



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a top public health threat and antimicrobial resistant pathogens are not confined by geographic borders, making AMR a global health security issue. In the U.S., the economic toll of treating 6 of the top AMR threats accounts for [\\$4.6 billion in annual health care costs](#), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, [CDC reported](#) that more than 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections occur in the U.S. each year, with more than 35,000 people dying annually as a result. Globally, the highest burden of AMR occurs in low-resource settings, including low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with AMR-associated deaths in sub-Saharan Africa reaching almost 100 deaths per 100,000 people.

The 76th World Health Assembly adopted a resolution to strengthen diagnostics capacity around the world. As a global leader, the U.S. has a unique opportunity to combat AMR by supporting global diagnostic services to identify disease outbreaks before they spread.

The high cost of diagnostic services creates an access and implementation barrier to populations in LMICs, which is often exacerbated by insufficient laboratory capacity, limited public health resources and low public awareness.

Globally available and accessible diagnostics are an important part of the solution, as is the development of new tools that consider the unique challenges faced by LMICs. The U.S. and other funders have a unique opportunity to help address these challenges, addressing a critical public health threat both in the U.S. and globally by strengthening laboratory capacity, building on existing programs administered by the CDC and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and developing new programs and incentives as needed.

Potential policy approaches to combating AMR:

