



May 6, 2021

The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Reschenthaler:

Thank you for your letter dated March 15, 2021, to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) regarding federal funding to EcoHealth Alliance Inc.

USAID has invested \$212 million in PREDICT over the 11-year life of the project – 2009-2020. USAID’s global PREDICT project assisted the Agency in the discovery of known and unknown viruses from wildlife while improving the understanding of the behaviors, practices, and conditions associated with their viral evolution, spillover, amplification, and spread in 29 countries.

Between October 2009 and May 2019, PREDICT provided a total of \$1.1 million to the EcoHealth Alliance for a sub-agreement with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) for the purpose of advancing research on critical viruses that could pose harm to human and animal health. USAID-funded activities carried out by the WIV were consistent with the work performed in other countries that also received related funding. These activities involved testing for viral families (by polymerase chain reaction (PCR)) in samples collected from wild animals and humans, as well as the development of serologic assays to test for exposure (i.e., antibodies) to coronaviruses in animals and people. These activities were done to identify and understand zoonotic viruses among animal populations before they spillover (i.e., are able to infect humans) and cause potential pandemics in people. USAID never authorized or funded any work that aimed to increase the ability of infectious agents to cause disease by enhancing its pathogenicity or by increasing its transmissibility (research known as “Gain of Function” studies) at WIV. In addition, USAID never received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to the EcoHealth Alliance requesting a voluntary pause.

Our work in China through the PREDICT project ended in 2019, due to the previous administration's decision to stop all USAID activities in China. Since then, no additional USAID Global Health Security funding has been provided to the WIV.

Thank you for your interest in and support of USAID's work in global health security and emerging infectious threats. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-712-4300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diala Jadallah-Redding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Diala Jadallah-Redding  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs