The Global Health Security Agenda

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins
U.S. Department of State
We have to change our mindsets and start thinking about biological threats as the security threats that they are.

President Barack Obama
September 26, 2014
Global Health Security Vision

To attain a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases

where we can prevent or mitigate the impact of naturally-occurring outbreaks and intentional or accidental releases of dangerous pathogens, rapidly detect and transparently report outbreaks when they occur, and employ an interconnected global network that can respond effectively to limit the spread of infectious disease outbreaks in humans and animals, mitigate human suffering and the loss of human life, and reduce economic impact.
National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats

Goal: **PROTECT** against the misuse of the life sciences to develop or use biological weapons.

Objectives:

- **P**romote global health security
- **R**einforce norms of safe and responsible conduct
- **O**btain timely and accurate insight on current and emerging risks
- **T**ake reasonable steps to reduce the potential for exploitation
- **E**xpand our capability to prevent, apprehend, and attribute
- **C**ommunicate effectively with all stakeholders
- **T**ransform the international dialogue on biological threats
Why Global Health Security?

• In today’s increasingly interconnected world we remain vulnerable.
• No one nation can achieve Global Health Security on its own.
• The vitality of the global economy is only as secure as the collective health of our people.
• 11 years ago SARS cost $40 billion in only 4 months.
• The anthrax attacks of 2001 infected 22 people, killed 5, and cost more than $1 billion to clean up.
• The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic killed 284,000 people in its first year alone.
• AIDS spread silently for decades
Today’s Health Security Risks:

- Emergence and spread of new microbes.
- Globalization of travel and trade.
- Rise of drug resistance.
- Potential for accidental release, theft or illicit use.

“New diseases are inevitable, but in the 21st century we have the tools to greatly reduce the threat posed by global epidemics. We can put in place a safe, secure, globally linked, inter-operable system to prevent disease threats, detect outbreaks in real time, and share information and expertise to respond effectively.”

--Secretary Sebelius, Secretary Kerry, and Assistant to the President Lisa Monaco, February 2014
Risks
• Emerging organisms
• Drug resistance
• Intentional creation

Opportunities
• Societal commitment
• New technologies
• Success leads to success

Priorities
• Prevent wherever possible
• Detect rapidly
• Respond effectively
Global Health Security Agenda Objectives

- **Prevent Avoidable Epidemics**
  1. Prevent the emergence and spread of antimicrobial drug resistant organisms and emerging zoonotic diseases and strengthen international regulatory frameworks governing food safety.
  2. Promote national biosafety and biosecurity systems.
  3. Reduce the number and magnitude of infectious disease outbreaks.

- **Detect Threats Early**
  4. Launch, strengthen and link global networks for real-time biosurveillance.
  5. Strengthen the global norm of rapid, transparent reporting and sample sharing in the event of health emergencies of international concern.
  6. Develop and deploy novel diagnostics and strengthen laboratory systems.
  7. Train and deploy an effective biosurveillance workforce.

- **Respond Rapidly and Effectively**
  9. Improve global access to medical and non-medical countermeasures during health emergencies.
This is not just a health challenge; it’s a security challenge as well. Infectious diseases -- whether naturally occurring, deliberate or accidental -- have the potential to cause enormous damage in terms of lives lost, economic impact and ability to recover, just as with nuclear, chemical, or cybersecurity attacks.”

--Secretary Sebelius, Secretary Kerry, and Assistant to the President Lisa Monaco, February 2014

“This [the Global Health Security Agenda] is indeed a timely initiative. It raises the political profile of the threat from emerging and epidemic-prone diseases. And it energizes efforts to improve health security...in line with WHO International Health Regulations...”--World Health Organization Director General Margaret Chan February 13, 2014
44 countries announced over 100 new commitments to prevent, detect and respond to biological threats worldwide. President Obama and senior officials from around the world called on nations to act now to achieve enduring global health security capacity in West Africa and around the world.

President of the United States Barack Obama, National Security Advisor Rice, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Monaco, and Secretaries Burwell, Kerry and Hagel met today with Ministers and senior officials from 43 other countries and leading international organizations to make concrete commitments to advance the Global Health Security Agenda.
GHS Vision and Targets

Vision

*Our vision is a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases.*

U.S. Overarching Target

Over the next five years the United States commits to working with at least 30 partner countries (containing at least 4 billion people) to prevent, detect and effectively respond to infectious disease threats... We call on other countries to join in this effort to realize the vision of a world where all 7 billion people are effectively protected...

GHSA Action Packages

• The purpose of the Action Packages and the underlining prevent, detect, response framework is to:
  • Focus international discussions towards specific, coordinate actions in support of the GHSA
  • Highlight measurable approaches countries can adapt to accelerate, monitor and report GHSA progress
  • Provide a mechanism by which countries can make specific commitments and take leadership roles in the GHSA.
GHSA ACTION PACKAGES

• The packages have been agreed to by the Action Package leaders and contributing countries with the understanding that they can be changed or added to over time.

• GHSA activities should be conducted in collaboration with relevant local, national and international stakeholders and in coordination with the relevant activities of the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and INTERPOL wherever practical.
GHSA Action Packages

Eleven Action Packages: Facilitate regional and global collaboration toward specific GHSA objectives and targets. Agreed by the GHSA countries.

• Prevent avoidable epidemics:
  – Antimicrobial resistance; Zoonotic disease; Bio-safety and bio-security; Immunization

• Detect threats early:
  – National Laboratory System; Real-time surveillance (2); Reporting; Workforce Development

• Respond rapidly and effectively:
  – Emergency operations centers; Linking public health with law and multi-sectoral rapid response; Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment
## Action Package Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Package</th>
<th>Action Package Leading Countries</th>
<th>Action Package Contributing Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biosafety and Biosecurity (Prevent-3)</strong></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td><strong>Nationwide Laboratory Systems (Detect-1)</strong></td>
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GHSA Steering Group

1. Finland: 2015 Chair
2. Canada
3. Chile
4. India
5. Indonesia
6. Italy
7. Kenya
8. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
9. Republic of Korea
10. United States
Innovative Partnerships & Senior Leadership: Required

Collaboration with International Health Organizations

Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

- International Health Regulations (2005)
- Post-Rinderpest Eradication
- Real-Time Biosurveillance
- Pathogen Security
- Diagnostics

- 2002-2012, $20 billion
- Extension beyond 2012 for global threats
- Biosecurity as a top priority
Global Partnership
Biosecurity Deliverables

1. Secure and account for materials that represent biological proliferation risks.
2. Develop and maintain appropriate and effective measures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the deliberate misuse of biological agents.
3. Strengthen national and global networks to rapidly identify, confirm and respond to biological attacks.
4. Reinforce and strengthen biological nonproliferation principles, practices and instruments.
5. Reduce proliferation risks through the advancement and promotion of safe and responsible conduct in the biological sciences.
Non-governmental Stakeholders in Global Health Security

Taking a whole-of-society approach, the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) leaders and participants must reach out to Non-Government Stakeholders (NGS), including Foundations and the private sector, to help accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats.

- Initial outreach to NGS in February 2014
  - Highlighted the importance of NGS to the GHSA effort
- Early establishment of NGS Steering Committee
- Outreach to Foundations May 2014
- NGS event on September 25th, 2014 at George Washington University
- Goal: To engage NG Stakeholders the in GHSA
Non-governmental Stakeholders in GHSA

- NGS GHSA Meeting – September 25, 2014
  - Over 300 participants
- Organized by the Steering Committee of NGS and by government representatives
- Highlighted the multi-sectoral and multi-societal approach of the GHSA
- Remarks by Finnish Minister Susanna Houvinen
- Funded by Foundations
GHSA Next Generation Leaders

• Launched at the NGS event on September 25th, 2014
• U.S. Department of State hosted the Next Generation event, September 26, 2014 on the margins of the White House event
• 36 Next Generation Leaders participated and met with international officials
• Goal: establish an international community of young professionals and students interested in contributing to global health security
Ongoing efforts with non-governmental stakeholders

- Engage NGS doing work “on the ground”
- Formally establishing a NGS Consortium of the NSG Steering Group
- Engage more international NGS
- Meetings with Foundations (March 2015)
- Next Generation outreach
- Engaging the private sector
- Independent events that promote GHSA
GHSA Steering Group Meeting

- NGS representatives to participate in part of the meeting
- SG and NGS will discuss their GHSA activities
- **Goals**: recognize NGS play a role in the GHSA activities;
- Find synergies and compare notes;
- Highlight that in some countries and regions, it is easier for NGS stakeholders to work than it is for governments; and
- NGS, including Foundations and the private sector, have very good links, particularly at the country level
- Action Package leaders should encourage outreach to NGS
National Laboratory Systems
Action Package: Detect - 1

• The GHSA Laboratory Action Package is one of the 11 Action Packages designed to facilitate global and regional collaboration to meet specific GHSA objectives.

• The Action Packages strive to convert political support into action and recruit more countries to join to work towards achieving GHSA national laboratory system goals.

• This particular Action Package is led by South Africa, Thailand and the contributing countries include Canada, China, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, the UK and Yemen.
National Laboratory Systems
Action Package: Detect - 1

• **Five-Year Target**: Real-time bio surveillance with a national laboratory system and effective modern point-of-care laboratory-based diagnostics

• **As measured by**: A nationwide laboratory system able to reliably conduct at least five of the 10 core tests on appropriately identified and collected outbreak specimens transported safely and securely to accredited laboratories from at least 80 percent of districts in the country.

• **Desired impact**: Effective use of a nationwide laboratory system capable of safely and accurately detecting and characterizing pathogens causing epidemic disease, including both known and novel threats, from all parts of the country.
National Laboratory Systems Action Package: Detect - 1

• APHL GWU Lab Leadership Institute, February 2015, Cape town, SA

• Showed first-hand how NGS’ are engaged in the GHSA effort.

• Able to witness how NGS’ are interacting with people on the ground and promoting some of the goals of GHSA. Showed how APHL is working with experts and pulling together those with knowledge in the labs in Africa.

• Able to see first hand how closely the work of NG stakeholders is aligned with the goals of the US and other government GHSA partners.
February 13, 2014: GHS Agenda launch with 33 partners

May 5-6, 2014, Helsinki: Commitment development meeting

May, 2014: World Health Assembly

Summer, 2014: Action Packages

August 20-21, Jakarta: Commitment development meeting

9/26, 2014: White House event to review initial commitments

2015 and beyond: Sustainable progress

The technology, capacity, and resources exist to make measurable progress, but focused leadership and political will are required to make it happen.