

2012 Policy Report

Sustaining progress: Creating US policies to spur global health innovation

In recent years, the global public health landscape has seen incredible progress. Scientific leadership and a commitment to research have led to the development of game-changing innovations—including new vaccines, drugs, and diagnostic products—that are transforming global public health. Other groundbreaking health tools are closer than ever before, like the first-ever malaria vaccine, new HIV prevention options, desperately needed tuberculosis therapies, and drugs to treat neglected tropical diseases that affect the poorest of the poor. From the numerous health products already benefitting populations around the world to the next generation of lifesaving innovations under development today, the United States serves as a leader in driving the research that saves lives globally.

Despite the fact that the tools needed to test, treat, and prevent neglected diseases are getting better, in many cases, adequate drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics are simply not available. Support from the United States and other donors is critical to bridging these gaps in global health research and product development.

By following these policy recommendations from the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), policymakers in the United States can help address these inequalities and continue the US legacy of advancing innovation to save lives around the world. US investments in global health research can produce real results, and the nation must persist in its efforts to develop the next generation of lifesaving health products. US leaders have the opportunity to seize upon a bipartisan legacy and recent scientific advancements and stay focused on a critical end goal—saving lives around the world. US policymakers should:

Continued on reverse.



PATH/Evelyn Hockstein

“Health is an issue which aligns the interests of the countries around the world. If we can limit the spread of pandemics, all people benefit. ... And a healthier world is one in which every nation will have more productive workers, longer lives, and larger markets for its goods and services.”

~HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Invest in global health research and development

- Protect and sustain funding for global health product development. This should include protecting funding for agencies engaged in global health research and product development such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defense (DoD), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and US Agency for International Development (USAID).
- Include global health research and product development in key health and development policies, such as those informing the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and other US foreign assistance programs.
- Advance promising initiatives that will spur global health product development. Several initiatives announced over the past year have potential to advance global health research and innovation, including efforts at the CDC, DoD, FDA, NIH, and USAID. Policymakers at US agencies can demonstrate their commitment by moving forward with those initiatives.

Streamline regulatory processes

- Build stronger partnerships between the FDA and non-US regulatory stakeholders, including the World Health Organization.
- Prioritize the FDA's internal capacity in neglected diseases through training opportunities, by hiring staff with expertise in this area, and by engaging with regulatory authorities in countries with disease epidemics.
- Bolster the FDA's engagement with groups developing global health tools, including product development partnerships.
- Demonstrate robust congressional support for the FDA's role in global health.

Spur global health research and development

- Formally establish a cross-agency working group to explore US investment in incentives and innovative financing mechanisms for global health.
- Engage with civil society, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry when exploring US investments in incentives and innovative financing. Consultations with stakeholders can inform priorities and decisions at each stage of the process, from initial discussions, to developing recommendations for US support, to program evaluation.
- Engage with other governments and donors to explore and support incentives and innovative financing in order to maximize the impact of US engagement, leverage additional resources, and harness the considerable global momentum on this issue.
- Support a portfolio of incentives and financing mechanisms to stimulate needed research and development at all stages of the product development process.
- Conduct continuous rigorous assessment of each incentive and financing mechanism supported by the United States to ensure that funds are used effectively and efficiently.

More information about these issues can be found in the Global Health Technologies Coalition's annual policy report, available online at: www.ghtcoalition.org or by request from: info@ghtcoalition.org.



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The Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) seeks to engage and inform US decision-makers about policies to accelerate the creation of new tools to address longstanding global health problems in low-resource settings. These tools include new vaccines, drugs, microbicides, diagnostics, and other products. The coalition advocates for increased and effective use of public resources, incentives to encourage private investment, and streamlined regulatory systems. The GHTC is housed at PATH and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.