

# SPARKING INNOVATION TO SAVE LIVES

## HOW THE US CAN ADVANCE GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGIES

2011 POLICY REPORT



PATH/Mike Wang

Over the past year, the world witnessed remarkable breakthroughs and innovations in global health. A new meningitis vaccine, costing less than 50 cents per dose, was launched in West Africa and promises to prevent disability and death from the disease. Recent advancements in women's health, including research for a microbicide to prevent HIV infection, have the potential to save millions of lives. Researchers are closer than ever before to developing new vaccines to prevent malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and dengue fever. The United States has played a key role in these and many other global health breakthroughs, and the nation is poised to accelerate scientific innovation for new health technologies.

Despite these remarkable achievements, there is still much work to be done. Some of the tools needed to achieve major improvements in health and development do not yet exist, and often those that do are outdated or difficult to administer. The United States can make significant gains in research and development for health products that target diseases imposing a large burden of death and disability on millions of people each year.

### *Now is the time to act.*

The following policy recommendations from the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) offer ways for US decision-makers to accelerate scientific innovation and facilitate the rapid introduction of safe, effective, and affordable new health technologies. By following these recommendations, US policymakers can build on the nation's commitment to science and innovation and long tradition of leadership in these areas, helping to ensure that the next generation of global health tools reaches those most in need. US policymakers should:

### *Ensure wise US investments*

- Sustain and protect US investments in global health research and product development.
- Develop concrete plans to incorporate research and development as a key priority within US global health and development programs and initiatives.
- Ensure that US investments in global health research are coordinated, efficient, and streamlined among all agencies engaged in global health research.

*Continued on reverse.*



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



PATH/Gabe Blenczycki

### *Streamline regulatory processes*

- Ensure that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) releases the recommendations on the agency's role in global health developed by its Congressionally mandated neglected disease review group.
- Establish stronger partnerships between the FDA and other regulatory stakeholders, such as the World Health Organization, the European Medicines Agency, and endemic country regulatory authorities.
- Enhance the FDA's internal capacity in reviewing products for neglected diseases.
- Bolster the FDA's engagement with groups developing global health tools, including product development partnerships and other nontraditional product developers.
- Include appropriations language in the US budget to support and enhance the FDA's role in global health and fund the agency to fulfill this role.

### *Stimulate 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 during every stage of the process of exploring US investment in incentives and innovative financing—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 complement US taxpayer investments.
- 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 assessments of each incentive and financing mechanism that the United States supports.



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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.