Investments in health worldwide have not only been found to save and improve lives, but also produce economic benefits that exceed the costs of investment by more than nine times. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the value of high-quality public health protections and primary care services cannot be overstated. Many of the world’s poorest populations live within the nexus of climate change, health, and security interactions, and new and reemerging threats will continue to challenge people everywhere.

Our goal is to improve the health, stability, and longevity of populations in partner countries across the world through a continued commitment to ending epidemics, and supporting the realization of affordable, resilient, self-reliant health systems. With a healthy population and increased system capacity, partner countries can be agile in addressing an increasingly dynamic global environment.

U.S. global health assistance has transformed the idea of what is possible in low-resource health systems—proving that smart, targeted investments, coordinated with global partners and countries driving the delivery and oversight of assistance can save lives. While a legacy of U.S. global health knowledge has been built over past decades, the world has evolved and become more complex. Climate change, global dynamics, and the downstream effects of zoonotic spillover, natural disasters, and changing disease patterns threaten progress. Current siloed funding and fragmented infrastructure of global health programs also prevent the realization of long-term development and eventual downshifting of foreign assistance. A new approach is overdue.

The knowledge base generated by U.S. investment offers a wealth of expertise to help countries implement strong national health programs primed to tackle primary health care, but strategic reorganization of foreign assistance and new ways of doing business will be necessary. The diverse array of potential 21st century threats reinforces the critical importance of fundamental capabilities like surveillance, workforce capacity, and R&D to protect and respond. Integrating health and development efforts, stimulating the business of health care and identifying sustainable financing methods in partner countries can not only radically transform their health, but their economies as well.

Following the worst pandemic in a century, a new paradigm in global health security encompasses imminent threats of infectious disease outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance while adapting to still unseen consequences of climate change, migration, and conflict.

Joint investment in health and development efforts across education, employment, health, and agriculture sectors can improve physical and social health outcomes and stimulate economic growth. The vast number of young people across the world presents an opportunity for a new approach.