

**Volume2**  
Number1

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# GHSCO Newsletter

**Global Health Security Coordination Office**

## GHSCO Updates

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## Global Health Security Coordination Office

### **GHSCO Activity Plan: Achievements in 2024 & Strategic Direction for 2025**

Since its launch in December 2023, the Global Health Security Coordination Office (GHSCO) has actively worked to establish its presence in the international community. With a focus on strengthening global health capacities, GHSCO has developed International Development Cooperation (IDC) including Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects and invited training programs leveraging the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency's (KDCA) expertise.

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## News



### **Trump's Second Term and Its Implications for Global Health Security**

One of the most consequential actions of Trump's second term is his signing of an executive order in January 2025 to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO).

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## Partner Stories1



### **Foundation of the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS): A New Era in Japan's Infectious Disease Response and Research**

On April 1, 2025, National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) will combine forces to create the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS).

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## Partner Stories2



### **Brown University Pandemic Center: A New Approach to Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response**

The Pandemic Center at the Brown University School of Public Health is working to prevent, reduce vulnerabilities, and increase resilience to pandemics, other biological emergencies, and the harms they pose to health, peace, security, prosperity.

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### **GHSCO Activity Plan: Achievements in 2024 & Strategic Direction for 2025**

Since its launch in December 2023, the Global Health Security Coordination Office (GHSCO) has actively worked to establish its presence in the international community. With a focus on strengthening global health capacities, GHSCO has developed International Development Cooperation (IDC) including Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects and invited training programs leveraging the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency's (KDCA) expertise.

#### **Key Achievements in 2024 Capacity-Building Initiatives**

GHSCO made significant progress in 2024 through various capacity-building initiatives. The office successfully conducted the ASEAN Core Personnel Training Program twice, enhancing laboratory diagnostics and analysis capacities across ASEAN countries. Additionally, it implemented IDC including ODA projects in Lao PDR and Mongolia to support the establishment of laboratory surveillance systems. To further strengthen epidemiological capacity, GHSCO supported training and education for the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP).

#### **Global and National Engagement**

On the global and national stages, GHSCO has made significant efforts to demonstrate our commitment to improving global health security. To figure public health related needs of embassies and foreign nationals in Korea, GHSCO bolstered networks among the embassies to enhance international cooperation. The Office also actively participated in Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) activities. At the Global Health Security Conference held in Australia on June, 2024, GHSCO organized a side event, where it shared with partner organizations best practices and discussed direction toward strengthening global health security.

## Recognition

In recognition of its contributions, the "Establishing GHS Coordination Office" project was selected as the 2024 IANPHI Asia Network Success case at the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) General Assembly on December 11, 2024.



## Summary of 2024 Activities

- Initiated the ASEAN Core Personnel Training Program
- Conducted IDC including ODA projects (Laos, Mongolia, etc.)
- Organized a side event at the GHS Conference
- Built a network of embassies in Korea
- Participated in GHSA Steering Group meetings
- Published the GHSCO newsletter quarterly
- Recognized as an "IANPHI Asia Network Success"

## Strategic Direction for 2025

### Expansion of Training Programs and Cooperative Projects

Building on its achievements, GHSCO aims to expand its efforts in 2025 to lead and further strengthen global capacity-building initiatives. The ASEAN Core Personnel Training Program will be broadened to provide more in-depth education in laboratory diagnosis and analysis. Furthermore, new training programs in epidemiology and surveillance will be developed and implemented based on the specific needs of ASEAN countries. IDC projects will continue, with a focus on Laos and Mongolia, incorporating simulation exercises to assess and improve infectious disease preparedness and response capacity.

### Participation in Global Health Security Assessments

GHSCO will also play a crucial role in global health security assessments by supporting the second round of Joint External Evaluation (JEE) to assess KDCA's implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR). Furthermore, it will actively participate in the WHO JEE evaluation team and contribute to the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) activities.

### Enhanced Communication and Outreach

To enhance communication and outreach, GHSCO will launch its official website, improving engagement with both national and global partners. The quarterly GHSCO newsletter will continue to provide updates on ongoing activities and key initiatives, ensuring stakeholders remain informed and engaged.

#### Planned Activities for 2025

- Expand the ASEAN Core Personnel Training Program
- Continue IDC including ODA projects
- Participate in the WHO JEE evaluation team and strengthen WHO GOARN activities
- Launch an official GHSCO website to diversify communication channels



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## News

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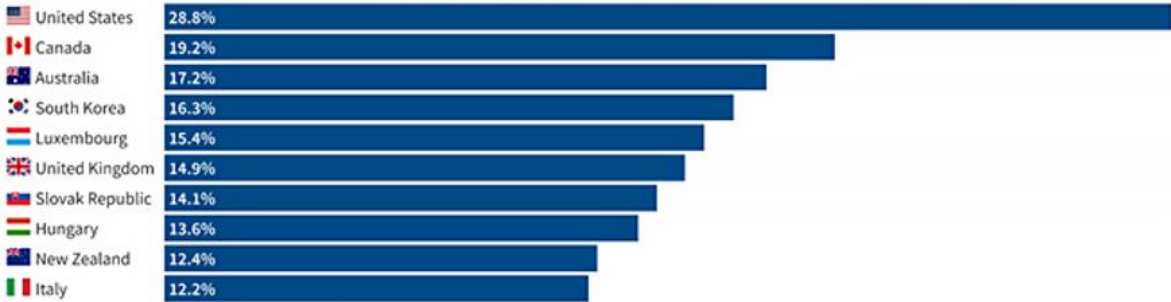
### **Trump's Second Term and Its Implications for Global Health Security**

**With U.S. President Donald Trump's re-election, significant shifts are expected across the global health security landscape.**

One of the most consequential actions of Trump's second term is his signing of an executive order in January 2025 to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO). This decision has already raised serious concerns among global health experts, who warn of its potential repercussions for international cooperation in responding to health threats. The Trump administration's continued emphasis on its "America First" agenda has further led to a freeze on foreign aid funding, citing inconsistencies between U.S.-led humanitarian initiatives and national foreign policy priorities.

As the largest single donor to global health-related foreign aid, the U.S. has played a critical role in shaping and supporting public health initiatives around the world. However, the current administration is actively reviewing the scope and appropriateness of its health programs and funding commitments, with the same nationalist rationale at the core. Developing countries that have long relied on U.S. assistance now face immediate challenges. While the U.S. Congress has intervened to lift the administration's freeze on U.S. humanitarian aid, the future of International Development Cooperation (IDC) including Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects remains uncertain. Many are closely watching how these policies will reshape the landscape of IDC.

### Donor Governments with the Largest Share of Development Assistance Directed to International Health in 2023



Note: Donor government health assistance totals are based on Official Development Assistance (ODA) amounts as reported to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and include bilateral disbursements for health as well as the health-adjusted share of core contributions to multilateral organizations. Overall assistance amounts are based on total bilateral disbursements and total core contributions to multilateral organizations.

Source: Analysis of data obtained via online query of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Database Creditor Reporting System (CRS) and MultiSystem; January 2025. · Download PNG

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## Global Response to the U.S. Withdrawal from WHO

The global response to the U.S. withdrawal has been swift and largely critical. The day after President Trump signed the executive order, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed deep concern over the U.S.' departure and the broader implications for global health security. Dr. Tedros strongly urged the U.S. administration to reconsider its decision, emphasizing that this move is far more than a simple cut to financial contributions—it could directly disrupt the delivery of U.S.-funded programs for HIV/AIDS, polio, Mpox, and avian influenza (AI), potentially leading to program closures and staff reductions.

In the United Kingdom, the matter was raised during the UK-US Bilateral Relationship Debate, where Members of Parliament (MPs) underscored the critical importance of maintaining close U.S.-UK cooperation to protect global health security. They highlighted the invaluable contributions of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio, and voiced concerns over significant implications for both global and UK public health security. MPs also warned that the withdrawal of the U.S. from WHO could hinder crucial communication channels with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In response, they called for a review and potential expansion of existing health security programs to protect and improve public health.

Minister of Health in German has also publicly expressed willingness to engage with the Trump administration in an effort to dissuade the U.S. from fully severing ties with WHO. The minister also fear that the withdrawal would not only weaken global health security but also roll back decades of hard-won progress in the fight against infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Meanwhile, following the U.S.'s lead, the Argentine government has announced its own intention to withdraw from WHO, citing similar concerns over national sovereignty and opposition to perceived

interference by international organizations in the country's health issues.

A health expert from Georgetown University has warned that the U.S. withdrawal from WHO risks isolating the country from critical international health networks. The expert further cautioned that such a move could weaken global solidarity at a time when strong global collaboration is more vital than ever to prevent and respond to future pandemics. The U.S. CDC, in particular, could face reduced access to scientific data gathered and shared through WHO platforms—data that has proven essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current trajectory of U.S. global health policy has undeniably raised alarm bells over the future of global health collaboration. Now more than ever, the international community must reaffirm the importance of solidarity and collective action in building a stronger, more resilient global health security framework.

During the first term of the Trump administration, there was strong support for the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). However, its related movements have been minimal, the Global Health Security Coordination Office (GHSCO) plans to continuous monitoring and communication on the overall flow and following movement. Moreover, the GHSCO remains fully committed to scaling up international collaboration and developing forward-looking strategies to strengthen global health security. The office will continue working closely with key international organizations and consultative bodies to ensure it plays an effective role in advancing global preparedness and response capacity on a broader scale.

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## Partner Stories1

### Foundation of the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS): A New Era in Japan's Infectious Disease Response and Research

Koji Wada Deputy-Director General, Bureau of Planning and Strategy  
National Center for Global Health and Medicine

On April 1, 2025, National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) will combine forces to create the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS). This merger enhances Japan's ability to tackle infectious diseases, with a focus on building a more resilient and secure society.



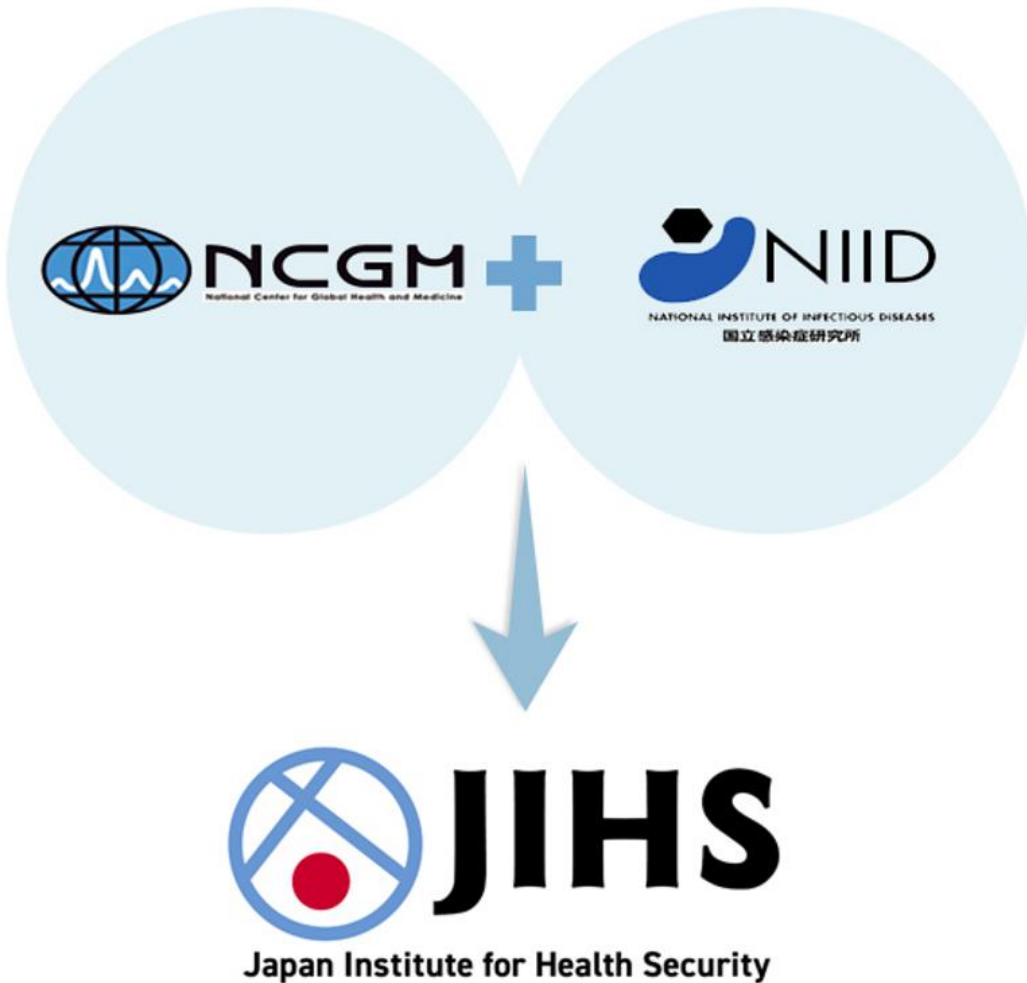
National Center for  
Global Health and Medicine (NCGM)



National Institute of  
Infectious Diseases (NIID)

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a global reassessment of governmental structures, resulting in major organizational changes aimed at enhancing crisis response capabilities for future pandemics. In Japan, these changes involved restructuring the frameworks for planning and executing policies to effectively address emerging health threats. As part of these reforms, the Japanese government decided to create a new institution, which was later named the Kokuritsu Kenko Kikikanri Kenkyu

Kikou (国立健康危機管理研究機構) in Japanese and the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) in English. This new institution will be formed through the merger of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), with operations set to begin on April 1, 2025.



### **Mission**

The mission of the JIHS is to contribute to the creation of a resilient and secure society through the implementation of R&D on infectious diseases and other diseases, as well as the provision of medical care.

### **Vision**

The vision of the JIHS is to become an "Integrated Science Center for Infectious Diseases" in Japan that leads the world in infectious diseases countermeasures, with world-class capabilities in information collection, analysis and risk assessment, research and development, and clinical functions.

JHS will serve as a scientific advisory body during infectious disease crises, providing guidance to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare. Its mission builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on four key areas:

1. **Disease Intelligence: Risk assessment and data analysis**
2. **Research, Development and Innovation: Advancing medical science**
3. **Comprehensive Medical Care: Strengthening clinical response capacity**
4. **Human Resource Development and International Cooperation: Building expertise and partnerships**

Through its integration, JHS seeks to enhance existing systems and foster synergy between basic and clinical research. Serving as a hub for both domestic and international collaboration, JHS will bring together vital information, drive innovative research, and provide transformative solutions to address the challenges posed by infectious diseases.



### **Logo**

In conjunction with the establishment of JHS, a new logo was created to represent the unification of the NIID and NCGM. The outer circle resembles a culture dish, symbolizing NIID's scientific research, while also representing the Earth, reflecting NCGM's global health mission. The inner red circle mirrors Japan's national flag, highlighting JHS's role as a national institution. The crossed lines represent the merger, underscoring the commitment and aspiration to advance infection control measures as a unified organization.

JHS will become a center of excellence for infectious diseases, both within Japan and globally. By integrating resources, JHS will strengthen the hospital's capacity to respond to crises, while maintaining its role in providing advanced medical care. Additionally, as a hub for global and domestic infectious disease networks, the institute will consolidate critical information, stimulate

groundbreaking research, and develop transformative solutions for enhancing health security.

<https://www.jihs.go.jp>



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## Partner Stories2

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### **Brown University Pandemic Center: A New Approach to Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response**

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Cameron, Senior Advisor  
Leah Lovgren, Associate Director of Research and Program Management  
Brown University Pandemic Center

The Pandemic Center at the Brown University School of Public Health is working to prevent, reduce vulnerabilities, and increase resilience to pandemics, other biological emergencies, and the harms they pose to health, peace, security, prosperity.

**Pandemic Center Offices: Providence, Rhode Island USA, and Washington, D.C. USA**



Image description: Pandemic Center leadership, Drs. Jennifer Nuzzo, Wilmot James and Beth Cameron

We are in an age of pandemic threats. COVID-19, the most consequential pandemic in a century, is the latest but not the last the world will face. COVID-19 exposed severe weaknesses in health security around the globe. Millions of lives were lost, and the impacts stretched across societies and were inequitably distributed across communities and countries. But there were important lessons in all that loss that must be translated into future action. We know another pandemic is coming, and new outbreaks continue to arise, including H5N1 influenza, Ebola, Marburg, and mpox.

**'Building sustainable and resilient global health security capacity requires independent, credible experts generating evidence and action to develop the tools, policies, and practices to equitably reduce vulnerabilities and bolster responses around the globe'**



**The work of the Pandemic Center at the Brown University School of Public Health**

The Pandemic Center deeply prioritizes impact — generating and analyzing data, translating that data to effective policy and practice, educating and inspiring the next generation of diverse public health leaders, and educating and engaging the public. The Pandemic Center builds on Brown University's hallmark — a unique ability to combine cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary inquiry to make a positive impact in confronting the world's great challenges. Like the University, the Pandemic Center is uniquely positioned in this field to work across disciplines and sectors,

recognizing that this boundary breaking is critical to the innovative research, education and training that lead to policy and impact.

## How We Work

Generate  
data for  
decision-  
making

Translate  
evidence to  
practice

Train the  
Next  
Generation  
of leaders

Educate and  
engage the  
broader  
public

## Our Signature Projects & Initiatives

- [Advance Warning and Response Exemplars \(AWARE\)](#)
- [Biosecurity Game Changers Fellowship Program](#)
- [Global Health Security \(GHS\) Index](#)
- [American Democracy and Health Security Initiative](#)

### <Advance Warning and Response Exemplars>

Through the **Advance Warning and Response Exemplars (AWARE)** project, the Pandemic Center and its collaborators are supporting research into and promotion of effective early warning, early detection and rapid response surveillance systems to significant public health events, including outbreaks of climate-sensitive infectious diseases (CSIDs). Critical to this work are the Center's in-country research partnerships in Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, and Vietnam, whose local expertise shapes the methodology and ensures findings can be meaningfully applied. As AWARE's insights are disseminated later this year, countries will be able to leverage this evidence to advocate for resources to strengthen their health security systems. The project is funded by the Gates Foundation, Gates Ventures and Wellcome Trust.



Image description: AWARE project funders and in-country research partners

### <Biosecurity Game Changes Fellowship Program>

The Pandemic Center has its own unique value proposition in training the next generation of pandemic decision-makers in the form of novel initiatives like the [Biosecurity Game Changers Fellowship Program](#). Launched in 2024, the fellowship is designed to identify early-to-mid career professionals to represent the next generation of leaders responsible for preventing and preparing for the worst case health security challenges. The first of its kind, the fellowship provides experiential and operational learning, in partnership with institutions such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and with placements among key organizations like Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit, the International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science, the Pandemic Action Network, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Biosecurity Game Changers is an example of the Pandemic Center's dedicated investment into the future of pandemic preparedness through the placement of fellows in key global organizations, which are laser focused on making an impact in this field.



Image description: Biosecurity Games Changers Fellows, Pandemic Center team and guest speakers at the 2024 Gamechangers Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### <Global Health Security Index>

Pandemic Center Director, Jennifer Nuzzo and Senior Advisors Wilmot James and Beth Cameron have been driving forces of the [Global Health Security \(GHS\) Index](#) since the development of its first iteration in 2019. The Index, now in the beginning stages of a third Africa-specific iteration, is an assessment of global health security capabilities and their ability to prepare for epidemics and pandemics. Broad engagement and multinational collaboration has been key to the Index development. In laying the groundwork for a 2025 Africa GHS Index, the project team has engaged with key stakeholders from organizations including the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the Ministry of Health of Uganda, the Nigeria CDC, and the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

### <American Democracy and Health Security Initiative>



The Pandemic Center is also focused on understanding local best practices and replicable models in the United States from the COVID-19 response. Through the [American Democracy and Health Security Initiative](#), the Center partnered with the CSIS Bipartisan Alliance for Health Security and the COVID Collaborative in order to conduct a groundbreaking, grassroots examination of America's pandemic "lamplighters," who innovated and bridged divides to illuminate the path forward in the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Democracy and Health Security Initiative spotlights these state and local lamplighters and harvests their hard-won lessons to ensure the most successful strategies can be sustained or

replicated in future crises. The Pandemic Center is interested in extending this work to understand replicable local innovations and models for pandemic response around the world.

Research is at the core of the Pandemic Center's mission but must be made accessible, including the public, in order to have impact. To that end, the Center is constantly working to share evidence-based scientific information from trusted global resources through initiatives including the monthly "Pandemics and Society" webinar series—free and open to the public—which examines key issues for improving our resilience to pandemics. The webinars feature high-level subject matter experts and all 20 past recordings are available on the [Center's website](#). Other notable outreach initiatives include the [Tracking Report](#), a weekly review and aggregation of published data relevant to both domestic and international infectious disease outbreaks. The report serves to interpret, contextualize, and summarize timely information to keep readers informed about potential and ongoing health threats.

This sampling of projects and initiatives highlight the Pandemic Center's commitment to leverage its own unique position as a multidisciplinary non-partisan research organization to drive an agenda of global health security and pandemic preparedness.



Image description: Pandemic Center Director, Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo and workshop guests in Washington D.C.



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