



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo Credit: Bobby Neptune for USAID

# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY FACT SHEET

## THE CHALLENGE

**Global health security (GHS)** is the existence of strong and resilient public health systems that can **prevent, detect, and respond** to emerging infectious disease threats, wherever they occur in the world. Since the start of the 21st century, infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics have increased both in severity and frequency. Around the world, millions of people have lost their lives and livelihoods because the world lacked the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to COVID-19, Ebola, Marburg, Mpox, and other **emerging infectious disease threats**.

## USAID'S GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY PROGRAM

**USAID's Global Health Security (GHS) Program** seeks to prevent and mitigate the increasing occurrence and severity of emerging infectious disease threats. **Since 2014** – when the most widespread Ebola outbreak in history hit West Africa and in turn galvanized global action around strengthening global health security – **USAID has invested more than \$1.6 billion** to ensure the necessary systems are in place to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious disease threats wherever they exist. USAID's GHS Program invests in projects implemented by a wide variety of partners, including non-governmental organizations, U.S. and host-country universities, the private sector, multilateral organizations, research institutions, and various local partners. These investments are vital to U.S. national security, key to preparing the nation and the world for biological threats, and save lives in the United States and around the world. In all of these efforts, USAID proudly collaborates with other USG partners, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of State (DOS), and Department of Defense (DOD) among others to optimize resources and capabilities in achieving the United State National Biodefense Strategy targets.

# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



## STRENGTHEN GHS CAPACITIES IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

USAID's GHS Program provides support for countries and regions to more effectively **prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics**. This effort is key to the [United States National Biodefense Strategy](#) commitment to assist **at least 50 countries** to achieve "demonstrated capacities" in five GHS technical areas by 2025<sup>1</sup>. Investment areas include disease surveillance; national laboratory systems; human resources; antimicrobial resistance; zoonotic diseases; biosafety and biosecurity; infection prevention and control; and risk communication and community engagement, among others.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK RESPONSE

USAID's Outbreak Response Team (ORT) – a core component of the GHS Program – **improves outbreak response** by supporting countries through efficient coordination, consistent messaging, informed decision making, and strategic alignment of USAID's priorities. **Since the beginning of 2022, the ORT has been activated for multiple U.S. responses**, including the global mpox outbreak; Ebola outbreaks in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Marburg outbreaks in Equatorial Guinea, Ghana and Tanzania; and a severe cholera outbreak in Malawi.



## MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS

USAID works with multilateral partners to catalyze assistance and strengthen global health security capacities in additional countries. This includes investments in the **Pandemic Fund**, which finances critical investments to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities at national, regional, and global levels, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. It also includes investments in the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)**, which accelerates the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enables access to these vaccines during outbreaks.



## INTERCONNECTED GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

USAID's broader global health portfolio is inextricably linked with GHS. All global health programs provide a baseline of support for countries that is essential to achieve outbreak preparedness and response objectives. These include health systems resilience, primary health care, maternal and child health and nutrition, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), and food security.

<sup>1</sup> "Demonstrated capacity" is defined as 80% achievement on the [WHO International Health Regulations monitoring scale](#)