



Oscar Medina, 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

GLOBAL  
INSTITUTE <sup>FOR</sup>  
~~DISEASE~~  
ELIMINATION

# FOREWORD

FROM  
WALEED AL MUHAIRI,  
BOARD CHAIR

**“DESPITE THESE CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES, GLIDE HAS CONTINUED TO WORK WITH A RANGE OF PARTNERS TO DRAW ATTENTION AND DRIVE ACTION TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE ELIMINATION.”**



Over the past year, new variants of COVID-19 have continued to cause disruption around the world, shifting resources and global attention from longstanding health issues to the immediate challenge of tackling the pandemic, regardless of geographic location.

Despite these challenging circumstances, GLIDE has continued to work with a range of partners to draw attention and drive action towards our goal of infectious disease elimination. While initial predictions forecasted that the pandemic would set back disease elimination efforts by decades, I am encouraged by reports showing that considerable progress has been made, specifically in areas such as mass drug administration and immunisation programmes. Of course, none of this could have been possible without the tireless effort and dedication of health care workers across the globe.

Formally launched just months before the COVID-19 outbreak, GLIDE has been able to navigate recent challenges and adapt to new ways of working. We have built strong partnerships with organisations such as The Carter Center, Sightsavers, Bridges to Development, the

Government of Malawi, the Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), and the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance-Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APLMA-APMEN). These partnerships are anchored in trust, collaboration, and a shared vision of health for all. Together, we have launched new initiatives to raise awareness around disease elimination while exploring innovative strategies and methods that could accelerate progress towards the eradication of many diseases. In addition, we were pleased to announce the five winners of the inaugural Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, whose innovative projects will help move the dial closer towards achieving elimination goals in Pakistan, Yemen, the Philippines, and Ghana.

I want to thank the GLIDE Board of Directors who have contributed their time and expertise over the past year, the GLIDE team, and our partners, whose collaboration brings us closer to realising our collective goal of disease elimination and eradication. For GLIDE, 2021 was a year of formalising partnerships and building our capacity as an institute to help others go further, faster. I look forward to continuing our work in 2022 as we progress towards our shared vision of a world free from infectious diseases.

# FOREWORD

## FROM SIMON BLAND, CEO

**“WE CONTINUE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF COVID-19 IN ALL THAT WE DO, AND I AM PLEASED THAT WE WERE ABLE TO ACCELERATE OUR ACTIVITIES ACROSS ALL THREE PILLARS OF WORK OUTLINED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN.”**

COVID-19 has exacerbated the deep inequalities in our societies and highlighted the urgent need to ensure equitable access and affordability of life-saving vaccines, diagnostics and treatments. We continue to take account of COVID-19 in all that we do, and I am pleased that we were able to accelerate our activities across all three pillars of work outlined in our Strategic Plan.

This year, we were able to bring all our full-time staff to Abu Dhabi, after almost a year of remote working across multiple countries and time zones. This enabled us to have our first ever in-person team strategic retreat, which was an important opportunity for building team and organisational culture while conducting strategic planning for the future.

Our programmes, partnerships, and initiatives have started to mature, and we were pleased to launch the inaugural Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, which seek to discover and implement innovative approaches to disease elimination in endemic countries.



After launching a revitalised website, we also began a new blog series and a podcast, inviting experts and advocates who work in disease elimination to share their experiences. Finally, we were proud to join up with partners advocating for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations and diagnostics.

Looking ahead, we will explore new horizons and partnerships, such as working with the Asia Pacific Malaria Leaders Alliance on cross-border and cross-disease efforts to eliminate lymphatic filariasis and malaria, with the Cameroonian authorities on the scaling up of LoaScope testing where loiasis and onchocerciasis are co-endemic, and with partners in Pakistan on malaria and polio elimination initiatives. We hope that, with our involvement, we can help partners go further and faster to reach our shared goals of elimination and eradication.

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# 2021 IN REVIEW

## JANUARY

### World NTD Day

#### The Power of Partnership:

The UAE & The Carter Center celebrate 30 years – Simon Bland (GLIDE CEO) and Paige Alexander (Carter Center CEO) in conversation

## MARCH

### Partnership with The Carter Center announced

**Power Chat** with GLIDE CEO Simon Bland during the IdeaGen Global Leadership Summit

### Behavioral Communication Strategies for Epidemics:

Social Behaviour Change for Vaccinations course with New York University and other partners

## APRIL

### Launch of the inaugural Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination

**GLIDE presentation** on COVAX advocacy in MENA to the Pandemic Action Network

### World Malaria Day

## MAY

**Malaria and Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination presentation** to the International Task Force for Disease Eradication

## JUNE

### Launch of revamped GLIDE website

**Convening of Malawi's Onchocerciasis Elimination Expert Advisory Committee**

## AUGUST

**Virtual convening** of African National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee Chairs

**On-location filming** and photography in Cameroon for webisodes project

## DECEMBER

### Launch of Arabic language microsite

**Co-convened Part II** of the Moxidectin Scientific Data Review – virtual roundtable with Medicines Development for Global Health

### Announcement of The Falcon Award winners

**Virtual booth** at the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) malaria leader's alliance event

## NOVEMBER

**Co-hosted event** with the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN, Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN, New York on Making space for diverse country expertise in the global health dialogue

**Vaccines in MENA** – Journalist Information Session with MSD

### Partnership with Sightsavers announced

**American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Annual Meeting** – poster presentation on incentives for disease elimination and virtual workshop on integration with Bridges to Development

## OCTOBER

**On-location filming** and photography in Hispaniola for webisodes project

**Co-convened Part I of the Moxidectin Scientific Data Review** – virtual roundtable with Medicines Development for Global Health

**Participated in press launch of RLM Fund campaign:** 50 days to transform 50 million lives

**GLIDE presentation** to the WHO EMRO Regional Working Group on COVAX

**GLIDE presentation** on its COVAX advocacy in the MENA region to global health immunisation partners

### GLIDE team in-person strategy retreat

### Launch of GLIDE's Instagram

### World Polio Day

## SEPTEMBER

**On-location filming** and photography in Pakistan for webisodes project

# PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

## PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

# THE FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION



In April 2021, GLIDE launched the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, an initiative awarding US\$200,000 and a partnership with GLIDE to five winners in endemic countries whose proposals aim to accelerate the elimination of GLIDE's current diseases of focus.

The Falcon Awards closed for abstract submissions in June, after receiving **220 diverse applications from 44 countries across the Global South**. After several rounds of evaluation, five winners were selected from a group of 10 finalists. Our esteemed panel of judges included **Professor Maha Taysir Barakat**, Board Chair of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria; **Dr Sarthak Das**, Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance; **Dr Tunji Funsho**, Chair of Rotary's National PolioPlus Committee; and **Dr Katey Owen**, Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases at The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## PANEL OF JUDGES:



**PROFESSOR MAHA TAYSIR BARAKAT**

Board Chair of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, Abu Dhabi, UAE



**DR SARTHAK DAS**

Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA), Singapore



**DR TUNJI FUNSHO**

Chair, Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, Lagos, Nigeria



**DR KATEY OWEN**

Director, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, USA

The five winners below were announced by **Professor Maha Barakat** at the official World Health Organization (WHO) event commemorating Universal Health Coverage on 12 December at Expo 2020 in Dubai:

## **WINNERS**

### **DR JAI DAS**

**Assistant Professor for the Division of Women and Child Health and Section Head, Public Health and Epidemiology at Aga Khan University, Pakistan**

Dr Das will use personalised incentives such as cash transfers, voucher schemes, and lotteries to encourage greater uptake of polio vaccines. The project will be rolled out in the districts of Karachi and Pishin, two of 40 Super High-Risk Union Councils identified by the government as hotbeds of vaccine refusals and poliovirus circulation.

### **DR MUHAMMAD SALMAN**

**Chief of the Public Health Laboratories Division of Pakistan's National Institute of Health**

Dr Salman will use innovative molecular detection technology and genomic surveillance of poliovirus in Pakistan and Afghanistan, for the first time. The technology will help reduce the timeline of poliovirus testing to reporting from 21 to seven days.

### **DR ABDUL SAMID AL-KUBATI**

**Technical Manager of Yemen's National Leprosy Elimination Program**

Dr Al-Kubati's project is focused on sustaining the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) as a public health problem in Yemen, as validated by the World Health Organization in 2019. His project will deliver effective, efficient, quality and affordable health services to mitigate the impact of LF to improve the overall health status for Yemenis and accelerate economic growth.

### **DR FE ESPERANZA ESPINO**

**Medical Specialist in the Department of Health at The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Philippines**

Dr Espino will implement innovative surveillance techniques to help eliminate malaria and LF in eight provinces across the Philippines where they currently co-exist. The project will equip trained "barangay" (community) health workers with android tablets to collect a brief history and a geolocation of patients who visit rural health facilities.

### **PROFESSOR DANIEL ADJEI BOAKYE**

**Senior Technical Advisor at the END Fund, based at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana**

Professor Boakye's project will carry out a series of targeted field studies in Ghana's Nkwanta North District to refine the multi-village model for preventing river blindness and identify the best treatment strategies for the disease. Results from the study will also help in redefining transmission zones for other neglected tropical diseases programmes, ensuring these zones are targeted with specific interventions.



Oscar Medina , 2021

**LOOKING AHEAD, GLIDE WILL PARTNER WITH THE WINNERS OVER THE COURSE OF 2022-2023 TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK AS WELL AS TO SHARE MILESTONES AND LESSONS FROM THEIR JOURNEYS TO ELIMINATION.**



**GLIDE'S SUPPORT ENABLED THE CARTER CENTER TO CONDUCT A MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR LF IN LEOGANE AND GRESSIER IN HAITI, AND A NATIONWIDE LF SURVEILLANCE SURVEY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WITH INTEGRATED TESTING FOR MALARIA.**

## **PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

# **THE CARTER CENTER**

In 2020, GLIDE entered into two partnerships with The Carter Center: support for the Onchocerciasis Elimination Program for the Americas, and support for an initiative to eliminate lymphatic filariasis (LF) and malaria on the island of Hispaniola, which comprises Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

## **ONCHOCERCIASIS ELIMINATION PROGRAM FOR THE AMERICAS (OEPA)**

GLIDE's support has facilitated work to assess the presence of Yanomami villages as well as the completion of two critical international meetings. This is contributing not just to the advancement of onchocerciasis elimination in Venezuela, but also to the increasing adoption of high-tech solutions for problems faced by neglected tropical diseases (NTD) programmes.

## **HISPANIOLA INITIATIVE TO ELIMINATE MALARIA AND LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS**

Despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing political and security instability in Haiti, GLIDE's support enabled The Carter Center to conduct a mass drug administration for LF in Leogane and Gressier in Haiti and a nationwide LF surveillance survey in the Dominican Republic, with integrated testing for malaria.

In March 2021, GLIDE participated virtually in The Carter Center Health Programmes Review meetings. In May 2021, Simon Bland, the CEO of GLIDE, presented GLIDE's perspectives on malaria and LF elimination on Hispaniola to the International Task Force on Disease Eradication. A full summary of the meeting was published in the WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record.





**GLIDE AND BRIDGES ARE REFINING THE INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK AND PROCESS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DISEASE PROGRAMMES TO IDENTIFY IMPACTFUL AND FEASIBLE WIN-WIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION, RANGING FROM ALIGNMENT OF ACTIVITIES TO FULL INTEGRATION.**

## **PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

# **BRIDGES TO DEVELOPMENT**

Building off a partnership initiated in 2020, GLIDE and Bridges to Development (Bridges) identified two projects that could help add to the body of knowledge and accelerate progress in disease elimination efforts.

## **ADVANCING APPROACHES TO DISEASE INTEGRATION PROGRAMMING**

This project aims to improve and increase the efficiency of disease elimination and eradication efforts by refining an integration framework previously tested in two countries, Liberia and Tanzania, during COR-NTD sessions in 2020. The integration framework was developed after a review of several case studies of cross-programme or cross-sector collaboration in Nigeria, Ethiopia and China. The review highlighted themes in both successes and challenges that have informed the design of the framework. Findings were developed into a white paper which has informed the second phase of work.

Together, GLIDE and Bridges are refining the integration framework and process to support national disease programmes to identify impactful and feasible win-win opportunities for collaboration, ranging from alignment of activities to full integration.

## **WORKSHOP**

Through this partnership, GLIDE and Bridges identified two countries – Ghana and Tanzania – where the integration process and framework can be applied for

integration between NTDs and malaria programmes. In November 2021, GLIDE and Bridges, in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service, supported the implementation of a country-led integration workshop which facilitated a conversation between the NTD and malaria programmes through the integration framework and resulted in the identification of several feasible and highly impactful opportunities for cross-programme integration. GLIDE and Bridges initially planned to convene a similar workshop in the Solomon Islands, but due to the political situation in the country, have had to revise initial plans and will likely convene disease programmes in either Tanzania or Liberia in the coming year.

## THE GLOBAL ELIMINATION OR ERADICATION ADVANCEMENT REVIEW (GEAR) FRAMEWORK

In March 2021, GLIDE and Bridges began a project to design an evaluation tool and an independent review process to assess the strategy used at the global level by elimination and eradication programmes. GEAR will be piloted in onchocerciasis programmes.

The evaluation framework builds on monitoring and evaluation tools currently available to the NTD community (such as the WHO's new Gap Assessment Tool). Unlike these existing tools, GEAR aims to not only identify and address weaknesses

and gaps, but to shape future directions by prompting root cause analysis. If such an approach can help identify risks early, this will prevent today's elimination and eradication programmes from suffering from the same mistakes of past programmes.

An independent advisory group has been formed to approve the stakeholder engagement plan and to review the data collected from the GEAR evaluation survey. Results from the survey will be shared with key opinion leaders in the disease community.



William Nsai, 2021



## PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

# ACCELERATING THE ELIMINATION OF ONCHOCERCIASIS IN MALAWI

Over the course of the year, GLIDE partnered with the Malawi Onchocerciasis Control Programme (MOCP) to conduct onchocerciasis transmission assessments in two districts for which there were gaps in data.

GLIDE expanded its engagement in Malawi to further accelerate the elimination of onchocerciasis nationally through the convening of Malawi's Onchocerciasis Elimination Expert Advisory Committee (MOEEAC) which serves as the country's National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee.

**TO REALISE THE GOALS OUTLINED IN THE 2021-2030 WHO NTD GLOBAL ROAD MAP, COUNTRIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-YEAR 'MASTER PLANS' FOR THE CONTROL OF NTDS, WHICH WILL SERVE AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE NTD PROGRAMMES.**

In late June, GLIDE supported the convening of the MOEEAC which serves as the country's National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee (NOEC). The virtual convening brought together key stakeholders to provide expert advice and technical support for onchocerciasis elimination to the Ministry of Health in Malawi, and served as the third convening of the Committee, which had not gathered since September 2017. The goal of the meeting was to review the current state of onchocerciasis transmission in Malawi, drawing from the new data gathered from the transmission assessment conducted in 2019/2020 in Neno district with support from GLIDE.

GLIDE is also supporting the MOCP and the Malawi Ministry of Health in the development of the Malawi NTD Master Plan (2022-2026). To realise the goals outlined in the 2021-2030 WHO NTD Global Road Map, countries are encouraged to develop comprehensive multi-year 'Master Plans' for the control of NTDs which will serve as an essential component for effective planning and implementation of sustainable NTD programmes.

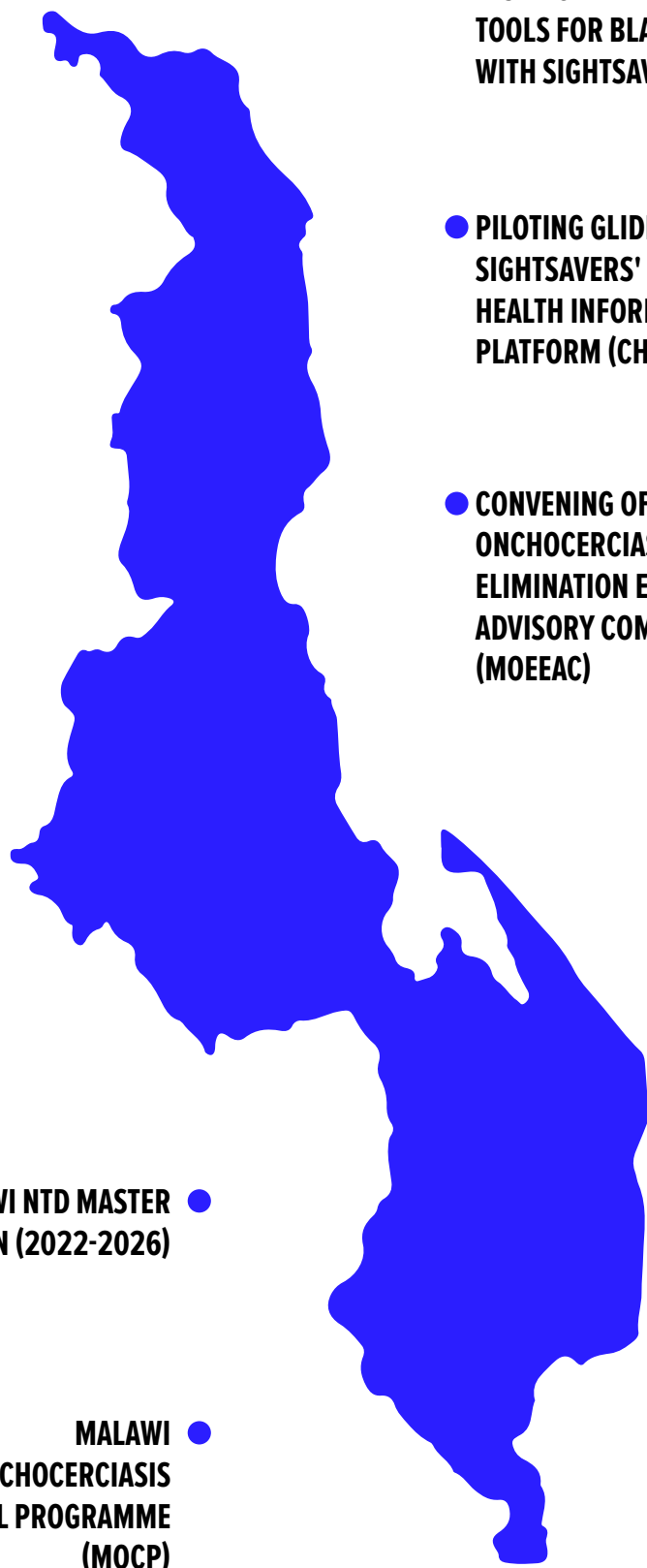
Each national NTD Master Plan must address all components of the NTD programmes relevant to the country, provide programme goals, objectives and a 3–5-year strategy based on extensive situation analysis. By supporting this work alongside other partners to the Ministry of Health, GLIDE will assist Malawi not only in eliminating onchocerciasis but other endemic NTDs as well.

## OUR EFFORTS IN ELIMINATING ONCHOCERCIASIS IN MALAWI:

- TESTING NEW TRAPPING TOOLS FOR BLACKFLIES WITH SIGHTSAVERS
- PILOTING GLIDE-SIGHTSAVERS' COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PLATFORM (CHIP)
- CONVENING OF MALAWI'S ONCHOCERCIASIS ELIMINATION EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MOEEAC)

MALAWI NTD MASTER PLAN (2022-2026)

MALAWI ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME (MOCP)





Okhumale Courage, Shutterstock

**THE COURSE COVERED A RANGE OF TOPICS AND CONCEPTS, INCLUDING SOCIAL LISTENING, COMMUNITY FEEDBACK, HOW TO COLLECT AND USE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DATA, DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT, THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN COMBATING RUMOURS AND MISINFORMATION, VACCINE HESITANCY, AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY INFLUENCERS.**

## **PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

# **BEHAVIOURAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR EPIDEMICS: BSCE**

## **SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE FOR VACCINATIONS**

To address vaccine hesitancy, GLIDE, together with New York University's School of Global Public Health, UNICEF, WHO EMRO, and the American University of Beirut Faculty of Health Sciences Center for Public Health Practice, designed and implemented a course that targeted the Eastern Mediterranean/MENA region.

The course, held from March-May, consisted of two weeks of self-paced online modules followed by interactive, collaborative sessions led by content experts. The target audience was public health professionals from UN agencies, national governments, private for-profit

health organisations, and NGOs who were already engaged in or interested in building skills and competencies to improve vaccine delivery and acceptance. The course covered a range of topics and concepts, including social listening, community feedback, how to collect and use social and behavioural data, digital engagement, the role of the media in combating rumours and misinformation, vaccine hesitancy, and the role of community influencers. GLIDE sponsored eighteen participants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, UAE, and Jordan for participation in this course.



**“UP-TO-DATE AND ACCURATE DATA IS VITAL FOR ELIMINATING RIVER BLINDNESS AND OTHER NTDS. WITHOUT GOOD DATA, GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS CAN’T DIRECT EFFORTS TO WHERE THEY’RE MOST NEEDED OR BE CERTAIN THAT PEOPLE AREN’T RECEIVING UNNECESSARY TREATMENT. INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION IS VITAL IF WE WANT TO ELIMINATE PREVENTABLE DISEASES OF POVERTY.”**

– SIMON BLAND, GLIDE CEO

## PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

# SIGHTSAVERS

In November, GLIDE announced a new, multi-year partnership with Sightsavers to help eliminate onchocerciasis and other NTDs in Africa.

## STOPPING BLACKFLIES IN THEIR TRACKS

The first programme aims to accelerate the elimination of onchocerciasis and possibly other NTDs in Africa by working together with Ministries of Health and other partners to test innovative ways to trap blackflies, identify their breeding grounds, and enhance laboratory analysis. Collecting and analysing blackfly data has historically been challenging because, until now, human landing capture has been the only reliable way to monitor for infected blackfly and the only method recognised by the WHO.

This project will include developing new collection and trapping tools for blackflies which will be implemented in two cross-border areas: Malawi-Mozambique and Ghana-Cote d’Ivoire. These areas pose a particular challenge in the fight against onchocerciasis as people and blackflies move freely across national and international borders, and data has shown that onchocerciasis in these areas cannot be combated with existing, outdated tools.

By addressing these issues and building capacity in the four project countries, this research will provide a valuable evidence base and operational guidance for the increasing number of countries that need to undertake entomological monitoring to verify interruption of onchocerciasis transmission.

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT NTDS

GLIDE and Sightsavers will also join other partners to roll out a new, user-friendly Country Health Information Platform (CHIP), to help countries quickly access important data. This includes district-level mass drug administration data and the results of epidemiological surveys. CHIP integrates with the WHO’s portal for the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of NTDS (ESPEN) to bring together data from several years in one place.

CHIP was successfully demonstrated at the Malawi Onchocerciasis Expert Committee meeting in July 2021 as well as to the pilot countries that provided feedback. CHIP is currently being developed and piloted in Cameroon, DRC, Guinea, Kenya, and Malawi. It will be available to all African countries who submit data to the ESPEN portal from December 2021.



**MALARIA AND LF ARE TWO VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE LARGEST GLOBAL BURDEN OF MORBIDITY.**

## **PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

# **TACKLING MALARIA AND LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

In December, GLIDE formalised a multi-year partnership with the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) and the Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN), to address malaria and LF in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED PROVINCIAL LEVEL RESPONSE TO MALARIA AND LF IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)**

Malaria and LF are two vector-borne diseases that contribute to the largest global burden of morbidity. In the Asia-Pacific region, both diseases have similar transmission biology and overlap in terms of

geographical distribution. Integration prospects for the two disease programmes are most promising in the area of vector control, since both can potentially be controlled by the same vector control interventions. Previous studies show that there is opportunity for further research on adopting vector control approaches for both LF and malaria.

The programme aims to generate operational evidence to guide programme decision-making around integrated vector management for malaria and LF in Milne Bay province, PNG. The expected impact of improved decision-making for integration of vector management for the two diseases is improved utilisation of existing resources and more coordinated community engagement leading to improved outcomes for both malaria and LF.

## **IMPROVING CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND TIMOR-LESTE FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION**

The persistence of malaria in bordering areas and neighbouring countries has become a critical concern and threat to elimination. Cross-border malaria has proven that no country can achieve elimination in isolation. As an increasing number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region move closer to eliminating malaria, the significant burden of malaria that persists in others demonstrates a need for

**CROSS-BORDER  
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FOR EFFECTIVE CROSS-  
BORDER COLLABORATION.**

effective cross-border collaboration.

This project aims to generate operational evidence to guide programmatic decision-making in both countries on joint cross-border efforts. The expected impact of improved decision-making for harmonised cross-border efforts is continuous, synchronised and effective cross-border collaboration between the two programmes leading to the strengthening of health systems in border areas and improved control and prevention of border malaria.

## **ACCELERATING MALARIA ELIMINATION UNDER THE SAHEL MALARIA ELIMINATION (SAME) INITIATIVE**

GLIDE has signed a partnership agreement with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) to collaborate on regional advocacy with the West African Health Organization (WAHO), WHO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and Sahel Malaria Elimination (SaME) country malaria control and elimination programmes. Our engagement will help to strengthen sub-regional coordination and resource mobilisation efforts to accelerate malaria elimination under the SaME initiative in the Sahel region. The partnership was agreed at the end of 2021 and with the Focal Point for the initiative now in place at WAHO, programme planning is under way.



William Nsai, 2021



# RAISING AWARENESS



## ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

# ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES IN THE MENA REGION

GLIDE brings together a regional network of public health experts, immunisation workers, and key journalists on a bi-weekly basis to nurture engagement, solidarity, and funding around COVAX in the MENA region. In addition to establishing the network, key achievements include developing a crowd-sourced visual mapping of vaccination intelligence from the MENA region, the creation of a Vaccines in MENA interactive platform with a growing network of 114 members from the MENA region, and establishing strong links with the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) COVAX Regional Working Group to ensure

**AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL,  
GLIDE IS AN ACTIVE  
SUPPORTER OF THE  
PANDEMIC ACTION  
NETWORK AND HELPS  
BRIDGE A GAP BETWEEN  
GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND  
THE MENA REGION.**

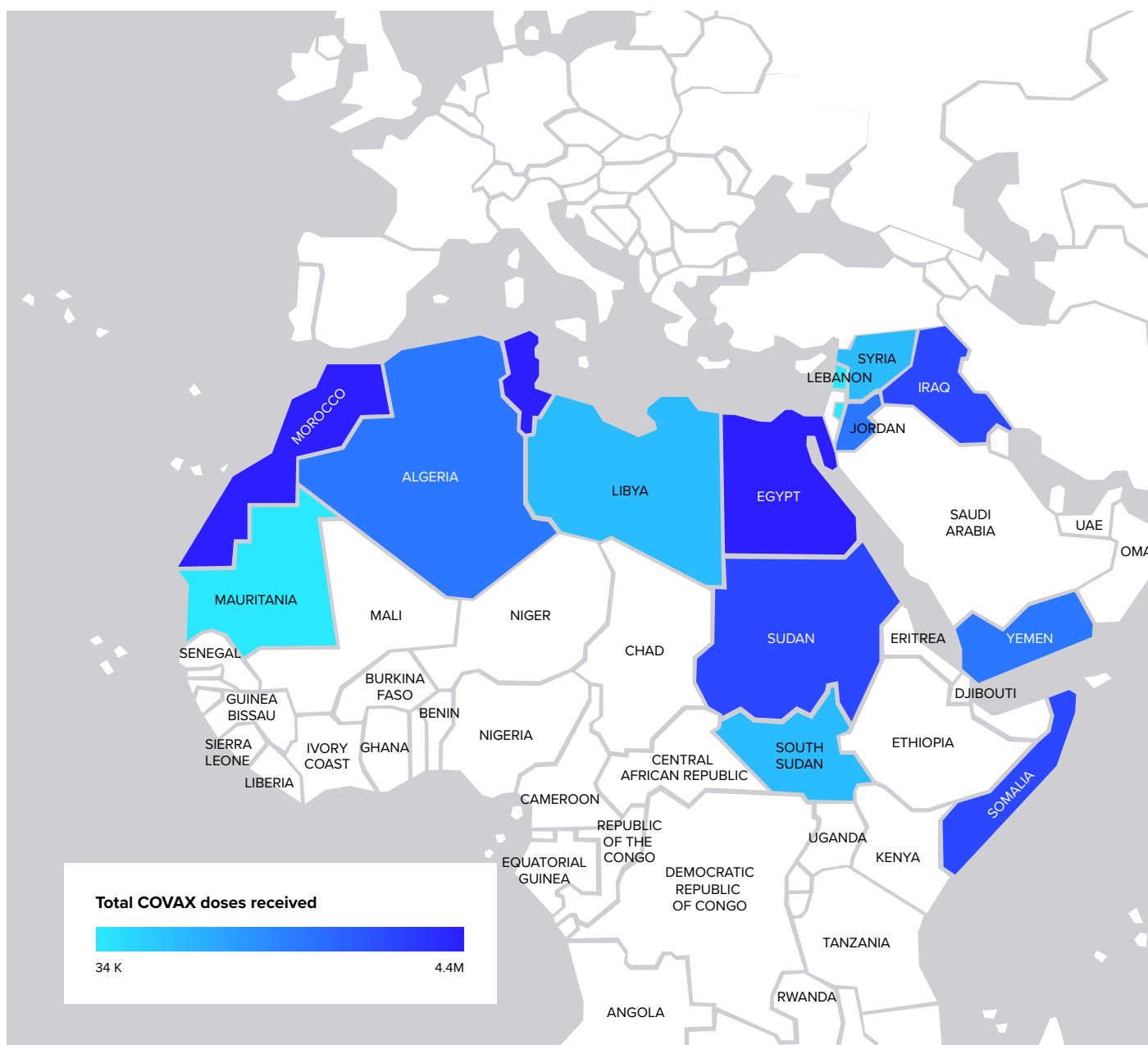
that key technical updates from the EMRO working group are shared with and inform the MENA platform. GLIDE publishes a weekly media round-up of efforts related to the COVID-19 response in the MENA region.

GLIDE convened a meeting with the Facebook Data for Good team to share their insights drawn from macro analysis of publicly available data, and to identify areas of potential collaboration in the region. GLIDE also convened and moderated a two-hour media briefing session entitled “The value of vaccines as a Public Health Priority,” which

brought together epidemiologists, vaccine specialists and media experts from the region to brief journalists on the value of accurate and evidence-based information, with a focus on COVID-19, and the role that the media plays in supporting positive public health outcomes. Collectively these efforts strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders in the MENA region to support COVAX and promote equitable access to vaccines. The initiative positions GLIDE as a key voice of the COVID-19 response and a driver of vaccination equity and solidarity across the region.

At a global level, GLIDE has been active in supporting the Pandemic Action Network, and has joined other organisations as signatories to several advocacy calls to action to world leaders. This includes the Global

Roadmap to Vaccinate the World, an open letter to all G20 Finance Ministers and to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva. The latter reiterated the appeal to Finance Ministers and leaders in the run-up to the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting, to act on short-term dose sharing to fill the immediate gap and address global inequities. Finally, GLIDE was a signatory to an open letter urging world leaders to ensure equitable access to vaccines following the discovery of the Omicron variant. As one of the few representatives from the region, GLIDE is ensuring that the MENA experience informs the global discussion, as well as making certain the global discussions inform the debate and dialogue at the regional level.





## PLENTY OF ROOM AT THE TABLE: MAKING SPACE FOR DIVERSE COUNTRY EXPERTISE IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH DIALOGUE

In early November, GLIDE, together with the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN in Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN in New York, convened a virtual panel discussion – a “majlis” – as the first in a series to discuss how to make the international health system more inclusive of voices and expertise from the Global South.

This event featured advocates at the global level who are working to make their institutions more inclusive and featured some examples of best practices and recommendations for shifting from donor-driven to country-led agendas with communities and countries at the centre.



## ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

# CONVENINGS

### FACILITATING CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

GLIDE hosted a virtual convening of African National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee in August 2021 to facilitate an informal exchange on progress, challenges, lessons learned, and ideas to help chart out a coordinated set of actions and programmes to accelerate the elimination of onchocerciasis. It is hoped that this can be achieved through collaboration and coordinating synergies with the onchocerciasis stakeholders. We anticipate further convenings as countries transition from control to elimination of onchocerciasis.

### EXPLORING NEW TREATMENTS TO ACCELERATE DISEASE ELIMINATION

GLIDE and Medicines Development for Global Health brought together key onchocerciasis scientific advisers to review and discuss the data and rationale for the use of moxidectin as a treatment for onchocerciasis. This activity facilitated a full exploration of available data to develop a shared understanding and expert-led interpretation of the evidence. Two virtual roundtable sessions were held – in October and December. In 2022, additional convenings will be held to solicit further input on the potential use of moxidectin for onchocerciasis.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## SOCIAL MEDIA

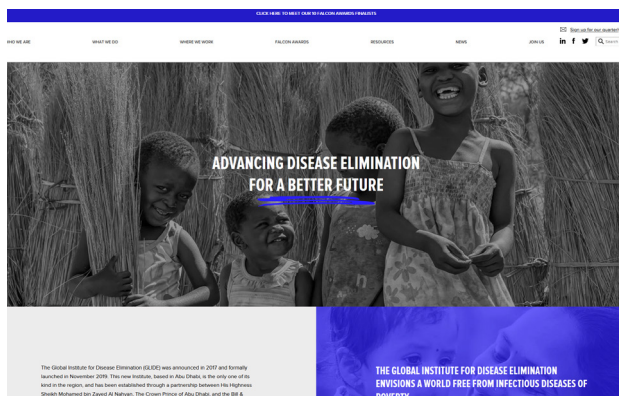
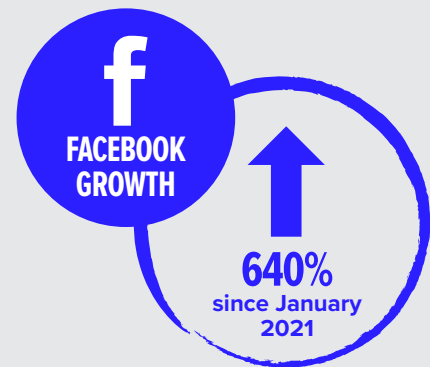
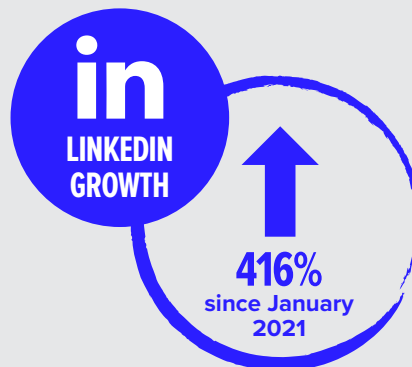
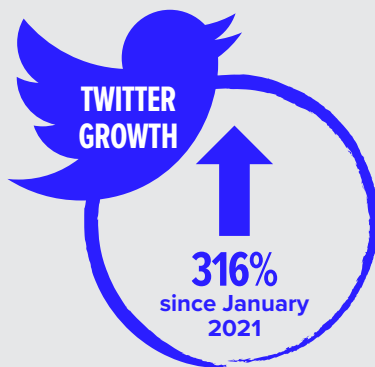
GLIDE continues to build its social media presence and has increased its following on Twitter and LinkedIn. We have also launched on Facebook and Instagram. Our focus on amplifying messaging and supporting campaigns on malaria, polio, NTDs, and COVAX enables us to establish our voice in these global discussions.



**LAUNCHED  
INSTAGRAM**

in September 2021

[INSTAGRAM.COM/GLIDE.AE](https://www.instagram.com/glide.ae)



## LAUNCH OF REVAMPED WEBSITE

IN THE SUMMER, GLIDE UNVEILED ITS REVAMPED WEBSITE WHICH ALIGNS WITH ITS OVERALL BRANDING AND PROVIDES AN EASY-TO-USE PLATFORM TO ACCESS GLIDE'S PROGRAMMES AND CONTENT.

[www.glideae.org](http://www.glideae.org)



## LAUNCH OF ARABIC MICROSITE

TO COINCIDE WITH THE UAE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE, GLIDE LAUNCHED ITS WEBSITE IN ARABIC ON 2 DECEMBER. THIS MICROSITE WILL INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY OF GLIDE'S CONTENT FOR PEOPLE IN THE REGION AND HELPS CONNECT THE INSTITUTE WITH ITS ROOTS IN ABU DHABI.

[www.glide.ae](http://www.glide.ae)

نبذة عنا

تأسس المعهد العالمي للقضاء على الأمراض المعدية (عجلة) لتبني نهج شراكة طويلة الأمد بين صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، ولي عهد أبوظبي، وميل غاتسبي، وتعود الفكرة إلى تعهدنا بالقضاء على مثل الأطفال في عام 2011.

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP



## OP-ED BY SIMON BLAND ON INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO DISEASE ELIMINATION IN SCIDEV.NET

DATE: 16TH FEBRUARY 2021



## OP-ED BY LARA DAHAN AND PRIYA KANAYSON ON GENDER EQUITY APPROACH TO DISEASE ELIMINATION IN DEVEX

DATE: 8TH MARCH 2021



## SIMON BLAND INTERVIEWED BY THE TELEGRAPH HIGHLIGHTING IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MALARIA

DATE: 23RD APRIL 2021



## SIMON BLAND INTERVIEWED BY CNBC MIDDLE EAST ON WORLD MALARIA DAY

DATE: 26TH APRIL 2021

### Don't relent in malaria war, we're on the cusp of success

Monday April 26, 2021 - updated on May 18, 2021



Nurse Wivone Akoth immunises children at Yala Sub-County Hospital in Siaya County on...

## OP-ED BY SIMON BLAND IN THE NATION ON WORLD MALARIA DAY

DATE: 26TH APRIL 2021

Health Care Add to myT

### Covid spurs expansion of public healthcare

Even countries with a tradition of private healthcare are seeking to increase publicly funded provision



Doctors often prefer programmes focused on a defined disease or outcome where the return on investment in terms of lives saved may be easier to demonstrate © Samyakti Lakshmi/Bloomberg

Sarah Neville in London SEPTEMBER 27 2021

## SIMON BLAND INTERVIEWED BY FINANCIAL TIMES ON EXPANSION OF PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

DATE: 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021



### Winners announced for \$1m UAE health prize

Doctors from China, Yemen, Pakistan, and the Philippines receive funding for innovative community approaches to eliminating infectious diseases.

## INTERVIEW WITH FALCON AWARD WINNERS IN PHILANTHROPY AGE

DATE: 21ST DECEMBER 2021

# COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT

**THIS YEAR, GLIDE LAUNCHED SEVERAL PLATFORMS TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH ITS WORK.**

GLIDE's monthly blog series, launched in June, invites readers to delve deeper into specific topics related to disease elimination and eradication.

In July, the Quarterly Bulletin was launched – a newsletter that summarises GLIDE's activities in three-month increments – including new partnerships, programmes, resources, and articles.

In the fall, GLIDE began a new podcast series entitled Elimination Exchange, which is published on a bi-monthly basis and features brief interviews with experts in disease elimination and eradication.

Finally, GLIDE compiles and shares a bi-weekly round-up of the latest in research, development and innovation for disease elimination efforts to our partners and disease elimination advocates.



Oscar Medina, 2021

**SIGN UP TO THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN AT [GLIDEAE.ORG/NEWS](https://glideae.org/news)**

**LISTEN TO THE ELIMINATION EXCHANGE PODCAST ON [YOUTUBE](#), [SPOTIFY](#) AND [APPLE PODCASTS](#)**



# ABOUT GLIDE

Riccardo Mayer, Shutterstock

**GLIDE** is a new global health institute, based in Abu Dhabi, focused on accelerating the elimination of four preventable diseases of poverty: currently malaria, polio, lymphatic filariasis, and river blindness, by 2030 and beyond.

Founded in 2019 as the result of a collaboration between His Highness

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GLIDE identifies the latest scientific, cultural, and global health knowledge and puts it into action with its partners through programmes, funding, and skills development to support local health care systems and advance global thinking.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[WWW.GLIDEAE.ORG](http://WWW.GLIDEAE.ORG)  
[WWW.GLIDE.AE](http://WWW.GLIDE.AE)

 [GLIDE\\_AE](https://twitter.com/GLIDE_AE)

 [GLIDEAE](https://www.facebook.com/GLIDEAE)

 [GLOBAL INSTITUTE FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION \(GLIDE\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-institute-for-disease-elimination-(GLIDE))

 [GLIDE.AE](https://www.instagram.com/GLIDE.AE)

**ADDRESS: AL MAQAM TOWER,  
ABU DHABI GLOBAL MARKET, AL MARYAH ISLAND,  
ABU DHABI - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**GLOBAL  
INSTITUTE <sup>FOR</sup>  
DISEASE  
ELIMINATION**