In fall 2003, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health $37 million to lead the agency’s global research activities for the next five years. The Global Research Activity (GRA) provides an evidence base for programs and policies worldwide in infectious disease reduction and maternal and child health and nutrition.

**VISION**
To advance the health status of infants, children, mothers, and families in the areas of micronutrients and dietary interventions, child health, neonatal health, maternal health, and tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Within each of these areas lies a comprehensive but focused agenda to achieve this vision, by conducting research in key nutrition and health care service interventions that can shape policy and practice.

**GRA PARTNERSHIP**
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Boston University Center for International Health
Center for Health and Population Research (ICDDR,B)
Helen Keller International
International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLEN)
Save the Children, USA

**RESEARCH AREAS**
GRA activities address priority research areas as defined by USAID. The research is directed at improving human health as directly and immediately as possible. Research focuses on the development of, and means to, improve the utilization of effective and feasible health and nutrition interventions.

- Diarrheal diseases
- Nutrition, vitamin A, and other micronutrients
- Acute respiratory infections
- Neonatal, infant, and child health and survival
- Infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance
- Maternal health and survival
- Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses

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**ADMINISTRATION**
Robert E. Black, Director
Keith P. West Jr. and Mathuram Santosham, Deputy Directors
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Research will be carried out in developing countries and thus needs to be relevant and applicable for the host country, as well as of global importance.
- Research will often involve north-south or south-south collaboration and will include institutional and individual capacity building for health research and policy.
- Studies will be scientifically sound and representative of the developing world to provide the best evidence for formulation of policy and programs.
- Studies will comply with current international ethical standards.
- Results will be published and made available in various forms to reach scientific and programmatic stakeholders.
- The GRA Partnership will facilitate the availability and adoption of new technologies or interventions by health programs.

SAMPLE RESEARCH

Micronutrient and Dietary Interventions
Effectiveness of Zinc in the Treatment of Diarrhea in India, Mali, and Pakistan
Introduction of Zinc Treatment for Childhood Diarrhea in Tanzania
Impact of Zinc Supplementation on Child Mortality, Southern Nepal and Zanzibar
Impact of Zinc and/or Iron-Folic Acid Supplementation on Child Mortality, Southern Nepal (NNIPS-4)
Vitamin A or Beta-Carotene Supplementation Trials to Reduce Pregnancy-related Mortality (JiVitaA-1) and Infant Mortality (JiVitaA-2) in Bangladesh
Antenatal Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation to Reduce Fetal and Infant Mortality (JiVitaA-3)
Vitamin A Supplementation of Mothers and Newborns to Reduce Risk of HIV Transmission and Mortality in Zimbabwe (ZVITAMBO)

Child Health
Community-based Intervention to Reduce Childhood Drowning in Bangladesh
Effectiveness of the Community-IMCI and the Community-IMCI with ARI Emphasis Intervention Models in Rural Bangladesh
Home-based Management of Severe Pneumonia in Children with Oral Amoxicillin
Trial of Community Case Management of Severe Pneumonia with Oral Amoxicillin in Children 2-59 Months, Pakistan
Defining Incidence of Intussusception in Bangladesh in Preparation for a Phase III Trial of a New Rotavirus Vaccine

Maternal and Neonatal Health
Impact of Umbilical Cord Cleansing with Chlorhexidine on Neonatal Mortality and Omphalitis in Rural Sylhet, Bangladesh
Community-based Interventions to Reduce Neonatal Mortality in Sylhet District, Bangladesh
Design and Evaluation of an Integrated Safe Motherhood, Neonatal and Family Planning Program in Nepal
Evaluation Research to Improve Newborn Health and Survival, CARE India
Newborn Thermal Care Practices in Rural India
Evaluation of Skin-to-Skin Care in the Community in Rural Uttar Pradesh, India
Etiology, Prevention, and Treatment of Neonatal Infections in the Community
Assessment of Levels of Unwanted Childbearing and its Health Consequences for Mothers in Rural Bangladesh
Determining the Burden of Maternal Ill Health and Death and its Programmatic Implications in Rural Bangladesh

Tuberculosis
A Randomized Trial of Novel TB Preventive Regimens for HIV-Infected Adults in Soweto, South Africa
Active TB Case Finding within a Continuum of Care Package, Cambodia
Hospital DOTS and Linkage Project (HDL), Indonesia
TB Prevalence Survey and Evaluation of Access to TB Care in HIV-Infected and Uninfected TB Patients in Asembo And Gem, Western Kenya

A complete list is posted on the GRA website.