Countering Biological Threats, the Global Partnership, and the Global Health Security agenda

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins
April 3, 2014
“...We must come together to prevent, and detect and fight every kind of biological danger – whether it’s a pandemic like H1N1, a terrorist threat, or a treatable disease.”

*President Barack Obama, 2011*
Health/Security Partnership: Critical to Countering Biological Threats

“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 of Health and Human Services Sebelius, Secretary of State John Kerry, and Assistant to the President Lisa Monaco, February 2014

“More and more, the conditions that threaten health are shaped by forces that govern the entire world.”

---World Health Organization Director General Margaret Chan, 2012
U.S. Government Strategies that Advance Global Health Security

“Reducing the risks presented by the deliberate or accidental release of a biological agent requires the use of all instruments of national power, close coordination among all sectors of government, and effective partnerships among public and private institutions both nationally and internationally.”

“The threat of bioterrorism and other incidents affecting human health remain a clear and present danger. Early threat detection and sustained situational awareness are critical to save lives…”
Nexus of Public Health and Security

Chronic disease
Emerging disease
Dual use technologies
Bio terrorism
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
U.S. Government biosecurity and global health security partnerships

Securing biological facilities in East Africa

Improving disease detection in Yemen

Biosurveillance & lab security in Southeast Asia
Innovative Partnerships & Senior Leadership: Required

Collaboration with International Health Organizations

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

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

- 2002-2012, $20 billion
- Extension beyond 2012 for global threats
- Biosecurity as a top priority
Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction

• Established in 2002 under the Canadian Chairmanship of the G-8
• A ten year commitment of $20 billion towards combating WMD terrorism
• Initial focus: destruction of Russian nuclear submarines and chemical weapons
• Extension of the Global Partnership in 2011 (to go beyond 10 years)
• Focus now: nuclear security, bio-security, scientist engagement, and implementation of 1540; new partners; global programming
• Now the Global Partnership consists of 28 participating states
Global Partnership

• In 2012, established a bio-security sub-working group
• Invited all relevant IO’s to its meetings (4x yr)
• Direct conversations with WHO, OIE and FAO
• Brought in more health representatives from overseas and from the United States
• Mirrored initial actions in the U.S. that led to the GHSA
• Developed flagship projects idea
Global Partnership 2012
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.

Global Bio Initiatives Portal
Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction
Global Partnership and Global Health Security

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, Chair of the 2012 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (Global Partnership), in Geneva, Switzerland on December 17, 2012. This event highlighted collaboration between the Global Partnership and international organizations (WHO, FAO, OIE) that share priorities on global health security and countering biological threats.

‘I welcome the decision to extend the Global Partnership beyond 2012. The volatile nature of the microbial world warrants such a step. I also welcome the Partnership’s inclusive approach to global health security that taps expertise from multiple other sectors, including veterinary public health and agriculture. “

Ambassador King, WHO DG Chan, and Ambassador Jenkins
Why Global Health Security is a national priority

--CNN February 2014

Today’s health security threats arise from at least 5 sources:

1. The emergence and spread of new microbes;
2. The globalization of travel and food supply;
3. The rise of drug-resistant pathogens;
4. The acceleration of biological science capabilities, and the risk that these capabilities may cause the inadvertent or intentional release of pathogens; and
5. Continued concerns about terrorist acquisition, development, and use of biological agents.
Health/Security Partnership: Critical to Countering Biological Threats

• 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 $30 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.
Global Health Security Agenda: 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.

No globally linked, inter-operable system exists to:

- **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.
- Employ an interconnected global network that can **Respond** rapidly and 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.
Nine Overall GHS Objectives

• Prevent emergence and spread of antimicrobial drug resistant organisms and emerging zoonotic diseases; strengthen food safety frameworks
• Promote National Biosecurity Systems
• Reduce number and magnitude of infectious disease outbreaks
• Launch, strengthen and link global networks for real-time biosurveillance
• Strengthen global norm of rapid, transparent reporting and sample sharing
Nine Overall GHS Objectives

• Develop and deploy novel diagnostics and strengthen laboratory systems
• Effective biosurveillance workforce
• Interconnected global network of Emergency Operations Centers and multi-sectoral response
• Global access to medical and non-medical countermeasures during health emergencies
How is success defined?

- To effectively organize, accelerate, and measure progress in 2014 and over the next 5 years, countries will develop specific actions to strengthen national, regional, or global collective ability to prevent, detect or respond to emerging infectious disease.

- These collective actions will be led by nations independently or in groups and should include proven action that can be replicated by others and provide measurable outcomes.

- Nine objectives for the foundation for commitments.
GHS Objectives

1. Prevent emergence and spread of antimicrobial drug resistant organisms and emerging zoonotic diseases; strengthen food safety frameworks

2. Promote National Biosecurity Systems

3. Reduce number and magnitude of infectious disease outbreaks

4. Launch, strengthen and link global networks for real-time biosurveillance

5. Strengthen global norm of rapid, transparent reporting and sample sharing

6. Develop and deploy novel diagnostics and strengthen laboratory systems

7. Effective biosurveillance workforce

8. Interconnected global network of Emergency Operations Centers and multi-sectoral response

9. Global access to medical and non-medical countermeasures during health emergencies

Health Security Commitment Bundle

In support of “Prevent”

Promoting National Biosecurity Systems

ACTION: A group of countries, led by one or two nations, would agree to implement National Biosecurity Systems, based upon existing models and to assist others.

IMPACT: Development and implementation of specific multi-sectoral approaches in countries and regions for managing biological materials to support diagnostic, research and biosurveillance activities, including ensuring that collections of especially dangerous pathogens are identified, held, secured and monitored in a minimal number of facilities with biosafety and biosecurity best practices in place; biorisk management training and educational outreach is conducted to promote a shared culture of responsibility, reduce dual use biological risks, and ensure safe transfer of biological agents; and country-specific biosecurity legislation, laboratory certification, and pathogen control measures are in place as appropriate.

HOW COULD IT WORK (EXAMPLE):

• One country could lead the bundle by agreeing to implement model approaches with one or more partners.

• Other countries could join or contribute to the National Biosecurity Systems bundle by agreeing to implement it, including inviting in external support and increasing international cooperation as required, as part of their national biosecurity systems.

Measures of Success

A national, whole-of-government, multi-sectoral biosecurity and biosafety system that includes ensuring that collections of especially dangerous pathogens are identified, secured, monitored and held in a minimal number of facilities with biosafety and biosecurity best practices in place and country-specific biosecurity legislation is in place.

Countries will implement biorisk management training and conduct educational outreach to promote a shared culture of responsibility, including safe, secure, and responsible conduct to prevent misuse of biological agents, reduce dual use biological risks, and ensure safe transfer of biological agents.

Example metric: after 5 years, number of countries that have such systems in place.
GHSA Effort

• Does not duplicate other efforts but will instead elevate political attention, broaden participation from multi-sectoral stakeholders, and focus commitments, coordination and collaboration to protect populations from disease threats.

• Build on existing relationships and foundations (G8, Global Heath Security Initiative, Global Partnership, IO and CDC relationships, etc)
  – For example, some GP activities already support the GHSA

• A sequence of events to develop commitments, empower leaders to take specific actions by elevating attention to the issue, and measure progress.
GHSA Launch

• February 13, 2014
  – Washington, DC; Geneva; New Delhi; Rome
    • Elevate this issue to leadership level
• Promote the multi-sectoral approach (security, public health, animal health, foreign affairs)
• Engage relevant international organizations (WHO, FAO, OIE, INTERPOL)
• 29 countries participated, including officials from government and international organizations
Next Steps

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

- GHS agenda launch: February 13, 2014, 33 partners
- U.S. target to measure success (30 countries in 5 years, specific indicators for each objective)

- GHS agenda commitment meeting: Helsinki,
  - May 5-6, 2014 – build action packages for commitments
- World Health Assembly: May 2014
- GHS agenda commitment meeting: TBD, July-Aug 2014
- White House event to highlight commitments and review progress: early Fall, 2014

Next Steps
“...We’re joining with partners around the world on a new global health security effort to combat infectious diseases and save lives.”

President Obama, February 11, 2014