The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is an effort by nations, international organizations and civil society to:

• Accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats
• Promote global health security as an international priority
• Spur progress toward full implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway, and other relevant global health security frameworks

Through the GHSA, the US seeks to accelerate progress toward a world safe from infectious disease threats and to promote global health security as an international security priority. Achieving these goals requires collaboration among the many departments and agencies that are involved in the GHSA, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Agriculture, State, Defense and the US Agency for International Development.

The main goals of the GHSA are to:

• Prevent and reduce the likelihood of outbreaks — natural, accidental or intentional
• Detect threats early to save lives
• Provide multi-sectoral, international coordination and communication for rapid, effective response

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO EBOLA OUTBREAK RESPONSE

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa underscored the need for a strong health system to improve diagnostic services, which play an essential role in early detection, case management, surveillance and epidemic control. A consortium of partners including the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), World Health Organization Regional office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can work together to assess laboratory capacity and preparedness within public health systems across Africa and then provide training and technical assistance to enable countries to respond effectively to outbreaks.

Africa has networks of public health laboratories both within countries and regionally that are at the frontline of the Ebola response. It is critical to ensure that these laboratories have the capacity and training to provide Ebola-related testing services to properly handle sample processing while protecting themselves from infection. It is also important to ensure that essential testing services for other diseases are not affected by fear surrounding the risk of Ebola infection and to ensure appropriate differential diagnosis. Ensuring a functional and safe diagnostics system is critical to controlling Ebola. However, current capacity and preparedness for
Ebola-related testing expertise levels are minimal in most African countries. APHL and its partners will continue to prepare public health laboratories across Africa to respond to the Ebola epidemic and prevent future outbreaks.

**APHL GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM: BUILDING LAB SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE**

The APHL Global Health Program (GHP) implements projects in 22 countries funded by PEPFAR — 18 of which are in Africa. Outside of Africa, the GHP supports activities in Guyana, Haiti, Vietnam and the Ukraine. Zimbabwe activities resumed in January 2014 following a 9-year hiatus. The GHP is a recognized leader in laboratory management and public health laboratory practice and provides experienced public health laboratory experts with effective program management to support USG efforts in developing countries. GHP initiatives strive to improve integrated disease surveillance capabilities and the quality of laboratory practice, increase access to diagnostic laboratory services and strengthen national laboratory systems, infrastructure and networks. The four major goals of the Global Health Strategic Plan are as follows:

- Support the strengthening of public health laboratory systems that are sustainable and improve public health outcomes
- Increase the visibility, status and influence of APHL international public health laboratory activities and those of the international public health laboratory community
- Strengthen collaboration, coordination and governance across APHL programs doing international work
- Assure that APHL has the infrastructure, resources, tools and partnerships to support its international initiatives

**SUPPORT FOR LAB SYSTEMS IN UNDER-RESOURCED SETTINGS**

Medical laboratories play a pivotal role in global disease diagnosis, surveillance, outbreak investigation, initiation and monitoring of therapy, as well as research and development. Many laboratories in countries around the world are underdeveloped and cannot meet the testing demands of rapidly growing health delivery services of the 21st century. Inadequate resources and diagnostic services compromise the quality of patient care due to misdiagnosis and consequent under/over treatment of disease, which presents significant economic and public health challenges. To deliver potentially lifesaving results quickly and efficiently, laboratories must be well-equipped and staffed with trained experts. Strengthened laboratory services, networks and systems are indispensable to effective health systems and enable the following:

- The capacity to share information with other laboratories worldwide, allowing them to become part of a global community and extend their resources
- Health needs and program goals to be met with reliable, consistent and readily available local laboratory services

**CONTACT**

Peter Kyriacopoulos, senior director of public policy
240.485.2766 | peter.kyriacopoulos@aphl.org

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**GHSA FUNDING**

(Dollars in millions)

| FY 2015  | $55 |
| FY 2016 – $77 (requested) |
| FY 2016 – $77 (APHL required) |