

FROM HEALTHY TO SECURE

Insights from global health
and security leaders

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From Healthy to Secure: Insights from Global Health and Security Leaders

A DEVEX SPECIAL REPORT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PATH

Over the past few decades, the international community has made major investments in global health, which have saved countless lives and contributed to economic growth worldwide. These investments translate into many different forms of global health engagement, from training health workers to providing vaccines, to improving disease detection and surveillance. But as global dynamics change and new health threats emerge, donor nations are justifiably reassessing and realigning their health strategies and commitments.

The intersection of global health and security is one critical but still nascent area of study. Today, the world is more crowded and mobile than ever, meaning a health threat somewhere is a threat everywhere. People are gravitating towards urban areas, particularly in developing countries, and fleeing countries that fail to provide basic safety and opportunity. Mass migration, food and water insecurity, and climate change impact both human security and global stability. Trends such as rising anti-microbial resistance and risk of bioterrorism are altering the threat environment. New actors have entered the scene, including the private sector and militaries, which will have an increasingly strong voice in the health security conversation. The 2014 Ebola outbreak sparked a new sense of urgency around the security implications of health emergencies.

Devex, in partnership with PATH, embarked on an effort to learn more about the challenges and opportunities at the nexus of health and security and we decided to go straight to the experts to do so. Through more than 40 in-depth interviews from across the health, development, business and security sectors, we learned that there are many opinions, nuances and themes associated with how to approach these issues. Yet if anything is clear, it is that today is a unique time to pursue urgent action on global health to drive security, safety, and stability across the world. The purpose of this report is to illustrate, through a wide range of professional opinions and perspectives, how different forms of global health engagement are reinforcing global security and steps the international community can take to maximize investments.

Among many questions, we asked them: how they perceive the linkages between health and security; how health-related threats are evolving; what global health organizations and programs are contributing to global stability; and what is needed to advance global health security solutions.

While this report is not a comprehensive assessment of the many elements affecting global health and security today, it aims to capture the views of diverse stakeholders and highlight the ways global health contributes to the security and stability of nations. We hope the report adds value to ongoing global health policy discussions and strengthens the case that global health investments and activities help create a safer, more secure and stable world.

Navigating the Health-Security Intersection

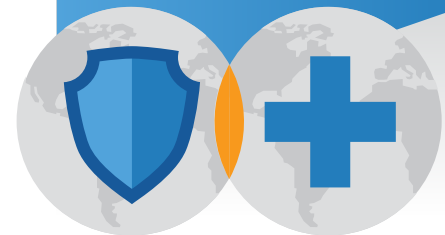
At the turn of the 21st century, the narrative surrounding the health and security intersection fundamentally changed. In January 2000, a U.S. National Intelligence Estimate concluded that the infectious disease threat “will complicate U.S. and global security over the next twenty years” and “endanger U.S. citizens at home and abroad, threaten U.S. armed forces deployed overseas, and exacerbate social and political instability in key countries and regions in which the U.S. has significant interests.” The NIE, and other studies around the same time, reframed and raised awareness over the intersection of global health and security. Over the course of the last two decades other major health events, including the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak and 2014 Ebola crisis, influenced how the international community perceived and approached the health and security intersection.

STRONG LINKS BETWEEN GLOBAL HEALTH AND SECURITY

There is an across-the-board consensus among interviewees that global health and security are linked and that global health security must be considered as one of the major components of broader national and international security.

More than half of the leaders we spoke to assert that health is a key part of social stability and epidemics and pandemics can disrupt normal social activity and destabilize governments. Most respondents also believe that beyond disease outbreaks, poor health infrastructure can cause or exacerbate mass migration, distrust in government, local disputes and public disorder. They note that fragile and conflict-affected states are particularly vulnerable to individual and collective health insecurity, which can push affected populations to seek potentially extreme and violent alternatives for survival.

All interviewees indicate links between global health and security.



We can no longer talk about security as one set of issues and health as another set of issues. We all fully appreciate that there is an intersection between the two domains. This intersection is going to play out on the ground not only during emergency response, but also during times of proactive work in strengthening health systems and delivery.

—Capt. Paul Reed, interim director, Center for Global Health Engagement, Uniformed Services University

Afghanistan has historically been one of the least healthy nations in the world, which is closely related to the country's instability. And there's often talk that if Afghanistan was a more healthy country, it would have been more stable and we would not have had the terrorist uprising that we saw both with the Taliban and with Al Qaeda.

—Dr. Anthony Fauci, director, U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



Health impacts the economic growth and development potential of all nations. And ultimately, that interplay influences the overall stability and security of countries and regions around the world, particularly for us, our key allies, and partners. The United States recognizes global health threats and our National Security Strategy acknowledges that to protect Americans, we must help strengthen global efforts to combat health threats.

—Dr. Christopher Daniel, senior advisor for global health engagement, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense

RESOUNDING ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS

According to respondents, healthier societies foster stronger economic growth and productivity, which in turn provide a foundation for local, national, regional, and global stability. Overall healthier populations are better positioned to grow their economies, while weak health systems and unhealthy populations are major obstacles to economic growth.



Health equals wealth. We know that when communities are healthier that they're wealthier, that there's more opportunity for economic development. If you extend that further, you could say there is a possibility of more stability when individuals are able to provide for their families and their communities.

—Caroline Roan, vice president, Corporate Responsibility, Pfizer Inc. president, Pfizer Foundation

79 percent of interviewees say that health emergencies disrupt economic activity, trade, and labor productivity, causing economic losses.

79%



Chevron goes to great lengths to build the resources for our workforce health and safety and purposefully contributes to our host communities' capacities in health. However, when we look at how infectious disease can destabilize or immobilize markets, we have to be realistic. It could hurt our ability to operate despite our business continuity plans and it could undermine our markets. If our markets are not requiring products because they're frozen or sub-optimal, then our markets will decline, our business will decline.

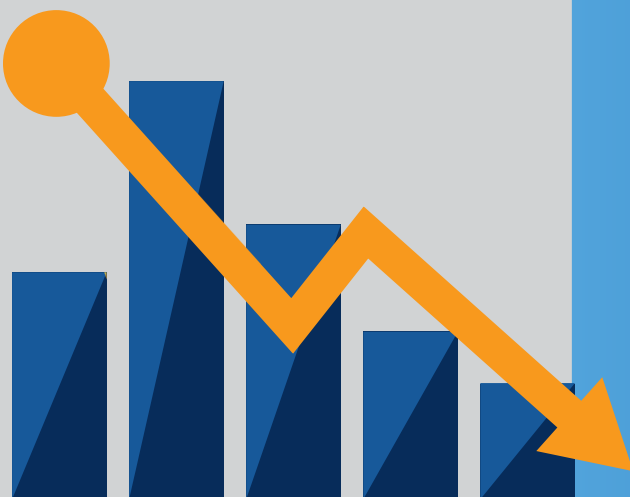
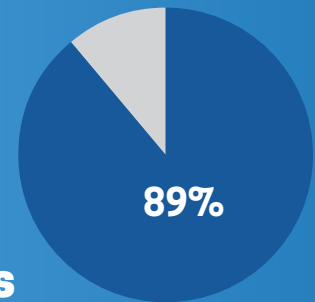
—Dr. James Allen, senior advisor for public policy and corporate responsibility, Chevron

TODAY'S INTERCONNECTED WORLD RAISES THE STAKES

In today's highly interdependent global economy, health shocks can impact economies, including the continuity of business, in places well beyond their origin. Respondents from across different sectors believe businesses are vulnerable to inadequate health systems and infrastructure, which could result in major economic losses. The majority of interviewees contend that infectious disease outbreaks and other health threats pose serious economic risks and consequences to global commerce, trade, and jobs.

Respondents also argue that the potential impact of a disease outbreak is exacerbated by the interaction of multiple risk drivers that affect an economy. Aside from the direct cost of treating illness, health events can cause public fear and hysteria that reduce work force productivity and impact a wide range of sectors, including trade, tourism, and transport.

89 percent of respondents believe business could suffer major economic losses as a result of inadequate health systems and infrastructure in developing countries.



NOT THE TIME TO SCALE BACK GLOBAL HEALTH INVESTMENTS

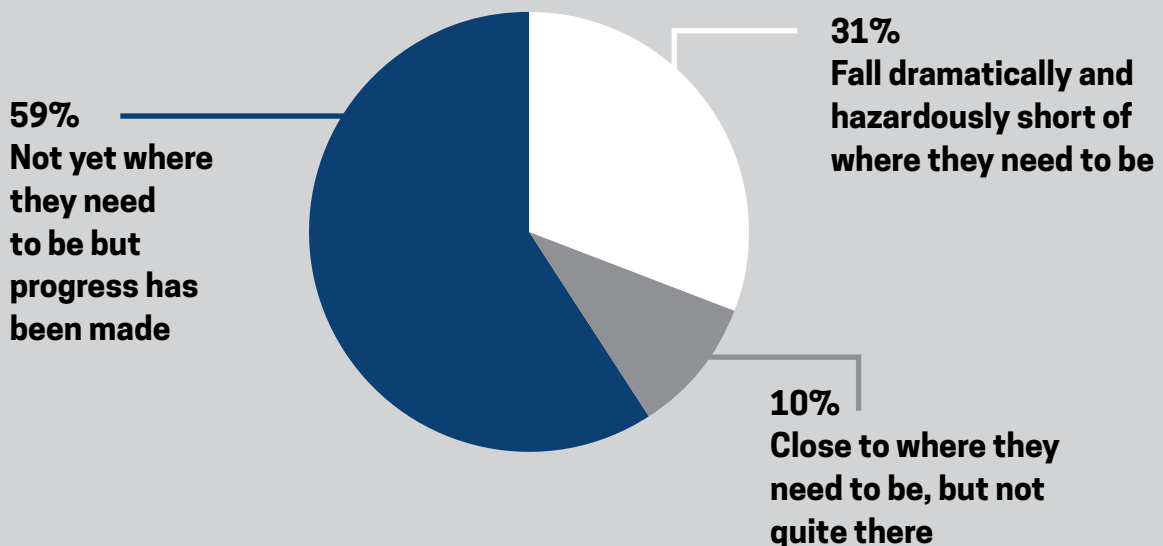
The world has made tremendous progress in global health over the last 20 years. Often referred to as the golden age of health funding, the period between 2000 and 2010 saw donor investments to combat disease increase significantly. More recently, however, donor commitments have slowed and the funding environment remains uncertain for the foreseeable future. Interviewees warn that current global health investments and activities are inadequate with regards to creating a safer, more secure and stable world. Not a single respondent believes that current global health investments and activities are enough, while 31 percent believe that they fall dramatically and hazardously short of where they need to be.



There is much higher consciousness and understanding of the nature of the problem and there has been much programmatic innovation. What we need is a unified vision and strategy; adequate, recurrent and predictable funding; and an organizational structure to execute.

—J. Stephen Morrison, senior vice president and director, Global Health Policy Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Towards creating a safer, more secure and stable world, how would you describe current global health investments and activities?



A Complex and Evolving Threat Environment

Sustaining commitments to global health is particularly important as health threats continue to evolve. According to interviewees, the world is at greater risk from global health threats today than ever before. Over 90 percent of the respondents agree that inefficient health systems and poor overall health in low and middle-income countries represent a threat to more developed countries and global stability overall. At the same time, 50 percent of interviewees believe that the international community is unprepared to deal with a public health emergency of international concern. Another 21 percent note that global preparedness depends on the type and scale of the disease outbreak.

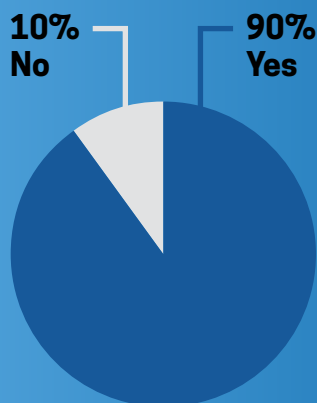
TOP THREE MOST FREQUENTLY CITED HEALTH THREATS:

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PANDEMICS

Respondents indicate that infectious disease outbreaks, especially airborne influenza, form the greatest contemporary health threat. Interviewees agree that few events could kill as many people as an influenza pandemic and regularly referred to the Spanish flu of 1918-1919 as a prime example.

Do inefficient health systems and poor overall health in low and middle-income countries represent a threat to global stability?



Few things could kill as many people as an influenza pandemic. Few threats can cause as much economic disruption as the contagion of fear triggered by a rapidly escalating epidemic. Threats arising in one part of the world can threaten other countries. So, it is absolutely the case that advanced economies, such as the UK and the US, have significant interest in ensuring that the basic level of health security even in the poorest parts of the world is stronger, to prevent these threats arising. Once they gain momentum, they're very difficult to counter.

—Peter Sands, former CEO of Standard Chartered Bank, current chair of the World Bank International Working Group on Financial Preparedness and Senior Fellow at Harvard University

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ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Interviewees warn of the global emergence of resistant microbes, which leave fewer options to treat common infections. The growth of these so-called “superbugs” stems from the misuse and overuse of antimicrobial drugs and the distribution of poor quality medicines.



I think that the anti-microbial resistance problem is growing both in developed and underdeveloped countries. It's one that the security people are catching on to now. But it's a very different kind of security challenge, one that needs long-term action.
 —Simon Rushton, associate fellow, Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House and lecturer in politics, University of Sheffield

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BIOTERRORISM

Respondents also suggest that there is a heightened risk of the release and global spread of biological agents, including bacteria, toxins, and viruses. Referencing the persistent threat of global terrorism, respondents highlight the potential for these attacks to inflict health insecurity, sow fear, and disrupt economies. Several interviewees point to a recent commitment by the U.S. government to develop and implement a comprehensive biodefense strategy.



There are also engineered diseases and biological weapon threats. You can engineer flu into Q fever or Spanish influenza. Many countries have a biological weapons program. There's no effective arms control mechanism to deal with biological weapons, no verification system. Terrorist groups have chemical warfare capabilities and can transition to biological warfare, which are harder to destroy and have a more rapid propagation rate.
 —Dr. Jamie Shea, deputy assistant secretary general for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO

Other factors influencing the health threat environment:



Globalization



Conflict & Human Insecurity



Non-Communicable Diseases



Climate Change

Global Health Driving Security and Stability

The Ebola crisis established unprecedented international awareness of global health security which is being reflected at the highest levels of international policy, dialogue, and action. While acknowledging that much more work can and should be done, interviewees stress that global health security is an opportunity to drive coordination and partnership across the diplomatic, global development, national security, and public health communities.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION IS CRITICAL

Respondents believe that building constructive partnerships is critical in order to mitigate health threats around the world. Effectively tackling health security requires close collaboration within and between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. In the last 20 years, health causes have provided a constructive platform and model to advance international, interagency, and multi-sector goals to create a safer, more secure and stable world.

“ *Global health engagement is a great avenue for partnership across the U.S. government and among other health and security institutions around the world.*
—David Smith, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, U.S. Department of Defense

Most respondents acknowledge progress in bringing critical groups or bodies together, but cite the need to improve global coordination.



Critical groups or bodies to advance global health security:



WHO 52%



Private sector 40%



Developing country governments 38%



Civil society & NGOs 31%



Developed country governments 29%



Foundations 24%



U.S. government 21%



Military 14%



WHO is absolutely key and central, and there is opportunity for success with the arrival of a new dynamic WHO director and a talented Director of Health Emergencies. It will be very important for them to respond to infectious disease emergencies with new vigor and effectiveness in ways that weren't on display during Ebola.

—Dr. Tom Inglesby, director of the Center for Health Security of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

BUILDING ON RECENT PROGRESS IN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

While many countries still lack preparedness to effectively detect and respond to emerging health threats, significant global progress has been made. Interviewees point specifically to the success of the Global Health Security Agenda as an effective program to advance global health security that the international community can and should build on in the future.



Global Health Security Agenda

THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA

Since its launch under U.S. leadership in February 2014, the Global Health Security Agenda membership has grown to more than 60 countries. The GHSA aims to help countries prevent, detect, and respond to emerging disease threats by implementing WHO international health regulations. The GHSA also established metrics and indicators to measure pandemic preparedness as well as a voluntary and collaborative process to assess progress known as Joint External Evaluations. GHSA members and advocates describe the initiative as “an irreplaceable and proven mechanism for promoting measurable change in international preparedness to prevent and combat biological threats” and endorsed a five-year extension as it expires in 2019.



45 percent of respondents cite the Global Health Security Agenda as a positive example of international commitment and partnership.

Other effective U.S. global health security programs referenced by interviewees:

- Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)
- Emerging Pandemic Threats Program (EPT)
- Biological Engagement Program (BEP)
- Global Disease Detection Program (GDD)
- Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response (GEIS)



What is really fascinating about these global threat reduction programs is that there is actual engagement of the traditional security community in global health issues.

—Julie Fischer, associate professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Co-Director, Center for Global Health Science and Security, Georgetown University



Global health security is a great example of public-private partnership. It's bringing forward what we do best.

—Alan Tennenberg, chief medical officer, Johnson & Johnson

Private sector competencies that contribute to global health security:



Technology



Supply chains



Logistics



Effective management



Innovation



Nimbleness and flexibility

HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector engagement in global health is nothing new, but it has gained special momentum in recent years. Understanding the severity and urgency of global health security, the private sector has expressed tremendous interest in supporting and partnering with the public and non-government sectors. At the same time, the critical support the private sector provided during the Ebola relief and recovery effort cemented the idea that business is critical to responding to health and other emergencies.

Over 40 percent of interviewees explicitly mention the need to better engage the private sector to advance global health security.



I believe it is extremely important, on top of good will and interest, to engage the private sector. Vaccines, antibiotics, and personal protective equipment are all developed by the private sector. Therefore, the private sector industry is a major public health partner for global health security. Not to mention their role in communications. In addition, looking at the supply chain, it is very clear that we cannot operate without the private sector.

—Guénaél Rodierg, director, Country Health Emergencies Preparedness and IHRs at WHO

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

The establishment of the Global Health Security Agenda's Private Sector Round Table (PSRT) in early 2016 affirmed this sector's commitment in combatting disease and epidemics. Led by Johnson & Johnson and the GE Foundation, the PSRT engages industry to help prepare and respond to health-related crises. The PSRT Technology & Analytics Working Group, for instance, is developing new and better ways to track and analyze the outcomes of the Global Health Security Agenda's Joint External Evaluations. "When looking at the results of the JEE, we quickly realized that much of the most important information is locked away in 30 to 40 page long PDF files," says Jennifer Esposito, who heads health and life sciences at Intel.

A **publicly available tool** enables countries to better understand and track their health security capabilities over time and identify gaps as well as opportunities for improvement. The ultimate goal of the JEE tool is to become a one-stop-shop for governments to view, track and address global health security capabilities. "We understand the importance and power of data for effective decision-making. It's simple, with better knowledge it is easier to direct health system strengthening efforts and we believe that this tool will be a valuable resource for all GHSA stakeholders," reveals Julie Whipple, Global Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at the technology company Qlik.

STRONG HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE UNDERPINS HEALTH SECURITY

According to respondents, controlling infectious disease outbreaks and other health events at the source is the most effective way to protect from health threats. But health infrastructure in many low- and middle-income countries is often insufficient and unable to deal with today's evolving health threat environment. Over 80 percent of interviewees are of the view that to improve global health security the international community must focus on strengthening local health infrastructure.



There is an emphasis today on creating global mechanisms to detect and respond to infections, which is a good safety net. However, the most important contribution that is still lagging is the strengthening of the core capacity of public health systems at the national level.
—David Heymann, head and senior fellow, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House

WHAT ABOUT MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES?

Strengthening health infrastructure is not only important in low-income countries. The outbreaks of SARS in Toronto, Canada and MERS in South Korea are reminders that more developed nations are also often unprepared to respond to public health emergencies.

“I’d be very careful to say it is just poor countries which are facing a problem. In fact, the developed world has lost its culture of infectious disease management, prevention and control.”

— *Guénaél Rodierg, director, Country Health Emergencies Preparedness and International Health Regulations at WHO*

According to respondents, non-infectious disease programs, such as child and maternal survival programs, and prevention programs through vaccination, such as those targeting polio, have contributed significantly to building the health infrastructure necessary to combat infectious threats. A majority of interviewees cite the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief as an example of a targeted global health program that has strengthened health systems and positively influenced the security and stability of partner countries.

Percentage of respondents that cite health system strengthening as essential to improve health security:

Security experts



Health experts



Overall



When we talk about health systems, we are really talking about the relationship between the community and the health system. PEPFAR is intentionally building global health system infrastructure, and is also deliberately strengthening communities and civil society.

—Ambassador Deborah Birx, U.S. global AIDS coordinator and special representative for global health diplomacy

VIEW FROM THE FIELD: U.S. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

“I have had the honor of participating in outstanding discussions with country teams, who are working to advance the GHSA every day. During a call following the beginning of the U.S. government engagement to advance the GHSA, the U.S. country team described their plans in East Africa. To further reinforce the GHSA and its role in strengthening countries’ broader health systems, they proactively decided to create a separate section of the GHSA country work plans, which would focus on how programs like PEPFAR and maternal and child health were contributing to the different indicators of the GHSA.

In this way, the country team could synchronize multiple programs working together to advance lab capacity, epidemiology workforce training, and other crosscutting issues. My experience with our country teams really showed me how the GHSA is becoming a mechanism for horizontal collaboration across a number of different types of programs to advance countries’ whole health systems and, more importantly, to achieve specific, measurable targets. This is what success looks like.”

—*Dr. Elizabeth Cameron, senior director for global biological policy and programs, Nuclear Threat Institute and former senior director for global health security and biodefense on the White House National Security Council staff*

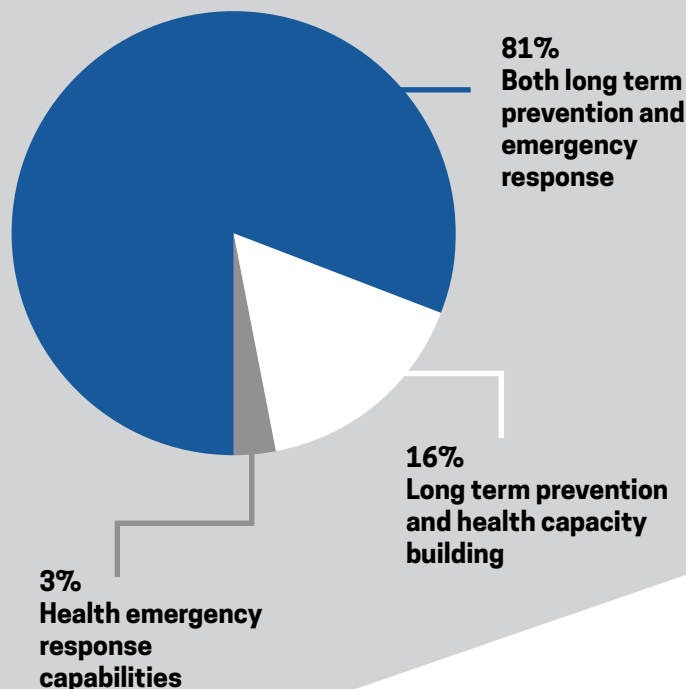
69 percent of respondents cite traditional health and vaccination programs as critical examples to build global stability and security.



PRIORITIZING GLOBAL HEALTH INVESTMENTS

The majority of interviewees suggest that both long-term prevention and emergency response are equally important and agree that building a resilient health infrastructure that makes the world safe and secure will require going beyond existing health security initiatives. In order for GHSA and other targeted health security initiatives to succeed, the international community must sustain commitments to long-range health programs, health system strengthening, capacity building, and health innovations that bring quality healthcare to more people, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable.

In a resource-constrained environment, what should global investments prioritize?



“

The vast majority of diseases, pandemics included, are born from the confluence of poverty, health inequity and poor delivery systems. Authentic and durable global health security will only be realized through health system strengthening and capacity building that brings us closer to achieving health equity.

—Dr. John Meara and Dr. Brian Till, Harvard Medical School

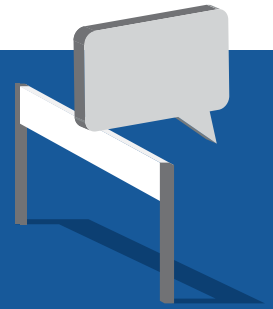
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We need to maintain the global focus, as well as U.S. leadership engagement, attention and investment on these issues. That is priority if we want to prevent the spread of infectious diseases globally. And therefore reduce the potential impact both on economics as well as ultimately on security.

—Dr. Christopher Daniel, senior advisor for global health engagement, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense

Obstacles and Messaging

Interviewees cited various obstacles to advancing global health security and recommend ways to improve messaging to gain broader support.



OVERCOMING HURDLES

INSUFFICIENT UNDERSTANDING OF RISK

Interviewees note a lack of understanding and awareness of health as a security risk from both the public and government.

“ *The biggest obstacle is the recognition of this kind of threat. We underestimate the degree of risk to human lives and economies from infectious disease outbreaks.*

LACK OF POLITICAL WILL

Several respondents say global health is not a core agenda item for many governments.

“ *Number one would be political will. Without political will, resources aren't allocated and that's despite the fact that we've had significant adverse health events occurring again and again. And we seem to have an inherent short-term memory and interest when it comes to that sort of thing.*

FEAR-DRIVEN AWARENESS

A fear-based response can be counterproductive as it may cause people to stay away rather than help. Others note that media coverage and politics today are already excessively driven by fear.

“ *For some reason, public health is terrible at getting the word out for what we do, what needs to happen, what our successes are, why we need funding. We're not good at that at all. The only time when we are is when there is a worldwide outbreak that scares people.*

INEFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Several interviewees note that the health and security communities need to do a better job at articulating the risks and threats associated with global health's impact on security.

“ *The real challenge is communicating a risk that has not affected most people directly. And the challenge is in striking the right balance between alerting people to the real risk, making them understand it, and not fatiguing them using worst-case scenarios and scare tactics.*

MESSAGING MATTERS

PURSUE SECURITY ARGUMENT

Despite some concerns around linking global health to security, most respondents recommend highlighting the risks of global health for social and political stability to unlock funding.

“ For policymakers, what resonates most is the risk to your own country, domestic risk. So it is important to explain why these disease outbreaks that may occur somewhere else are actual domestic security risks.

HIGHLIGHT ECONOMIC COSTS

Over half of the respondents suggest emphasizing the cost effectiveness of preparedness through investment in health systems as opposed to the high economic costs of responding to a crisis.

“ Focusing on the economic implications when there’s a crisis, on what it could do to the international economy, often seems to get much more attention from policymakers and politicians.

RISK OF “OVER SECURITIZING” HEALTH

Some interviewees stress that it is important to acknowledge the limitations of evaluating health purely through a security lens. Health experts caution, for instance, that routinely tying health considerations to security concerns is inappropriate because access to healthcare is a moral obligation and fundamental right. What has been called the “securitization” of health can also cause disregard for other health events that deserve attention but are not deemed security threats.

MESSAGING MATTERS

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Some respondents note that highlighting the risks to individuals and their families resonates best, particularly with the public.

“ *Emphasizing personal tragedies that are the outcome of poor health systems are most powerful for the public.*

APPEAL TO HUMANITARIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Several interviewees say positioning global health risks as a threat to human lives will reach more policymakers and the public.

“ *I believe that humanitarian impact, saving lives, and improving people's health always resonates with people.*

STILL FINDING ANSWERS

The majority of interviewees believe more research is needed for the international community and policymakers to better understand the links between health and security.





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