

*Advancing innovation to save lives*

January 12, 2016

Administrator Gayle Smith  
United States Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Smith:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 25 nonprofit organizations working to increase awareness of the vital role health technologies play in saving lives in the developing world—we celebrate your confirmation as Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As we embark on the post-2015 agenda and set goals to achieve the next big milestones in global health and development, your leadership and experience will be key in guiding the US Government's principle development agency.

Global health innovations are critical to achieving the United States' goals of ending preventable maternal and child deaths, curbing the spread of infectious diseases, and achieving an AIDS-free generation. While we have seen tremendous success in global health over the past decade—in part due to advancements in the development of new vaccines, drugs, and other health technologies—we cannot meet ambitious new global health targets using only the interventions we have in hand today. It is important that we continue to prioritize research and development (R&D) for new technologies to address neglected disease and emerging global health challenges.

USAID plays a vital role in the development, scale-up, and introduction of these urgently needed tools and technologies. Through product development partnerships, the agency supports nonprofit product developers in their R&D to improve health conditions around the world. Through partnerships with other governments, USAID contributes expertise in health technology research, evaluation, and implementation, and helps partner countries evaluate trials of new products and tools. The agency has a vital track record in the development of reproductive health technologies, which have saved and improved the lives of millions of women and their families, and also plays an important role supporting research toward an HIV/AIDS vaccine and R&D for new diagnostics for infectious diseases. USAID's Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact is a global health innovator itself, launching grand challenges to address both maternal and child health and Ebola and helping bring promising global health innovations to scale.

Congratulations on your confirmation, we look forward to working with you and your staff over the coming year. We value USAID's important contributions to global health R&D and look forward to sustaining and building on this legacy. We hope that you will use our coalition as a resource in your work, and please do not hesitate to contact GHTC Director Erin Will Morton at [ewmorton@ghcoalition.org](mailto:ewmorton@ghcoalition.org) or (202) 540-4379 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Aeras



American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention



Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



FHI 360



Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth



Global Health Council



HarvestPlus



Infectious Diseases Society of America



International AIDS Vaccine Initiative



Medicines for Malaria Venture



PATH



Population Council



TB Alliance



Treatment Action Group



UPMC Center for Health Security



Washington Global Health Alliance