U.S. Global Health Budget: Global Health Security

Since the 1990s, there has been growing concern about new infectious diseases that threaten human health, including, in more recent years, the emergence and spread of threats such as Ebola, Zika, H1N1 influenza, Coronavirus, and antibiotic resistance. U.S. global health security efforts aim to reduce the threat of emerging infectious diseases by supporting preparedness, detection, and response capabilities worldwide. Funding designated by Congress for global health security has fluctuated over time, rising largely in response to outbreaks, including Ebola in FY 2015 and Zika in FY 2016. In FY 2020, funding for global health security was $547 million and accounts for 5% of the U.S. global health budget. The President’s FY 2021 request for global health security totaled $557 million, an $11 million increase from the previous year’s enacted level, representing the only global health program area to increase in the FY 2021 request.

U.S. Global Health Security Funding: Figures

U.S. Global Health Security Funding: Table

1 In FY15, Congress provided $5.4 billion in emergency funding to address the Ebola outbreak, of which $909.0 million was specifically designated for global health security. In FY16, Congress provided $1.1 billion in emergency funding to address the Zika outbreak, of which $415.3 million was specifically designated for global health security. In FY19, Congress provided $1.1 billion in unspent Emergency Ebola funding for “programs to accelerate the capabilities of targeted countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.” In FY20, Congress provided $38 million in unspent Emergency Ebola funding for “programs to accelerate the capacities of targeted countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.”