

# Strengthening global health security

Perspectives from the innovative pharmaceutical industry



## Executive summary

**Global health security has rarely been more important — nor more fragile.** Rapid urbanization, demographics changes, climate-related events, displacement, and conflict are straining health systems and increasing the risk of pandemics and other health threats, including antibiotic-resistant infections.

Combating these threats on multiple fronts depends on the continued strength of the pharmaceutical sector and the scientific advances it delivers in medical countermeasures. However, realizing this potential requires sustained support for innovation, stronger health systems, and enabling policy and financing frameworks.



### **Innovation: Central to responding to health threats**

Decades of R&D investment made the 326-day development of COVID-19 vaccines possible. Similar long-term investments ensured progress against chronic hepatitis C, malaria, RSV, and Ebola. Despite such progress, the pipeline for infectious diseases faces several scientific and market challenges and remains fragile:

**Vaccines:** Long R&D timelines and complex supply chain are further impacted by declining rates of routine immunization.

**Antivirals:** Scientific, regulatory, and market challenges have resulted in a critically weak pipeline across all 13 viral families with pandemic potential.

**AMR:** Antimicrobial R&D remains chronically underfunded due to limited commercial incentives, underscoring the need for additional mechanisms that reward successful product approval.

**IFPMA calls on governments and global health security stakeholders to:**

**Foster a sustainable innovation ecosystem for infectious diseases;** including robust intellectual property (IP) frameworks that enable the high-risk, capital-intensive research needed to develop new vaccines and therapeutics.

**Strengthen strategic investments, economic incentives and global partnerships;** including platform technologies, antiviral development, pandemic influenza preparedness, antimicrobials and support to global collaboration mechanisms, as well as national and regional agencies (i.e. CEPI, BARDA, HERA).



### **Resilience: Healthcare systems, preparedness, and access**

With a 50% probability of a COVID-scale pandemic within the next 25 years, preparedness is not a cost — it is a strategic investment in economic stability and in saving lives.

**Strong primary care and routine immunization:** Communities with healthier populations and lower burdens of vaccine-preventable and non-communicable diseases are better positioned to withstand and respond to health threats.

**Closing the financing gap:** Despite the creation of mechanisms such as the Pandemic Fund, the financing gap for pandemic preparedness and response remains substantial.

**Procurement and access:** Clearly established procurement mechanisms that can be activated from “day zero” are crucial for effective and more equitable emergency responses.

**IFPMA calls on governments and global health security stakeholders to:**

**Invest in stronger healthcare systems and country readiness;** anchored in universal healthcare coverage, strong primary healthcare infrastructure, and routine immunization systems across the life course as core preparedness infrastructure.

**Ensure timely, accurate, and transparent demand forecasting and predictable procurement mechanisms;** backed by “day zero” financing to activate rapid R&D, manufacturing and delivery the moment a health threat emerges.



## Enabling conditions: Regulation, supply chain and legal certainty

Delivering on the ambition of developing vaccines and therapeutics within 100 days of identifying a new health threat requires more than scientific capability — it also depends on the right legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks.

**Regulatory frameworks:** Streamlined regulatory pathways and reliance mechanisms are essential to ensure equitable and timely access to safe and effective medical countermeasures.

**Supply chain resilience:** Vaccine production is complex and capital-intensive, relying on globally sourced inputs that are disrupted by trade barriers. Strong routine immunization programs help maintain the manufacturing capacity needed to scale production during health emergencies.

**No-fault compensation:** No-fault compensation systems help sustain public confidence in vaccines and support rapid deployment of medical countermeasures during health emergencies by providing fair and timely redress for rare adverse events.

**Pathogen access:** Delays in access to pathogen samples and their digital sequence information slows the development of medical countermeasures at moments when every day counts in saving lives.

**IFPMA calls on governments and global health security stakeholders to:**

**Institutionalize regulatory reliance and comprehensive legal preparedness frameworks — including no fault compensation systems paired with legislative liability protections — and remove trade and export restrictions** on vaccines, treatments to ensure accelerated development and delivery of vaccines and therapeutics during health emergencies.

**Ensure free and unhindered access to pathogens and their Digital Sequence Information (DSI),** enabling rapid development of medical countermeasures protecting lives world-wide.

## Conclusion

Global health security depends on aligning innovation, resilient systems, and enabling conditions. The pharmaceutical industry remains committed to partnering with governments, research institutions, international organizations, civil society, and industry stakeholders to strengthen preparedness and build a safer, more resilient world for all.

