

Promoting Research and Innovation

Science, Research, and Innovation Are Critical Drivers of Transformational Development and Progress in Global Health

The success of President Obama's Global Health Initiative (GHI) rests largely on innovative approaches to achieve integration, synergy, and strategic alignment of high-impact research results with country-owned, sustainable, and effective health delivery systems.

Why Research and Innovation Are Essential

Achievement of the GHI goals requires innovative translation of investments in health research into real and measurable population-level health outcomes. GHI encourages innovation along the scientific continuum, reflected in the full range of U.S. Government-funded research, from discovery, to new interventions, to implementation of health programs.

U.S. Approach to Promoting Research and Innovation

GHI country teams leverage U.S. Government-supported activities to facilitate the development of country-led research and research capacity building, including provision of technical assistance to countries on strategy, study design, human-subject protections, study implementation, and data collection/interpretation. Two common country challenges are a) the gap between advances made in evidence-based interventions and services, and the effective application/implementation of these interventions; and b) the knowledge base for how to best adapt and effectively scale up these interventions.

Achieving GHI Goals for Research and Innovation

Traditional research identifies game-changing breakthroughs in information and interventions, while implementation science informs how to efficiently and effectively scale up novel health services to populations in a sustainable manner. GHI-supported research and program investments concurrently seek to improve the evidence base and application of key knowledge and practices through operational research and implementation science. Special attention is given to strengthening the integral connections between research activities, their effective application in programs, and the achievement of health goals.

Collaboration

GHI provides an opportunity to link the scientific and the development communities to innovatively accelerate the strategic health goals of partner countries. GHI teams are also translating advances in technology, such as mobile telephones and the Internet, into health benefits through implementation science. GHI is committed to leveraging the full U.S. Government science community, universities, and the new community of solvers to achieve global health gains.

Enhancing Evidence

GHI commits to both advancing the utilization and application of existing knowledge and to advancing the evidence base for host country GHI strategic health goals. Collectively, research and monitoring and evaluation informs innovation and contributes to the GHI learning agenda. GHI headquarters supports learning across GHI countries by advancing (or advocating for) the active, rapid dissemination of high-quality research findings and evidence-based priority interventions and programs among GHI countries.

GHI Science, Research, and New Technology for Development Meeting in Mali

In January 2012, the GHI team in Mali organized a Science for Development meeting. Drawing more than 100 participants, it was the first meeting of its kind to be held in Africa and served as an important occasion to build upon decades of U.S. Government internal collaboration within Mali, strong partnership with the Government of Mali, and collaborative research between Malian and U.S. scientists. It also gave participants an opportunity to explore ways in which the introduction of research, innovation, and new technologies can drive and influence development work in Mali. The meeting advanced the coordination, utilization, and application of existing knowledge, identified evidence gaps, and leveraged the scientific community to support the advancement of key Malian health development goals in five areas: HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and health systems strengthening.