

USAID SIGHT Fund

Supporting Innovative Global Health Technologies Fund

A new solution to supercharge inclusive innovation and stock the global health toolbox of tomorrow

In the fight to end the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation has powered progress. Scientists and researchers—with significant investment from US government partners—have rapidly developed new vaccines, drugs, and tests that could end this crisis once delivered to everyone globally. Americans now viscerally understand how dramatically different life looks and feels before and after the creation of health products for a widespread health threat—how quickly everyday life is transformed with access to reliable diagnostics, progress toward effective treatments, and of course, the arrival of effective vaccines.

Unfortunately, for the enduring epidemics that don't often make headlines—malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, neglected tropical diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and others—serious innovation gaps persist, leaving communities around the world relying on deeply flawed diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools...or, all too often, no tools at all.

The creation of a new **Supporting Innovative Global Health Technologies (SIGHT) Fund, under the leadership of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), could help fill these innovation gaps.** For decades, USAID has supported the research and development (R&D) of new global health products, but funding for this critical work has stagnated, and a fresh approach to innovation investment is needed. By supercharging USAID's innovation capacity, the SIGHT Fund will accelerate global health progress—while aligning with Administrator Samantha Power's vision of “an Agency for inclusive development...tackling problems abroad in a way that is responsive to our partners, that will save lives, and that will advance American interests and values.”

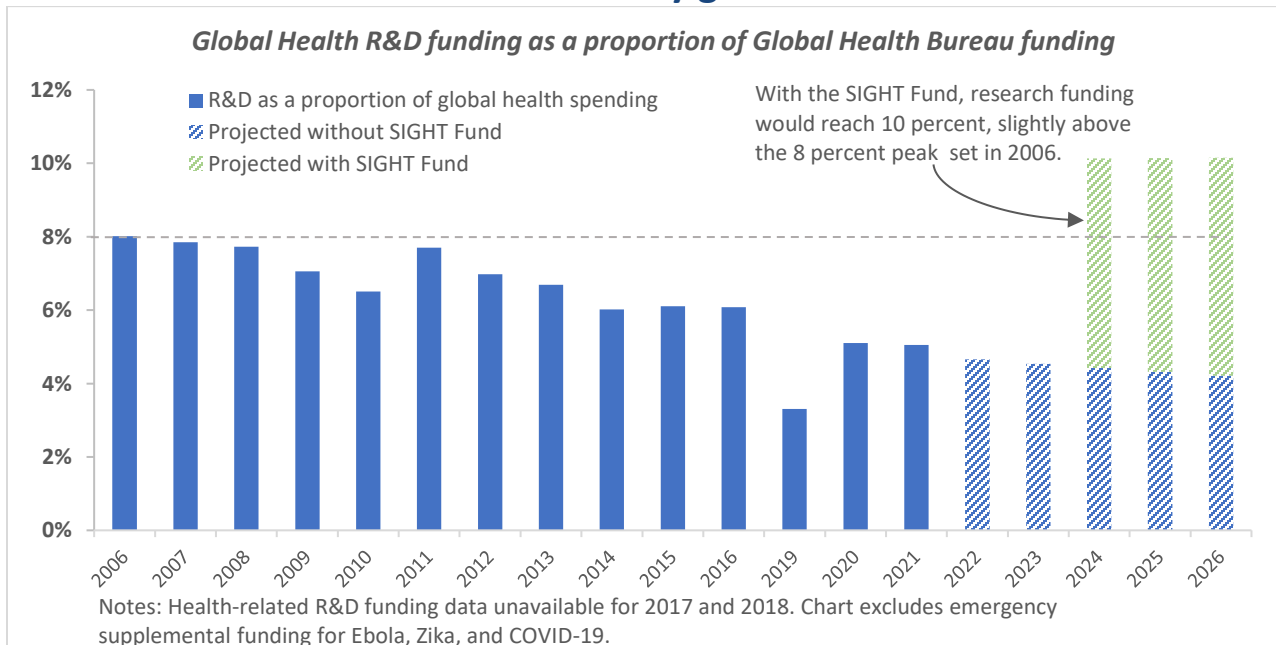
What is the SIGHT Fund?

- A proposed source of **flexible, catalytic funding** to develop new global health products at USAID to be launched through an initial appropriation of **\$250 million to the USAID Global Health Bureau.** This level of dedicated innovation funding would raise total annual USAID investments in global health innovation to a healthy target of about 10 percent of overall Global Health Bureau (GHB) funding.
- Based within the GHB, the SIGHT Fund would be **disease agnostic**, able to be tapped for different health challenges as **R&D needs and opportunities evolve.** The fund would supplement, rather than supplant, existing mechanisms for supporting R&D within the bureau, providing **new pathways to make big bets on innovations that could transform global health delivery and reduce future costs.**
- The SIGHT Fund could catalyze investment in the **most neglected stages and types of global health research**—such as the valleys of death between basic research and clinical development, early- and late-stage clinical trials, product approval, and launch and scale.
- The SIGHT Fund would be designed to **center the perspectives and priorities of people in affected communities**—the end users of innovations—in investment decisions.

Why is the SIGHT Fund needed?

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| <p>USAID funding for R&D has not kept pace with growth in global health investments.</p> | <p>SIGHT Fund would bring innovation funding in line with need.</p> |
| <p>USAID has funded health R&D for decades. Its investments, however, have stagnated, shrinking as a proportion of total global health spending despite wide innovation gaps across leading global health challenges.</p> | <p>An initial appropriation of \$250 million would bring total annual USAID health R&D funding above the level it was at in 2006, when it peaked as a proportion of GHB funding.</p> |
| <p>GHB leaders are forced to choose between immediate delivery needs and transformative innovation investments.</p> | <p>SIGHT Fund would remove the burden of R&D risk from disease- and population-specific programs.</p> |
| <p>USAID program officers are forced to decide between funding programs using proven, but imperfect, tools and funding innovation that could dramatically increase the impact of programs in the future—lowering costs in the long term.</p> | <p>By empowering program officers to invest in innovation through additive resources, the SIGHT Fund would remove the burden of risk for program officers, enabling them to make smart investments in game-changing innovations.</p> |
| <p>Innovation at USAID is siloed by health area.</p> | <p>SIGHT Fund would improve coordination.</p> |
| <p>Funding for innovation today is primarily drawn from disease- and population-specific appropriations accounts, limiting the ability of USAID to fund products that address multiple health issues or explore new R&D areas.</p> | <p>The SIGHT Fund would be “disease agnostic,” enabling it to fund the most promising innovations that may cross health issue areas and fund emerging R&D priorities. As a centralized, additive source of innovation funding, the SIGHT Fund would improve research coordination across the agency.</p> |

How could the SIGHT Fund sustainably grow R&D investment?



Why should the SIGHT Fund be housed at USAID?

USAID is one of several US agencies that contribute to global health R&D. What distinguishes it, however, is its unique capabilities and proven experience in advancing scalable products for global health needs:



PATH/Eric Becker

What are some examples of USAID’s global health innovation track record and what more could be done with the SIGHT Fund?

| Innovations making an impact today thanks to past USAID investments | Current USAID innovation goals the SIGHT Fund could supercharge | New innovations that could be on the horizon with the SIGHT Fund |
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| <p>The child-friendly malaria drug Coartem® Dispersible, which has saved the lives of nearly 1 million children in the past decade.</p> <p>MenAfriVac®, a low-cost meningitis A vaccine that has virtually eliminated meningitis A epidemics wherever used.</p> <p>A low-cost bubble CPAP device to treat infants in respiratory distress that provides the same quality of care at 1/10th the cost of standard machines.</p> | <p>Rapid diagnostic tests that deliver results at the point of care—essential for controlling enduring epidemics and rapid response during health emergencies.</p> <p>A woman-controlled HIV prevention tool—a microbicide vaginal ring, developed with USAID support—that could also be used for family planning with continued R&D.</p> <p>New insecticides and vector-control tools to counter threats like malaria.</p> | <p>A new and improved vaccine for tuberculosis, second only to COVID-19 as today’s leading infectious killer.</p> <p>Desperately needed tests and treatments for neglected tropical diseases—many of which are currently prevented with drugs originally developed for veterinary use.</p> <p>New and improved tools to counter growing drug resistance and protect the impact of decades of US investment in global health.</p> |