countries toward greater economic prosperity and self-sufficiency.

What can the US do to support health R&D and the SDGs?

America leads the world in global health innovation. A history of robust investment in R&D at the NIH, USAID, CDC, and DoD and a legacy of scientific breakthroughs make the US uniquely positioned to encourage an international commitment to global health R&D.

At home: The US must continue its strong leadership in global health innovation by sustaining critical public investment, incentivizing private-sector participation, and better coordinating government and cross-sector R&D.

At the global level: The US should champion mechanisms that measure progress on global health R&D in the SDGs that will help mobilize new resources and political commitment to develop lifesaving global health innovations.

Health innovation: The key to getting to zero in the SDGs

	Malaria	Tuberculosis	Maternal mortality
How far we've come	**58%** reduction in malaria mortality since 2000	**45%** reduction in TB mortality between 1990 and 2013	**43%** reduction in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015
	6.2 million malaria deaths were averted, primarily in children under 5 years old	**37** million lives saved through treatment, prevention, and diagnostic interventions	**71%** of births globally were attended by skilled professionals
	Progress in the fight against malaria has been driven by the scale-up of existing interventions like bed nets, innovations in supply chains for antimalarial therapies, and the rollout of new treatments—like Coartem® Dispersable, a formulation specifically designed for use in children.	Many new innovations have driven progress against TB, including new treatments for drug-resistant strains of the disease and new diagnostics—like the MGIT liquid culture and Xpert® MTB/RIF test—which have reduced time to detection, improved accuracy of diagnosis, and increased identification of drug resistance.	Maternal health has improved dramatically since 2000. Contributing to this success are new innovations to treat postpartum hemorrhage, the most common cause of death of new mothers. One such innovation is the easy-to-use nonpneumatic antishock garment, a wetsuit-type device that helps reduce bleeding until a woman can be transported to care.
What challenges remain	**1/2** the global population remains at risk for malaria and drug-resistant strains are growing	**2-year** treatment course for patients with multidrug-resistant TB	**14 times** greater risk of maternal mortality in developing regions than in developed regions
	97 countries where malaria remains endemic	**70%** of patients with extensively drug-resistant TB die within one month of diagnosis	**1/2** of women in developing regions receive recommended antenatal care
Getting to zero	Malaria still threatens 3.3 billion people around the world. To truly eliminate malaria, it is critical that we continue to invest in promising new innovations, like an effective malaria vaccine, that go beyond barrier-method prevention and target the disease at its source.	Diagnosing and treating TB remains expensive and time consuming, particularly for patients with multidrug-resistant or extremely drug-resistant TB. Sustained investment in new TB drugs and diagnostics are critical to efficiently controlling the disease.	Women in low-resource settings still lack access to critical health services for pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal care. To combat this inequality and help women everywhere lead healthier lives, we must continue to invest in easy-to-use, cost-effective tools to address life-threatening complications from childbirth.