

# CAPABILITIES STATEMENT



## MISSION

Global Scientific Solutions for Health (GSSHealth) translates health policy into practice by enhancing public health programs, strengthening clinical and research laboratories and building laboratory networks. Through planning, training, mentoring and evaluation, we strengthen disease prevention, detection and response, for existing and emerging diseases such as Ebola, HIV, malaria, TB and Zika.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### *Developing laboratory networks for quality diagnostics*

We build national and international laboratory quality improvement networks empowering participants to share knowledge and lessons learned. This innovative, progressive and sustainable approach amplifies program impact.

- National auditor workforce development
- Collaborative, stepwise road maps for customized improvement programs
- Technical and procedural laboratory testing workshops
- Cost-effective external and internal quality assurance programs
- Biosafety and biosecurity systems implementation

### *Using data to drive decision-making*

Our beneficiaries and funding organizations deserve clear metrics and accountability. We start every project by reviewing available data, performing baseline assessments and make decisions based on ongoing data collection and analysis.

- Data driven, responsive resource allocation
- Project-specific data collection, reporting and analysis tools
- Custom analytics for big data

### *Maximizing health systems logistics*

Recognizing the need for a holistic, systems approach, we simplify equipment maintenance, supply-chain analysis and forecasting to give healthcare workers, regardless of setting, continuous, efficient access to essential tools and reagents.

- Market analysis of medical and environmental technologies
- Unique supply forecasting and quantification tools
- Product evaluation and supplier performance programs
- Equipment and asset lifecycle management

### *Training cadres of National mentors and trainers*

Our passion to strengthen human resources for health goes beyond training. With continuous communication and mentorship we build resilient cadres of in-country professionals empowered with the skills to provide the highest quality health care.

- On-site hands-on workshops, training-of-trainers and mentoring
- Customized training packages, SOPs, job aids and manuals
- Online newsletters, peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations

## ABOUT GSSHEALTH

Founded: 2008 by Paula Fernandes, PhD, MBA

Certifications: HubZone, Woman Owned Small Business

DUNS: 808343730 CAGE: 5H4A9

NAICS: 541990, 541690, 541611, 541618, 511120, 611430, 611710, 519190

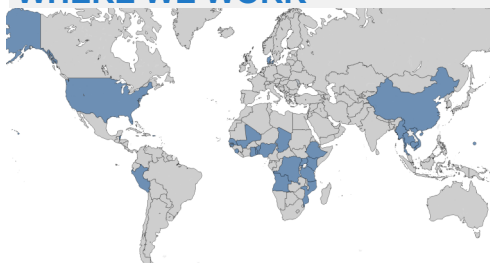
## OUR TEAM

PhD/MBA leadership, PhD, MSc and MPH subject matter experts in:

- Biosafety and biosecurity
- Clinical trials
- Data analysis
- Diagnostic testing
- Equipment maintenance
- Laboratory strengthening
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Project management
- Quality management systems
- Supply chain optimization

All core technical staff have undertaken long-term overseas assignments including in transition and post-conflict states. Our pool of talented, multilingual consultants have expertise in a full range of biomedical disciplines and previous international experience.

## WHERE WE WORK



## LANGUAGES

Core team members are fluent in Arabic, English, French, Indonesian, Russian, and Spanish.

## SELECT PAST PERFORMANCE

**CDC** — *Global Health Security Agenda, Togo and Benin*

Prime contractor, 2015-present

GSSHealth has led trainings for laboratory auditors and biosafety specialists from across government ministries, catalyzing the first national laboratory audit and biosafety programs in Togo. We have built roadmaps for biosafety and biosecurity in both countries, and for an AMR testing & surveillance program in Benin.

**US Department of Defense** — *DHAPP (HIV/AIDS prevention), West and Central Africa, Latin America*

Prime contractor, 2014-present

Working in seven core countries, GSSHealth has proven a flexible partner, rapidly responding to changing program needs. Using SLIPTA audits, training workshops and mentorship, we have identified and addressed gaps, quantifiably improving the quality of HIV/AIDS diagnostics in laboratory and field settings.

**African Society for Laboratory Medicine** — *Global impact*

Multiple direct contracts, 2009-present

GSSHealth managed a peer-review process and provided technical review for the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine (AJLM), wrote and edited articles, technical reports and policy documents and facilitated stakeholder workshops to advocate for health system strengthening across Africa. We currently provide communications support for ASLM-hosted conferences.

**Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA)** - *Zika Surge, Guam*

Direct contract, 2017

GSSHealth supported the start up of a new BSL-2 laboratory including an insectary space. We provided training and SOPs in biosafety, biosecurity, quality management, procurement systems, developed budgeting and sustainability frameworks and an analysis of testing options for the laboratory.

**UNICEF** — *Supply Division, Global impact*

Multiple direct contracts 2014-2017

GSSHealth aided in supply chain management as part of the Ebola emergency response in Sierra Leone. We have since delivered disease-specific forecasting models, supply projections, and briefing notes for 23 priority pathogens.

**USAID** — *CAP-Malaria, Cambodia*

Subcontractor to URC, 2014-2016

Evaluating the effectiveness of a USAID-funded malaria pre-elimination strategy, we performed horizontal and vertical audits and developed a comprehensive Quality Manual with SOPs for case detection, notification and response.

## DIFFERENTIATORS

Our belief is that sustainable public health programs are founded on the fusion of local, regional and international expertise. We pride ourselves on building lasting relationships with our beneficiaries, a policy that ensures that the systems we develop are jointly implemented and sustained post-engagement. Since 2008, we have used this philosophy on projects for governmental, non-governmental and multilateral organizations across five continents.

- **Consensus-based planning** with clients and recipient stakeholders allows us to tailor our approach to unique project requirements.
- Flexible and dedicated staff are able to **rapidly respond to client needs** without compromising the quality of program implementation.
- **Data-driven project management** enables us to quantify project performance metrics and program impact.
- Combining cultural sensitivity, laboratory experience and management expertise, we build **partnerships and laboratory networks**.



**“At GSSHealth, our approach is to bring the voices of health workers and scientists to the global stage through empowerment, advocacy and participatory action.”**

*Dr. Paula Fernandes, GSSHealth Founder & CEO*

## WHO WE SERVE

Through partnerships with Ministries of Health and governmental, non-governmental and multilateral agencies, we generate public health policies.

Operationalizing these policies we enhance community access to high quality health care by working directly with laboratory and clinical staff.

## MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Full-time administrative team
- FAR/DCAA compliant travel, time keeping and accounting systems
- DCMA [NICR] and State of Maryland audits
- On-site CDC reviews of management procedures, code of conduct, security policy and accounting system

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Habiyambere V, Ford N, Low-Beer D, Nkengasong J, Sands A, Pérez González M, **Fernandes P, Milgotina E.** (2016) Availability and Use of HIV Monitoring and Early Infant Diagnosis Technologies in WHO Member States in 2011–2013: Analysis of Annual Surveys at the Facility Level. **PLoS Med** 13(8): e1002088. Doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1002088

Yeh K, **Adams M,** Stamper P, Dasgupta D, Hewson R, Buck C, et al. (2016) National Laboratory Planning: Developing Sustainable Biocontainment Laboratories in Limited Resource Areas. **Health Security** 14(5): 323-330. Doi:10.1089/hs.2015.0079.