What does DoD do for global health R&D?

The Department of Defense (DoD) supports research and development (R&D) for infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and other health conditions that pose a risk to US national security and service members stationed abroad.

Why is DoD’s role in global health R&D important?

While DoD research first and foremost aims to protect service members overseas from local diseases, it also helps generate vaccines, drugs, and other health tools to combat diseases that are endemic in the world’s poorest places. Additionally, because DoD focuses on producing health tools for austere settings like the battlefield, the tools it advances are often well-suited for use in low-resource communities worldwide.

DoD research is unique in spanning across all stages of R&D, from basic research to late-stage clinical development and manufacturing, making it the only US agency that can single-handedly advance a single technology from early research to end-stage product.

DoD R&D success stories:

**MALARIA**

Development of nearly every antimalarial drug approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and the world’s first approved malaria vaccine, which is undergoing pilot implementation in sub-Saharan Africa.

**HIV/AIDS**

Supporting two ongoing late-stage clinical trials evaluating promising mosaic HIV/AIDS vaccine regimens, which aim to protect against a wide variety of global HIV strains.

**DIARRHEAL DISEASE**

Ongoing development of affordable vaccines against *E. coli* and *Shigella*, and creation of technology used in a water chlorinator device, which gives low-resource communities access to safe, affordable drinking water.

**EBOLA**

Development of the world’s first approved Ebola vaccine, which has been used to successfully quell recent outbreaks of the disease.

**COVID-19**

Supporting ongoing development of several COVID-19 vaccine candidates, including a candidate developed at DoD labs and a temperature-stable needleless vaccine; therapeutics; and diagnostics.

**CAPACITY STRENGTHENING**

Operates a network of overseas labs and medical research facilities, which provide bases for infectious disease R&D, disease surveillance, and capacity-strengthening in partner nations.

Impact of investment

DoD support has helped advance:

- 13 new global health technologies since 2000
- 18 promising products in late-stage development

R&D investment by health area

- HIV/AIDS: 24%
- Malaria: 39%
- NTDs: 11%
- Vector control: 9%
- Diarrheal diseases: 9%
- Ebola: 4%
- Other: 4%

2015 data. Abbreviations: NTDs: neglected tropical diseases.