

2013 Policy Report

Renewing US leadership:

Policies to advance global health research

The fruits of science have saved the lives of millions around the world. Investments in research from a range of global partners have led to the creation of new vaccines, drugs, and other health tools that eliminated smallpox, dramatically reduced measles cases, and contributed to the near-eradication of polio across the globe. More recent scientific breakthroughs contributed to the development of lifesaving vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, insecticides and other products for a range of diseases and conditions, including: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, women's health, neglected tropical diseases, and childhood killers such as diarrhea and pneumonia.

The United States government has long invested in the promise of science and innovation, supporting lifesaving health discoveries like those listed above. In fact, the US government is the largest supporter of global health research and development (R&D) in the world. Health research breakthroughs serve a remarkable humanitarian purpose and reap domestic rewards by creating US jobs, spurring business activity, and engaging a range of partners in the US private, nonprofit, public, and academic sectors. R&D also guarantees that new medical products will have a much greater public health impact at a lower cost, thereby reducing expenditures over the long term.

In order to sustain the progress in global health product development and to address emerging needs, continued support from the US government and its partners is needed. For many neglected diseases, adequate drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics simply do not exist. Infectious diseases still claim the lives of millions each year, and emerging challenges such

Continued on reverse.



PATH/Gabe Biencycki

*We have never witnessed
a time of greater promise for
advances in medicine than
right now.*

- NIH Director Francis Collins.

as drug and insecticide resistance pose a threat to health across the globe. New vaccines, drugs, tests, and other health tools are desperately needed, and progress cannot be made without a sustained investment in R&D.

These policy recommendations from the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) offer concrete steps that Congress and the Obama Administration can implement to strengthen the US legacy in global health R&D and, more importantly, save lives around the world.



PATH/Evelyn Hockstein

The US government has long supported innovation for global health, aiding the development of lifesaving vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other health tools around the world.

Recommendations include:

- Congress and the administration must protect and—where possible—increase funding for global health research and product development. Policymakers must prevent sequestration and ensure that the federal budget demonstrates a renewed commitment to global health research, with bolstered funding levels across the US government for R&D programs.
- Where they have budget discretion, US agencies engaged in global health research and product development must sustain robust investments in the development and delivery of new tools for public health worldwide.
- The US government should develop a strategy to coordinate its global health research and product development efforts.
- The US Food and Drug Administration should continue to elevate global health in its mandate by creating an office of neglected diseases, building stronger partnerships with global regulatory stakeholders, ensuring that it can review health products for all neglected diseases, taking steps to increase transparency by reporting to Congress on its neglected disease activities, and strengthening its internal capacity on global health.
- The US government should collaborate with other governments and donors worldwide on incentives, innovative financing, and R&D funding coordination.

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) is a group of more than 25 nonprofit organizations working to increase awareness of the urgent need for tools that save lives in the developing world. These tools include new vaccines, drugs, microbicides, diagnostics, and other devices. 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.