

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

Building on its unique positioning in Abu Dhabi and with an initial focus on four diseases: polio, malaria, onchocerciasis, and lymphatic filariasis, GLIDE aims to accelerate progress towards disease elimination.

Our value proposition includes our panoramic perspective in the UAE, a cross-disease and cross-border approach, and our ability to play a catalytic role in helping reach the last mile of elimination. GLIDE will work together with public, private and academic institutions to leverage local, regional, and global expertise, and build a community of practice around disease elimination and global health. GLIDE and the UAE will serve as catalysts, conveners, and conduits to globalise and localise global public health. This means bringing global health discussions to the UAE and bringing the UAE and the region increasingly to the global discussions.

Our Strategic Plan 2021-2024 outlines how we will build upon existing efforts in disease elimination and identify gaps in knowledge so that we can help consign diseases of poverty to the history books.

STRATEGY ON A PAGE

VISION

A WORLD FREE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY

MISSION

ADVANCE GLOBAL THINKING AND ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS DISEASE ELIMINATION

PRINCIPLES

BUILD ON COUNTRY OWNERSHIP AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS, PROMOTE INTEGRATED AND HEALTH SYSTEMS APPROACHES, SUSTAIN PROGRESS, ENGAGE CATALYTICALLY, WORK IN PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL 1

ELEVATE AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve understanding of pathways to elimination
2. Secure stakeholder commitment
3. Increase financing for disease elimination

GOAL 2

ADVANCE ELIMINATION STRATEGIES

OBJECTIVES

1. Amplify data, research, and lessons learned
2. Problem-solve challenges
3. Facilitate cross-disease, cross-sectoral and cross-border action

GOAL 3

FOSTER AND SCALE INNOVATION

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify opportunities
2. Stimulate and test new approaches and tools
3. Translate learning to action

CROSS-CUTTING OUTPUTS

1. AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DISEASE AND DISEASE ELIMINATION RAISED
2. COLLABORATIONS FOR ELIMINATION ACROSS COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRIES ENHANCED
3. NEW APPROACHES DEVELOPED

PRINCIPLES

At the core of our work is the belief that we must work collaboratively and in partnerships in order to achieve our shared goals and targets. We do this by building on country ownership and local solutions, promoting an integrated and health systems approach, and engaging catalytically to sustain progress.

BUILD ON COUNTRY OWNERSHIP AND LOCAL SOLUTIONS

GLIDE is grounded in country realities and respect for the local context, capacities, knowledge, and leadership. It aims to amplify lessons learned from the countries with which it engages, and takes a panoramic view to help countries share experiences, coordinate, and learn across contexts to accelerate progress towards elimination goals.

PROMOTE INTEGRATED AND HEALTH SYSTEMS APPROACHES

We believe that sustainable solutions require strong partnerships across public, private, international, and domestic actors focusing on cross-border, cross-sectoral, and cross-disease action. GLIDE will work through existing health systems rather than duplicating them, creating siloes, and taking or diverting resources from existing programmes.

SUSTAIN PROGRESS

GLIDE is not about "quick fixes." We seek results that build on past progress and can be sustained for the long-term.

ENGAGE CATALYTICALLY

GLIDE seeks to invest strategically, seizing opportunities and bridging gaps by accelerating thinking and action to help achieve elimination targets. GLIDE will guard against top-down development and support coordinated efforts.

GOALS & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve our goals, we have identified a series of strategic objectives that will guide our work over the next three years. While each of these objectives underpins a specific pillar of work, many of them are cross-cutting and require an integrated approach.

PILLAR 1: ELEVATE AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

Polio, malaria, onchocerciasis, and lymphatic filariasis are diseases of poverty and neglected by the public health system. Despite increased efforts over the past 20 years, lack of knowledge, awareness, political commitment, and financing are still key barriers to addressing them. For this reason, GLIDE seeks to elevate awareness and engagement for disease elimination globally, in the region and affected countries.

1. IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF PATHWAYS TO ELIMINATION

Lack of knowledge and understanding of these diseases and guidance and successful strategies to address them are key barriers to elimination. To address this, GLIDE will help improve knowledge through advocacy, training, and developing and disseminating publications and briefs through events and media.

2. SECURE STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT

Historically, there has been a lack of commitment to eliminating diseases of poverty. GLIDE will aim to secure commitment of stakeholders at the global, regional, and country levels and across sectors, including civil society, academia, donors, the public, and the private sectors through convenings, partnerships and coalition building.

3. INCREASE FINANCING FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION

Diseases of poverty are underfunded and lack both donor and domestic investment. GLIDE will help "make the case" and advocate for increased and rationalised financing for disease elimination, including by developing investment cases and briefs to encourage increased investment. To "make the case," GLIDE with its partners, will draw on experiences of success and failure, learning lessons across contexts and highlighting innovative tools and approaches that underpin the arguments for elimination. In doing so, GLIDE will work with partners to raise financing for NTD and elimination and keep NTDs, malaria and polio high on the political agenda.

PILLAR 2: ADVANCE ELIMINATION STRATEGIES

Disease elimination strategies and plans often have limited focus and there are missed opportunities of applying synergies and lessons learned across disease areas or countries.

1. AMPLIFY DATA, RESEARCH, AND LESSONS LEARNED

While there are existing data and academic research, they are often not utilised to inform disease elimination strategies. Furthermore, there is limited systematic documentation of learnings from countries. To this end, GLIDE will, for example, synthesise lessons learned from countries, support their publication and dissemination, and highlight the effective integration and use of data across diseases to make better informed programmatic decisions.

2. PROBLEM-SOLVE CHALLENGES

Recognising that there are more challenges than solutions, GLIDE takes an active role in bringing together stakeholders to problem-solve targeted problems and develop ways to bridge gaps to further disease elimination. It will do this through convenings, tailored training, and facilitating testing of potential solutions with small grants.

3. FACILITATE CROSS-DISEASE, CROSS-SECTORAL AND CROSS-BORDER ACTION

Disease elimination strategies are often developed and implemented in siloes, without leveraging synergies. To this end, GLIDE seeks to facilitate integrated action and will seize opportunities for cross-disease thinking, including across vectors, therapies, and systems. Given that sustained disease elimination in any country is dependent on progress in neighboring countries, it will support cross-border coordination and collaboration while also fostering cross-sectoral synergies.

PILLAR 3: FOSTER AND SCALE INNOVATIONS

New innovations delivered at scale are required to transform service delivery for disease elimination.

1. IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding gaps, 'white space,' and unmet needs are required to catalyse innovation. To this end, for example, GLIDE seeks to conduct landscape analyses across disease areas and sectors, such as water and sanitation, and determine areas where it can complement the work of others. This will be the first step GLIDE takes before embarking on any investment.

2. STIMULATE AND TEST NEW APPROACHES AND TOOLS

While there are a number of existing interventions that have proven effective in disease elimination, there has been little support for testing the types of new approaches required for accelerating elimination. GLIDE is focused specifically on incentivising those innovations with potential for acceleration and scale.

3. TRANSLATE LEARNING TO ACTION

Translating new learnings into action requires dedicated action and engagement. GLIDE will build on implementation research and lessons learned to change from a business as usual approach and make sure that new knowledge, tools, and approaches that are successful are urgently deployed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.GLIDEAE.ORG