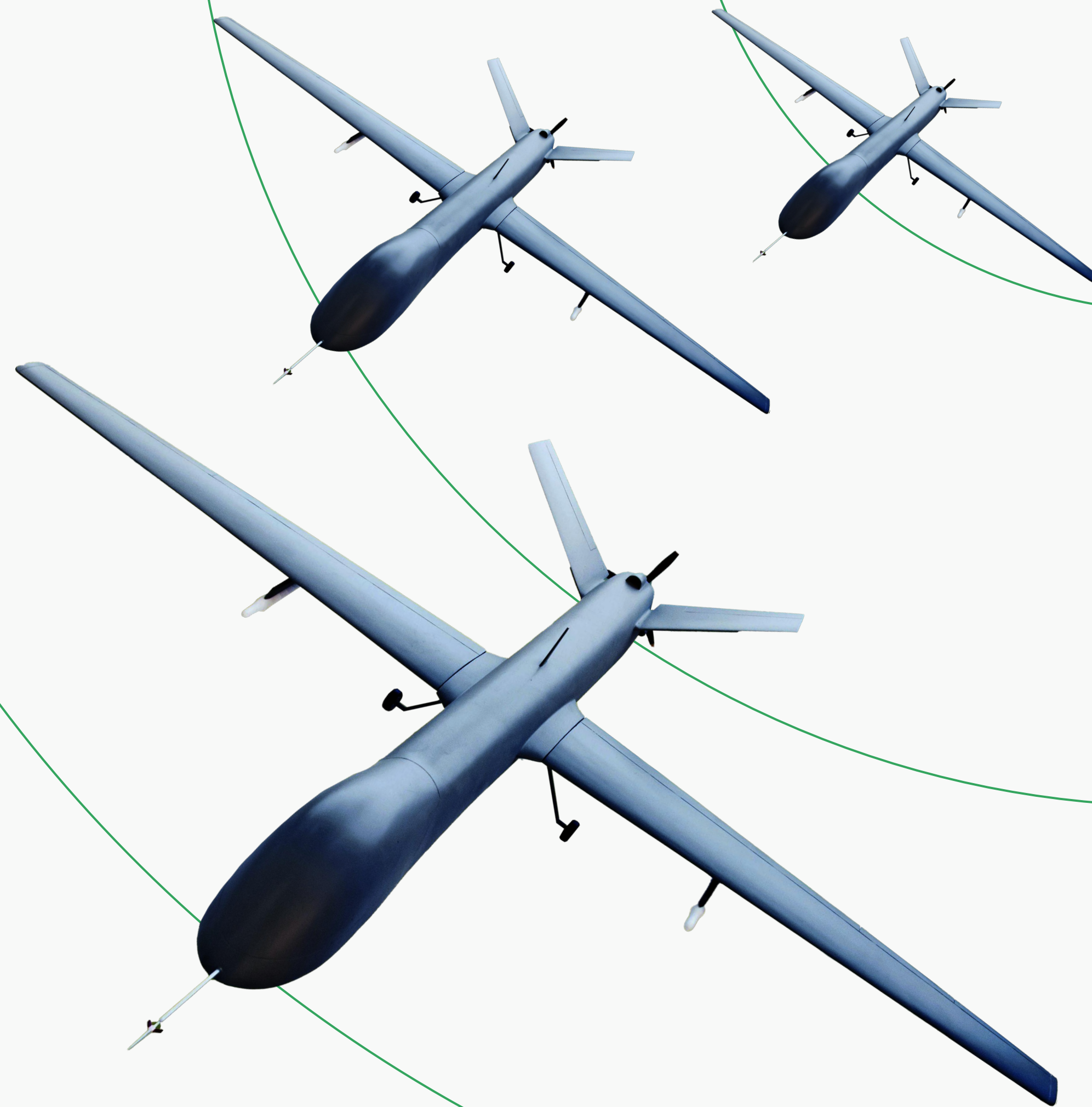


Global Catastrophic Risks Fund

2023 Impact Report



“The Global Catastrophic Risks Fund (GCRF) is Founders Pledge’s way of translating in-depth research into real action to mitigate extreme risks — be they misaligned or misused AI, biological weapons, nuclear armageddon, U.S.-China war, and more.”



Christian Ruhl
GCRF Manager

We helped launch a new organization to implement all-hazards catastrophic risks policy around the world,

Sent journalists to report on the biological weapons convention,

Helped support unofficial diplomatic dialogues on nuclear stability, and

Provided large-scale support for a brand-new biosecurity and biosafety organization.

We continued researching, and uncovered new high-impact funding opportunities, so we can effectively address the threats we face.

- [A new report on global catastrophic biological risks ↗](#)
- [A new report on global catastrophic nuclear risk ↗](#)
- [A new report on the use of communication hotlines for crises ↗](#)
- [A new analysis of effective nuclear risk reduction ↗](#)

Your contribution funds critical work and fills gaps

“Nuclear risk is far too important to leave to the generals.”

Dr. James Scouras, senior expert on nuclear war

“Without philanthropists funding work in [biosecurity and biological risks], it's not going to get funded”

Former senior U.S. policymaker

“I just came away from that [i.e. government service on biosecurity] thinking, we're just completely fucked.”

Former senior U.S. policymaker who worked in biorisk

Zero: Not a single country legally requires screening of all DNA synthesis orders.

Screening helps prevent terrorists from accessing the sequences to create biological weapons.

Since launching, we've granted
\$310,000* to four high-impact
opportunities, and advised on
\$5,510,000**.

*Total does not include grants in process at time of publication

**Advised grants have been identified, evaluated and advised on by Fund Managers,
but funded by philanthropists separately from the GCRF



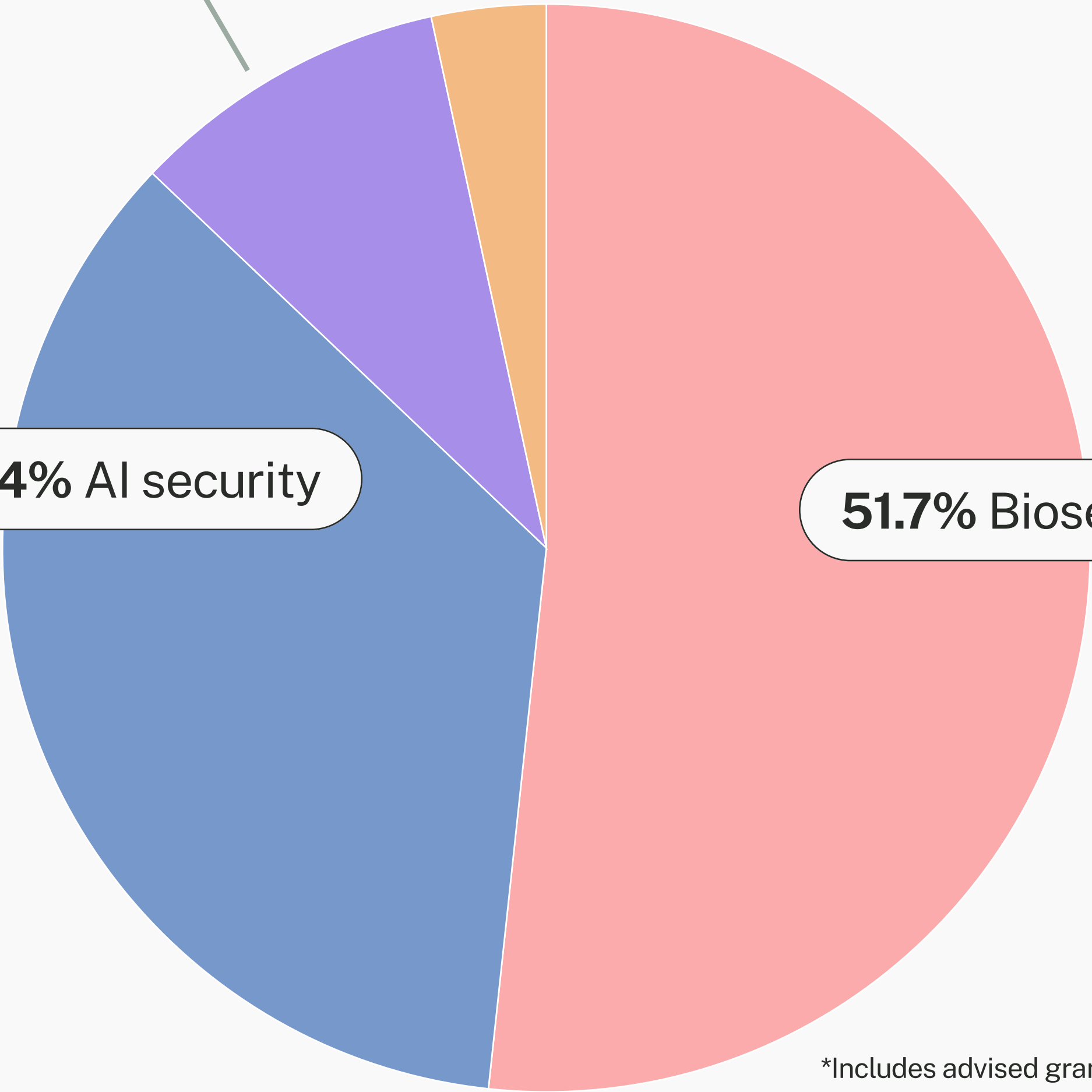
We focused on efforts to improve biological and nuclear security, make emerging military technology safer, and evolve how society manages global risks.*

9.5% All-hazards global catastrophic risks

3.4% Nuclear security

35.4% AI security

51.7% Biosecurity



*Includes advised grants, but not grants in process at time of publication

Grant-making

Direct and co-funded grants

<u>INHR*</u> <small>*Grant in process at time of publication</small>	\$124,000	For U.S.-China international diplomatic dialogues on AI and risks
<u>Global Shield</u>	\$550,000	Seed funding to launch the org (co-funded with \$200k from GCRF and \$350k from advised grants)
<u>Center for a New American Security</u>	\$200,000	For a one-year project on an International Autonomous Incidents Agreement (co-funded with \$100k from GCRF and \$100k from advised grants)
<u>Vox Media</u>	\$5,000	For coverage of the BWC Ninth Review Conference
<u>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</u>	\$5,000	For coverage of the BWC Ninth Review Conference

Advised grants

<u>International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science</u>	\$3,000,000	Seed funding to launch the org
<u>Pacific Forum</u>	\$200,000	For the U.S.-China Strategic Nuclear Dialogues
<u>Berkeley Risk and Security Lab</u>	\$1,860,000	Seed funding to launch the org

Launching the world's first international advocacy organization for global catastrophic risks

We provided \$550,000 in seed funding, in coordination with Founders Pledge members, to launch Global Shield, a new organization devoted to reducing all-hazards global catastrophic risk.

We believe our funding was highly counterfactual.

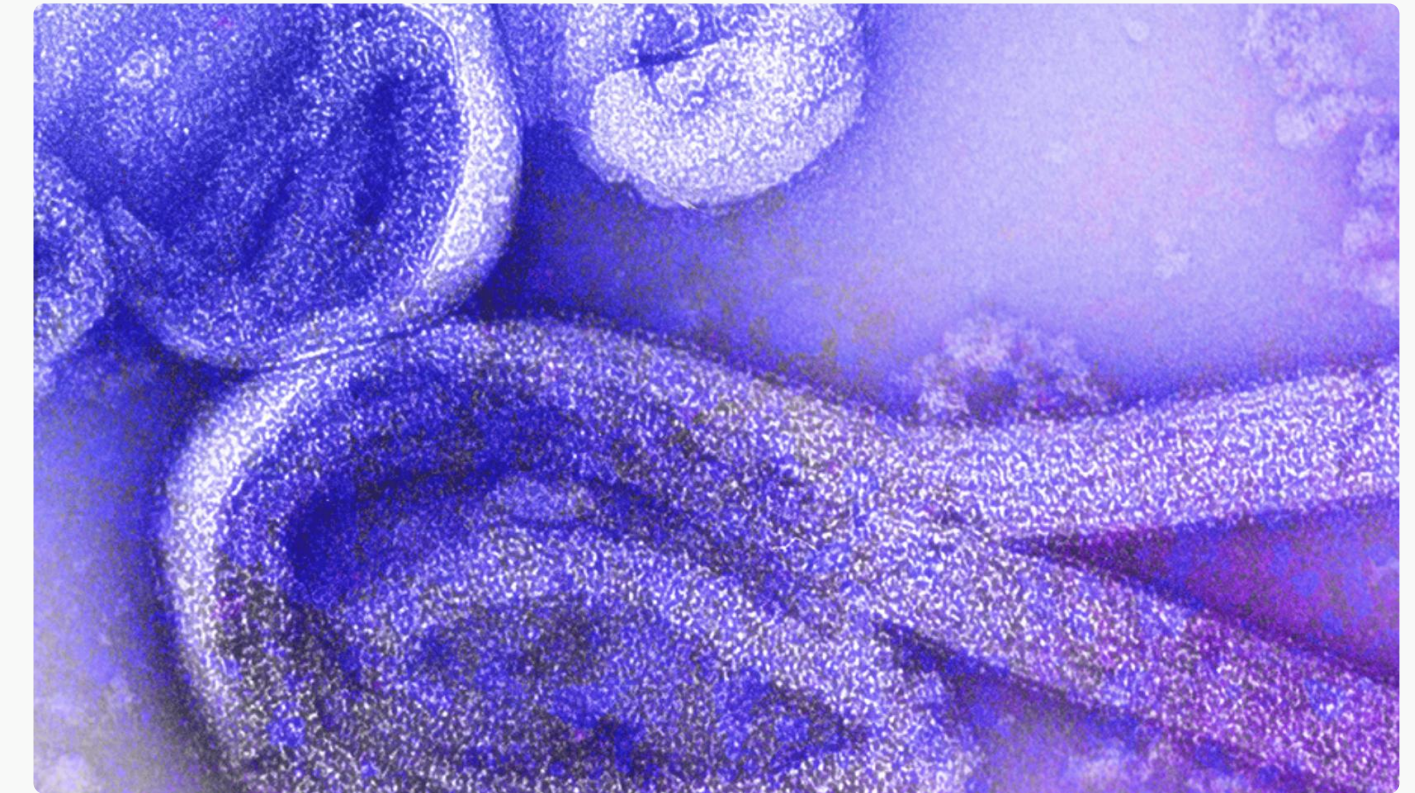
Global Shield will coordinate policy research and engage with policymakers on all-hazards GCR policy, and are stepping into a **role no one else is filling**.

We believe this project can scale massively, potentially opening several branches worldwide to conduct policy advocacy in each jurisdiction and advocate for context-specific policy positions and proposals. Their team is among the best-equipped to lead this work.

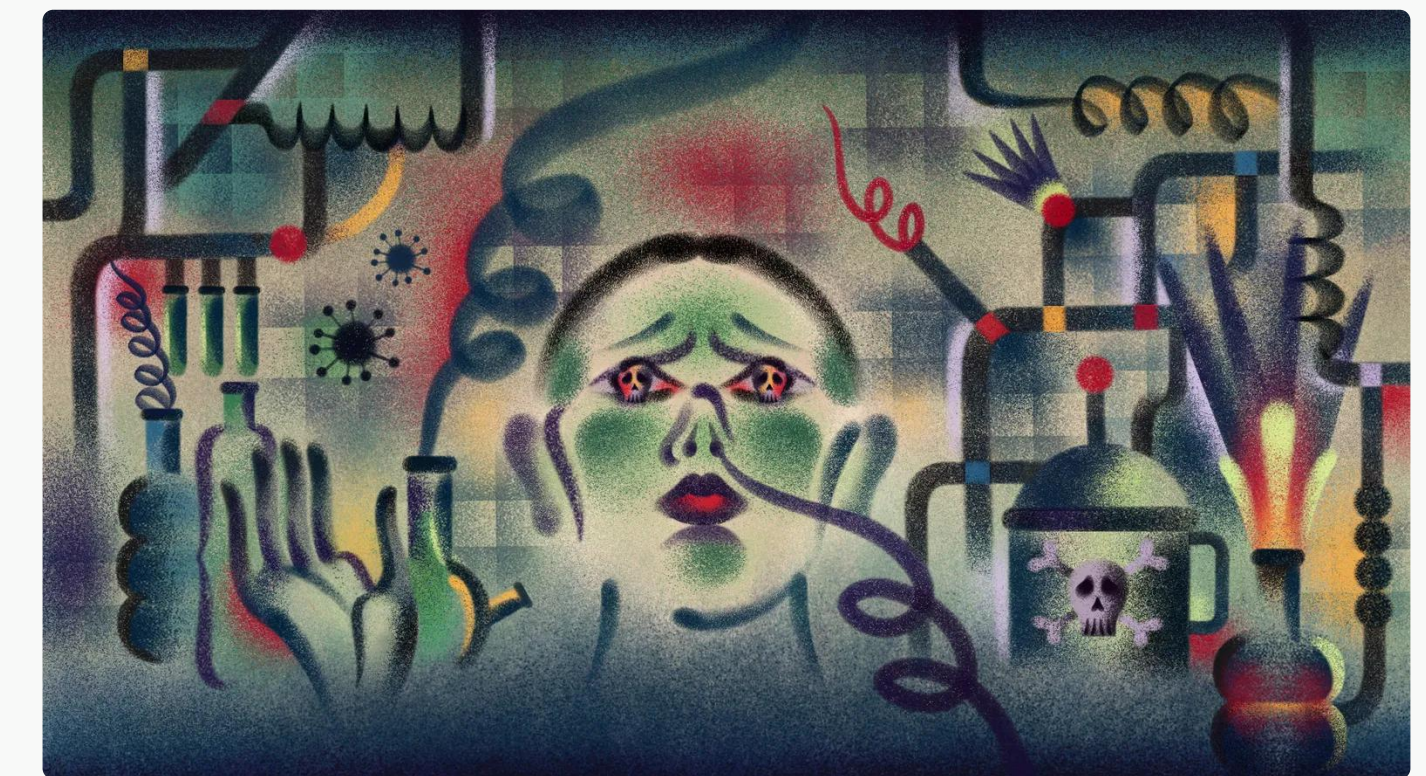
Keeping policymakers informed about biosecurity

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is a treaty, in place since 1975, that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons.

The Ninth Review Conference of the BWC took place in November and December 2022. Weeks before, we discovered that **no journalists or major news outlets were planning to cover the Convention** and its results. **We stepped in** and made grants to ensure it would receive appropriate media coverage and, ultimately, attention from policymakers.



Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists | [Can a 1975 bioweapons ban handle today's biothreats?](#)



Vox | [Can a 50-year-old treaty still keep the world safe from the changing threat of bioweapons?](#)

Military AI risks and U.S.-China Competition

Our grant to The Center for New American Security (CNAS) funded a **one-year project to explore a potential International Autonomous Incidents Agreement (IAIA)**. As more autonomous weapons systems are built and deployed, an IAIA and other confidence-building measures could help establish critical guidelines around their use.

In June, CNAS convened experts from AI companies, national governments and militaries, and leading scholars on AI risk in a workshop. It's an important **first step on the path to better policies and practices**, and an attendee said they believed more person-hours were spent that day thinking about confidence-building measures for uncrewed/autonomous systems than cumulatively had been spent at all [previously]. [Read Christian's account from the workshop ↗](#).

Launching a unique biosecurity organization

We advised on a grant to help launch the International Biosecurity and Biosafety Initiative for Science (IBBIS), an organization **strengthening global biosecurity norms** and developing innovative tools and incentives to uphold them.

Incubated by NTI | bio, and supported by our research into biological risks, it's the only independent organization primarily dedicated to reducing emerging biological risks associated with technology advances.

They're tackling the international Common Mechanism [↗] for DNA synthesis screening to improve and increase screening efforts, which can prevent the technology from being misused and exploited to create biological weapons.

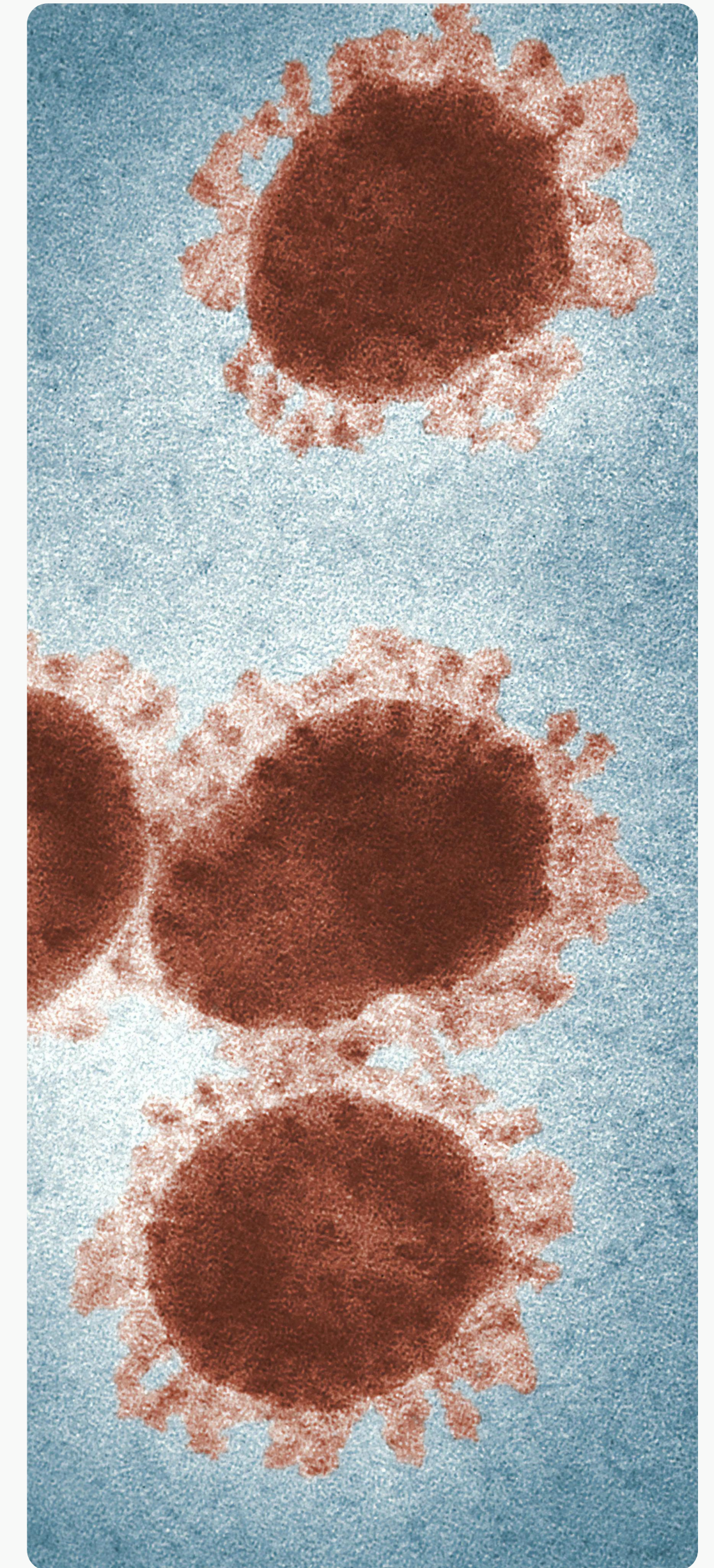


Photo by CDC on Unsplash.

Established in 2022 to prevent the biggest threats to humanity.



Photo by Mil.gov.ua, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

- **Advanced artificial intelligence.**
- **War between great powers.**
- **Frontier military technology.**
- **Natural or engineered pandemics.**
- **Thermonuclear war.**

These global catastrophic risks could lead to civilizational collapse or even total human extinction...

and they continue to grow.

We work across three paths to reduce risks:

- 1 Minimizing the probability of large-scale catastrophic events
- 2 Mitigating the potential negative impacts if they occur
- 3 Improving our ability to anticipate new and emerging risks on the horizon

We seek highly impactful initiatives that are neglected by other grant-makers, look for steps that can be taken today, and give special consideration to threats that could curtail humanity's future.

Dive deeper with Christian



- [It's time for a new atomic altruism - Vox ↗](#)
- [How policymakers can build a better doomsday clock - The Lawfare Blog ↗](#)
- [Why policy makers should beware claims of new 'arms races' - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists ↗](#)
- [Sixty years after the Cuban Missile Crisis, how to face a new era of global catastrophic risks - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists ↗](#)
- [Christian Ruhl and Haydn Belfield named 2022 Leonard M. Rieser Award recipients ↗](#)

\$651,381

Contributed all time by Founders
Pledge members and the public

\$309,807

Granted all time

\$515,661

Contributed in 2023

\$194,777

Granted in 2023

\$350,123

Available balance as of
Dec 7 2023*

*The GCRF seeks to maintain a minimum balance, as this allows us to make quick decisions and take advantage of time-sensitive opportunities. Balances differ slightly from the simple sum of money in -money out due to FX movements over time.





This Fund is administered by Founders Pledge, a global nonprofit empowering entrepreneurs to do the most good possible with their charitable giving.

100% of contributions are allocated for grant-making; we don't take any cuts. We're grateful to be funded by our members and other generous donors.

Interested in powering another year of fighting the biggest threats we face?

[View donation options ↗](#)

This is a public fund, and we accept contributions from both Founders Pledge members and non-members.

Stay in touch

[Fund Webpage ↗](#)

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