



# GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA INVESTMENTS SAVE AMERICAN LIVES

International Public Health Laboratories Keep Outbreaks from Becoming Global Threats

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa) is an initiative that helps equip countries around the world to better respond to disease outbreaks so they do not become global epidemics. By strengthening systems worldwide, GHSa ultimately protects the health of Americans at home. The goals of GHSa are echoed in the White House's 2019 Biodefense Strategy:

“It is a **vital interest** of the United States to manage the risk of biological incidents. In today's interconnected world, **biological incidents have the potential to cost thousands of American lives, cause significant anxiety, and greatly impact travel and trade.**”  
— White House's 2019 Biodefense Strategy

## PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES: A CORNERSTONE OF GHSa



Public health laboratories play a foundational role in the three goals of GHSa: prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks. The testing done by these laboratories is essential for identifying disease and getting patients into treatment, and informs public health response with real-time data.

### PREVENT

#### Ensure Safe Handling of Specimens

To ensure specimens are shipped and tested appropriately, staff are trained in biosafety and proper laboratory practices. This:

- ✓ Avoids accidental or malicious release of harmful agents
- ✓ Prevents laboratory acquired infections

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GHSa-funded countries have trained staff on biosafety and biosecurity to prevent avoidable infection.

### DETECT

#### Increase Access to Testing

As laboratories expand their testing, improve testing accuracy and introduce new instrumentation, they are able to increase their testing capability and capacity. This:

- ✓ Identifies outbreaks earlier and accelerates testing to minimize specimen backlog
- ✓ Increases the number of diseases that can be detected
- ✓ Expands the ability to test new emerging threats and pathogens

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GHSa-funded countries have detected dangerous pathogens using new equipment and capabilities.

### RESPOND

#### Provide Real-Time Test Results

Electronic laboratory data systems provide quick, efficient and accurate tracking and analysis of test results and laboratory data. They also report test results back to clinicians and public health officials to determine patient care and public health action. This:

- ✓ Informs outbreak responses and public health interventions in real-time
- ✓ Guides timely international preparation and engagement

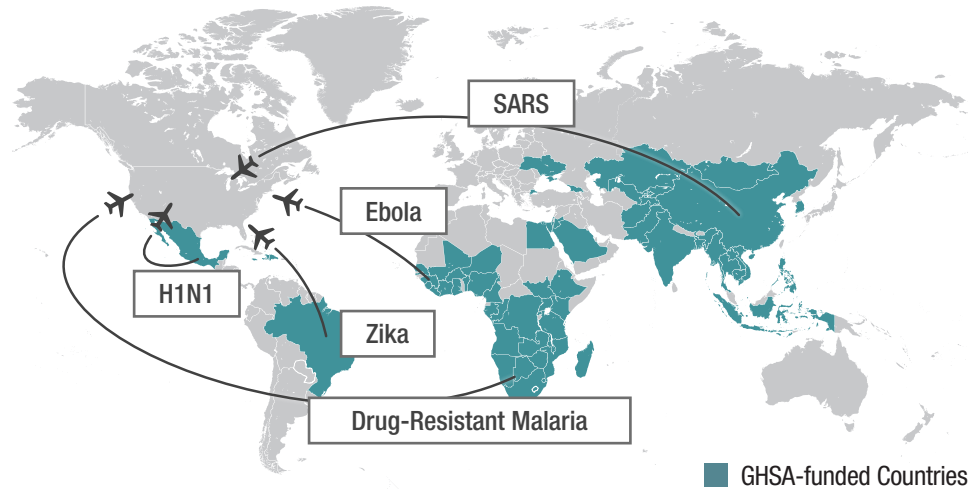
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GHSa-funded countries have strengthened response coordination and shared information across public health, animal health and law enforcement.

# PANDEMICS: ONLY A PLANE RIDE AWAY



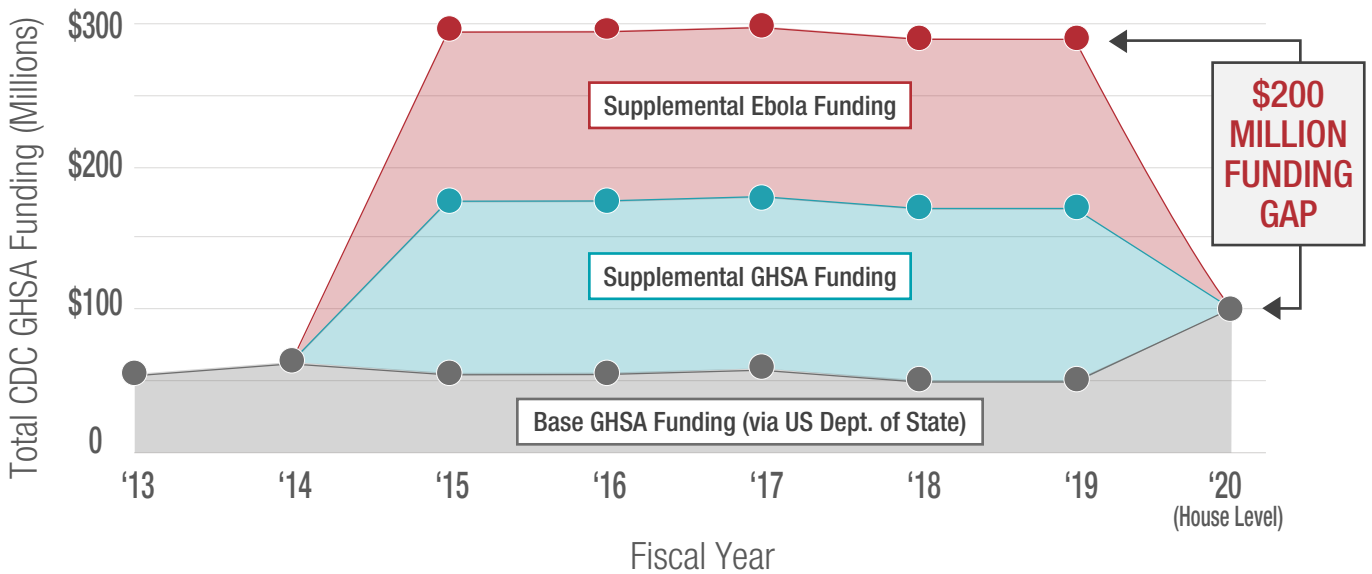
Several recent disease outbreaks have reached the US after Americans brought them back from affected areas. The anticipated decrease in GHSA funding would mean that these countries will be less able to equip themselves with the supplies, technology and training needed to protect their people—and, by extension, the rest of the world—from future pandemics.



# CUTS TO GHSA FUNDING ENDANGER AMERICAN LIVES



One-time Ebola funding, distributed in Fiscal Year 2015 by the federal government, enabled great strides in building global public health laboratory capacity. Gains will erode at the end of Fiscal Year 2019 when the funds run dry. Global public health cannot afford to play “catch-up” during an outbreak, and America may not be able to stay ahead of the next epidemic.



**THE RISKS OF  
65% LESS  
GHSA FUNDING**

- ⊗ Outbreaks will rapidly become uncontrollable and spread to the US
- ⊗ Laboratory infrastructure will be easily overwhelmed by large volumes of testing
- ⊗ Weaponization of biological agents will be harder to prevent and detect