



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

GLOBAL
INSTITUTE ^{FOR}
~~DISEASE~~
ELIMINATION

FOREWORD

FROM

WALEED AL MUHAIRI, BOARD CHAIR

"GLIDE has established a strong reputation in the global health landscape and is considered an essential partner."



I am pleased to present the Global Institute for Disease Elimination's annual report for 2023, a year in which the organization made significant progress in its mission to advance knowledge and accelerate progress toward disease elimination.

Throughout this report, you will find examples of GLIDE's impact as it has continued to expand and strengthen its partnerships while launching new initiatives. From advocacy and awareness campaigns to operational research and capacity building, GLIDE has established a strong reputation in the global health landscape and is considered an essential partner by influential global health organizations worldwide.

Last year's achievements would not have been possible without the collaborative spirit and dedication of GLIDE's board members, partners, and team. The institute delivered its second Disease Elimination & Eradication Course at NYU Abu Dhabi, bringing together over 30 public healthcare professionals and students.

As part of its Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, it also supported nine researchers investigating causal links between climate change and infectious diseases.

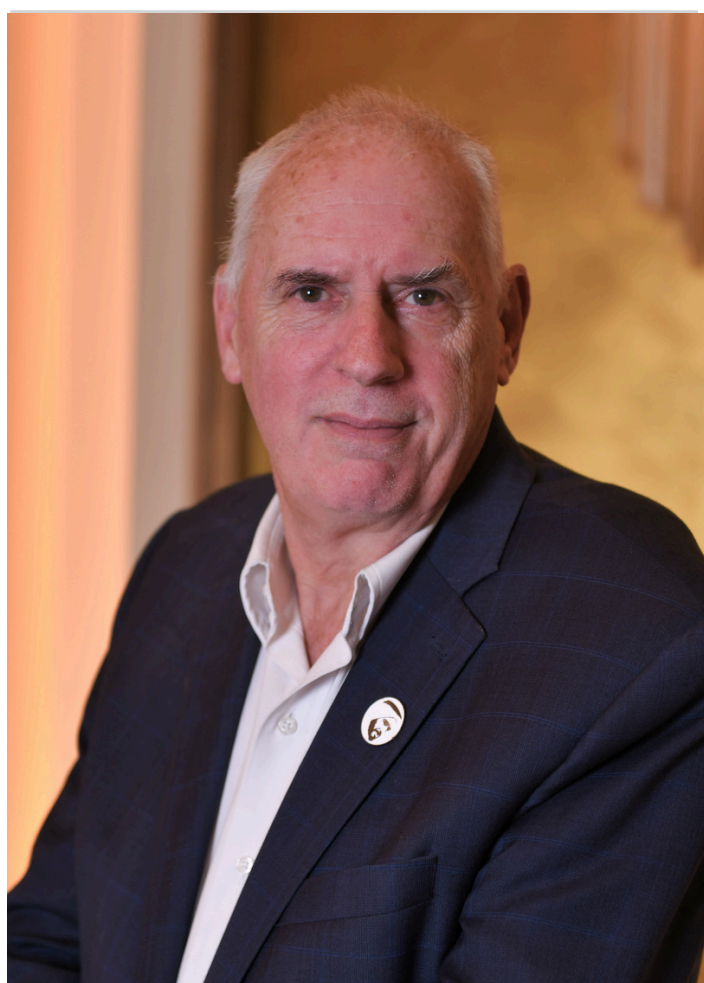
I am also pleased with GLIDE's role as a thought leader and its partnerships within the UAE - from COP28 to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. As the region's only institute of its kind, GLIDE helped shape the first-ever Health Day at a COP conference convened by the UAE COP Presidency in December. It also supported the Reaching the Last Mile Initiative to develop and deliver its third Forum.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to GLIDE's progress in 2023. This report details the full impact the institute is making in the world today and sets out its ambitious plans for expansion in the future. I hope you find it valuable and that it enhances your understanding of GLIDE's leading role in the battle to eradicate disease.

FOREWORD

FROM SIMON BLAND, CEO

"We have more confidently stepped into our role as an action tank, embracing our identity as an accelerator, convener, and knowledge hub."



This year, we saw GLIDE fully unshackled from the confines of the COVID-19 pandemic environment, in which we operated for our first three years, enabling us to think critically about where and how we engage to drive impactful change. We also more confidently stepped into our role as an action tank, embracing our identity as an accelerator, convener, and knowledge hub whose technical work informs its advocacy.

I am pleased that we secured reinvestment from both our founding partners, a testament to their unwavering confidence in our vision and capabilities. This funding of 20 million will see us through 2025 and enables the Institute to continue to deliver on its mission to advance knowledge and accelerate progress towards disease elimination.

We take pride in the work we have undertaken with our valued partners, from our Disease Elimination and Eradication Course to our Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, both of which seek to enhance capacity and invest in research that builds the field of knowledge about disease elimination. We also played an active role in the lead up to the first Health Day at a UN climate conference, convened by the UAE COP Presidency, and were proud to be a thought partner to Reaching the Last Mile for their third Forum in December.

Towards the end of the year, we underwent a strategy refresh that served as a compass check, reaffirming that we are on track and adding value to the global health landscape. With no major course correction needed, we are ready to navigate the complexities of disease elimination and eradication within the current global context.

We will use this as a starting point to develop a strategy for the next five years that will propel us towards 2030, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. We are also committed to further embedding ourselves within the UAE ecosystem as a trusted and valued partner and advisor in global health.

I extend my thanks to our partners, founders, esteemed Board members, and the entire GLIDE team for their support, guidance, and collaboration. As we look ahead to ensuring the sustainability of the Institute and its ability to accelerate progress towards disease elimination, let us remain united in our commitment to advancing knowledge to build a better future, free of preventable infectious diseases.

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2023 IN REVIEW

JANUARY

Launched Social Media Pilot Campaign with Nas Studios
World NTD Day

FEBRUARY

Hosted Innovative Finance (IF-NTDs) virtual event

MARCH

Forecasting Healthy Futures Summit (Abu Dhabi)

APRIL

Dominican Republic Laboratory opening with The Carter Center

MAY

Attended the World Health Assembly (Geneva)

JUNE

Second cohort of the joint course on disease elimination and eradication with the New York University School of Global Public Health and support from The Carter Center (Abu Dhabi)

Attended World NTDs Partners Meeting (Geneva)

Hosted Innovative Finance (IF-NTDs) Roundtable on Pooled Procurement (Geneva)
H2O Summit (Geneva)

JULY

Attended Women Deliver Conference (Kigali)

DECEMBER

Attended and supported the development of the third Reaching the Last Mile Forum

Co-hosted several events on climate and infectious diseases during COP28 (Dubai)

GLIDE board meeting

Hosted the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination: The Climate Edit Unveiling Findings Webinar

NOVEMBER

Attended the first Global Onchocerciasis Network for Elimination (GONE) (Senegal)

Held Innovative Finance (IF-NTDs) round table and Equity in Governance event at the 3rd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) (Zambia)

OCTOBER

DISSECT Field visit and site study (Malawi)

Participated in Grand Challenges (Dakar)

Participated in World Health Summit (Berlin)

Sponsored symposium and poster presentation at ASTMH (Chicago)

COR-NTD (Chicago)

Attended MENA Climate Week (Riyadh)

Conducted a site visit to the Dominican Republic with The Carter Center (Santo Domingo)

Attended Future Investment Initiative Summit (Riyadh)
Attended MEC70 Meeting (Dakar)

SEPTEMBER

Participated in Stakeholders Meeting and site visit (Philippines)

RLM Fund NTD Program Managers Meeting (Cape Town)

Co-Sponsored and Attended Neglected Tropical Disease NGO Network Conference (Dar es Salam)

Launched Women in Global Health UAE Chapter

Hosted reception at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (New York)

AUGUST

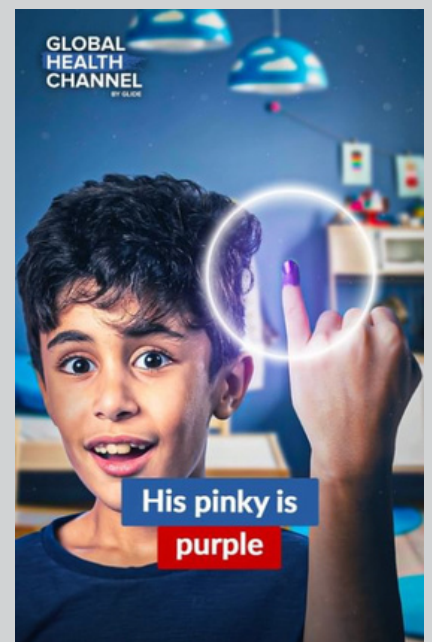
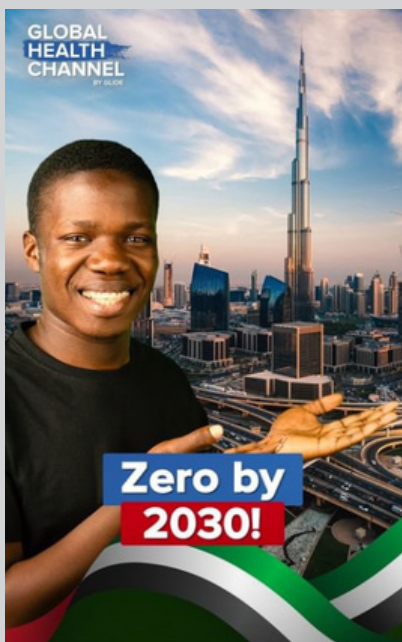
Attended COR-NTD Pacific (Sydney, Australia)

Launched social media campaign with Nas Studios

ELEVATING AWARENESS

GLOBAL HEALTH CHANNEL BY GLIDE

Advocacy plays a crucial role in global health, and reaching a wide and diverse audience often requires innovative and fresh approaches in order to raise awareness. In January 2022, GLIDE partnered with Nas Studios to implement a pilot social media campaign to create short, simple, and informative videos about GLIDE's areas of work. The Global Health Channel by GLIDE is active on social media platforms such as **TikTok**, **Instagram**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube**, Arabic Channels are also active on **TikTok** and **Instagram**. The campaign's objective is to engage a large, global audience beyond the traditional global health and development space, with the aim of increasing awareness about Infectious Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and the broader global health field by highlighting various topics, ranging from sharing inspiring stories of health workers to providing prevention tips and celebrating the success of elimination efforts.



FORECASTING HEALTHY FUTURES SUMMIT

In March, GLIDE as a member of the Forecasting Health Futures Consortium supported the development of the inaugural Forecasting Healthy Futures Summit held in Abu Dhabi. The summit brought together a diverse group of global health leaders including government, private sector, and NGOs from over 40 countries. The main focus of the summit was to address the potential effects of climate change on Malaria and NTDs and to explore proactive approaches in developing climate adaptive health strategies ahead of COP28 in Dubai.



WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

GLIDE had a strong presence at the 76th annual World Health Assembly, enabling the delegation to conduct bilateral meetings with partners and participate in various events that raised the visibility of GLIDE's work and initiatives. GLIDE also helped with the development of a side event on climate resilient investments for health as part of the Forecasting Healthy Futures Consortium. This event aimed to engage the global health community in a discussion on catalyzing innovation and mobilizing new resources for climate-resilient health systems in vulnerable geographies prior to COP28.

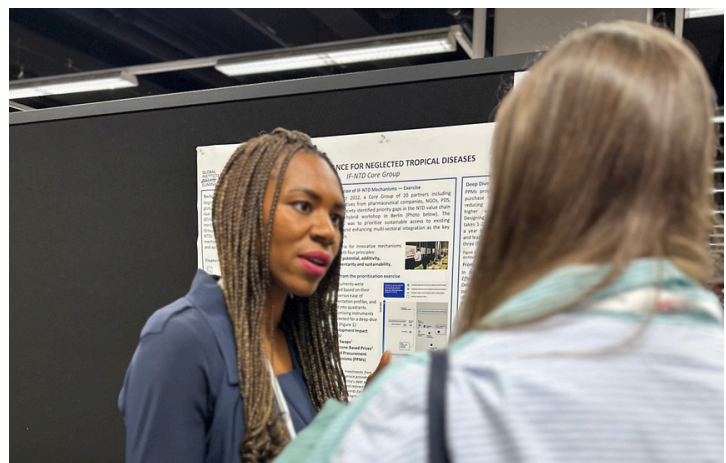
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The GLIDE delegation focused on bilateral meetings with partners to discuss potential opportunities to highlight health during COP28. GLIDE also hosted its annual evening reception “**Celebrating successes & accelerating progress**” which brought together partners and members of the health community to celebrate recent achievements in eliminating NTDs and malaria. This event served as a gathering before the Reaching the Last Mile Forum, which took place alongside COP28 in Dubai.

GLIDE AT TROPMED23

For the second year in a row, GLIDE had a strong presence at the Annual Meeting for the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). In 2023, the meeting took place in Chicago, Illinois (USA) with nearly 5000 attendees that were primarily infectious and vector borne disease scientists and researchers from around the world. GLIDE hosted a booth that showcased our projects and convened a symposium session co-sponsored by the Asia Pacific Malaria Leaders Alliance and co-hosted by Malaria No More. The symposium, entitled ‘Climate Change and Malaria Elimination: Perspectives from the Ground,’ was moderated by GLIDE and featured five notable speakers who shared country experiences and expert perspectives on the impacts of climate change on the global malaria response.

Additionally, GLIDE and its partners presented posters on the findings of several programs, including Innovative Finance for NTDs, the Country Health Information Platform (CHIP), community perspectives towards Mass Drug Administration (MDA) with ivermectin in Cameroon, and the Falcon Award project in Ghana on optimizing mass drug administration expansion in low onchocerciasis prevalence settings. GLIDE produced a [blog](#), which detailed our participation and highlighted the symposium.



EXPLORING THE LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISEASE ELIMINATION

REACHING THE LAST MILE FOURM

GLIDE was a thought partner of the historic 2023 Reaching the Last Mile Forum that took place at COP 28, EXPO City, Dubai, supporting thematic narrative and content development for the Forum. The forum was organized by Reaching the Last Mile (RLM), the global health initiative driven by the philanthropy of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The forum brought together government ministers, global health and development experts, philanthropists, and civil society leaders that galvanized concrete commitments towards mitigating the effects of the climate crisis on global health. It consisted of plenary discussions that addressed global health challenges in the context of climate change, shared current trends and progress of malaria control and elimination efforts, and underscored the importance of breaking silos and building climate resilient systems to tackle climate-sensitive diseases, deliver universal health coverage, and reach last mile communities.

In the afternoon, the forum hosted a high-level pledging moment for the global donors where they collectively pledged USD 777.2 Million to control, eliminate, and eradicate neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), accelerating progress towards achieving WHO's 2030 roadmap on NTDs as well as reflecting COP28's call to unite, act, and forge a healthier and resilient future.

GLIDEXCOP28 ENGAGEMENTS

PANDEMIC ACTION NETWORK MENA WORKING GROUP

On the sideline of COP 28, GLIDE and the Pandemic Action Network (PAN) welcomed the Working Group Members of Pandemic Action Network Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to the UAE and organized its first in-person meeting where the group discussed advocacy opportunities at COP28 and beyond into 2024 in the MENA region. The MENA Working Group comprises a diverse and dedicated team of members, including governmental bodies, national research institutes, regional development banks, impact funds, international foundations, key multilateral agencies, and CSO network.

PRE HEALTH-DAY PARTNER GATHERING

On the sidelines of COP 28 and the eve of the first Health Day at a UNFCCC conference, GLIDE's partners across business, government, policy, civil society, and philanthropy gathered to celebrate and hear about some of the hopes and priorities for the upcoming year on climate and health.





ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK ROUNDTABLE

GLIDE, together with Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), organized a roundtable discussion focused on health and sustainability as part of ADSW's engagements at COP28. This roundtable discussion brought together a diverse group of experts and stakeholders from health, philanthropy, government, and the private sector. It shed light on the impacts of climate change on health, and how it contributes to the emergence and spread of infectious diseases. It also highlighted the need for a holistic approach, integrating financial, environmental, and health strategies to address the challenges posed by climate change.

The roundtable shared action-oriented solutions to combat climate change and infectious diseases such as advocating for including a health pillar in every green program, utilizing technology in mapping and tracking migration of infectious diseases due to climate-induced events, and the need to promote the co-benefits of climate and health investments. It also identified financial mechanisms and tools like green bonds and impact investment funds to attract private finance for climate and health related programs.

This roundtable marked the beginning of an informal partnership between GLIDE and ADSW that will continue through COP30. Together, the organizations will convene a series of roundtables further exploring the links between disease elimination and sustainable development, culminating in a report with recommendations for further action.

G20/G7 HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP EVENT ON AMR

The event looked at the link between climate-related events and the rise of Antimicrobial Resistance and Climate Change (AMR). The panel composed, of leading AMR experts, global health organization representatives, policymakers and institution looked into actionable recommendations to tackle the impact of climate change on antimicrobial resistance and to identify and address the integration of antimicrobial resistance and vector-borne diseases into climate change policies. The outcome of the meeting was to build concrete recommendations to feed into the G20&G7HDP AMR Legislators' Initiative.



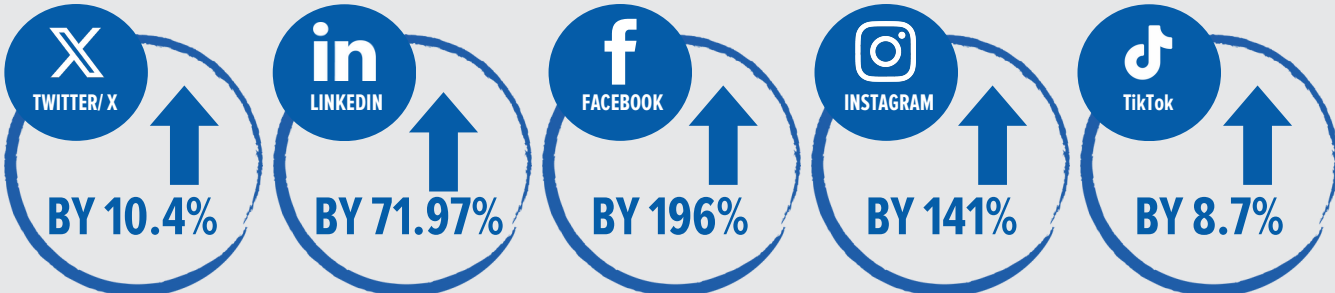


COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT

In 2023, GLIDE focused on increasing its external visibility through a series of op-eds, blogs, podcasts, and a quarterly bulletin to raise awareness and understanding of efforts to eliminate and eradicate GLIDE's diseases of focus. The Institute continued its **blog series**, featuring pieces by the GLIDE team and guest authors with the highest-performing blogs for the year focused on global warming and vector-borne diseases, and World Mosquito Day. This year saw an increase in demand for interviews and comments on relevant topics, reflecting GLIDE's growth and role as a thought leader in global health.

SOCIAL MEDIA

GLIDE continues to build its presence and voice on social media to increase awareness by amplifying messages to accelerate efforts toward disease elimination.



MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

An essential aspect of GLIDE's efforts involves advocacy and communication, advancing the narrative to combat and eliminate preventable diseases. Throughout the past year, the institute's growth as a leading voice was apparent by sharing insights through published op-eds and media interviews.



HEALTH POLICY WATCH: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND

January 2023



GLOBAL HEALTH NOW: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND

January 2023



WE'RE CROSSING BORDERS TO BEAT NTDS BLOG

January 2023



NTDS IN AFRICA: SCI DEV INTERVIEW

February 2023



RARE DISEASES DAY - ALL AFRICA INTERVIEW

February 2023



ELIMINATION EXCHANGE PODCAST WITH PROFESSOR MONIQUE DORKENOO

March 2023



HOW GENDER-SENSITIVE RESPONSES CAN HELP ELIMINATE NTDS BLOG

April 2023



RBM PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE TRANSITION BLOG

April 2023



ELIMINATION EXCHANGE PODCAST WITH DR SARTHAK DAS

April 2023



SCIDEV: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND ON MALARIA ELIMINATION

April 2023



PARTNERSHIP PRESS RELEASE: GLIDE, UNIVERSITY OF YORK & ECSA-HC

June 2023



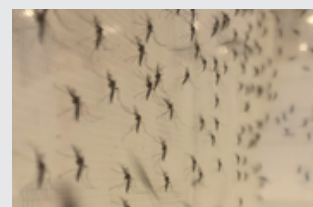
ELIMINATION EXCHANGE PODCAST WITH DR EFFE ESPINO

June 2023



VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES CELEBRATE AS THE GLOBE WARMS BLOG

August 2023



IT'S TIME TO TURN THE TIDE ON DENGUE BLOG

August 2023



CLIMATE-HEALTH NEXUS: NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

August 2023



ADVANCING ELIMINATION STRATEGIES

DISEASE ELIMINATION AND ERADICATION COURSE

After the successful inaugural course in 2022, GLIDE, in collaboration with the New York University School of Global Public Health (NYU SGPH) and with the support of The Carter Center, held its second Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC) cohort in June 2023. This course targeted global health students and professionals aiming to enhance their skills in developing innovative system maps to advance infectious disease elimination and eradication strategies.

The course meets a critical need in the field of global health—and particularly disease elimination and eradication—by equipping participants with the necessary competencies to develop effective strategies to eliminate and eradicate preventable diseases in vulnerable regions and countries. The course provides a comprehensive approach, starting from understanding the fundamental principles of disease elimination and eradication and advancing strategic thinking, to ultimately formulating innovative plans that can help accelerate elimination efforts, through the analysis of challenges and lessons learned.

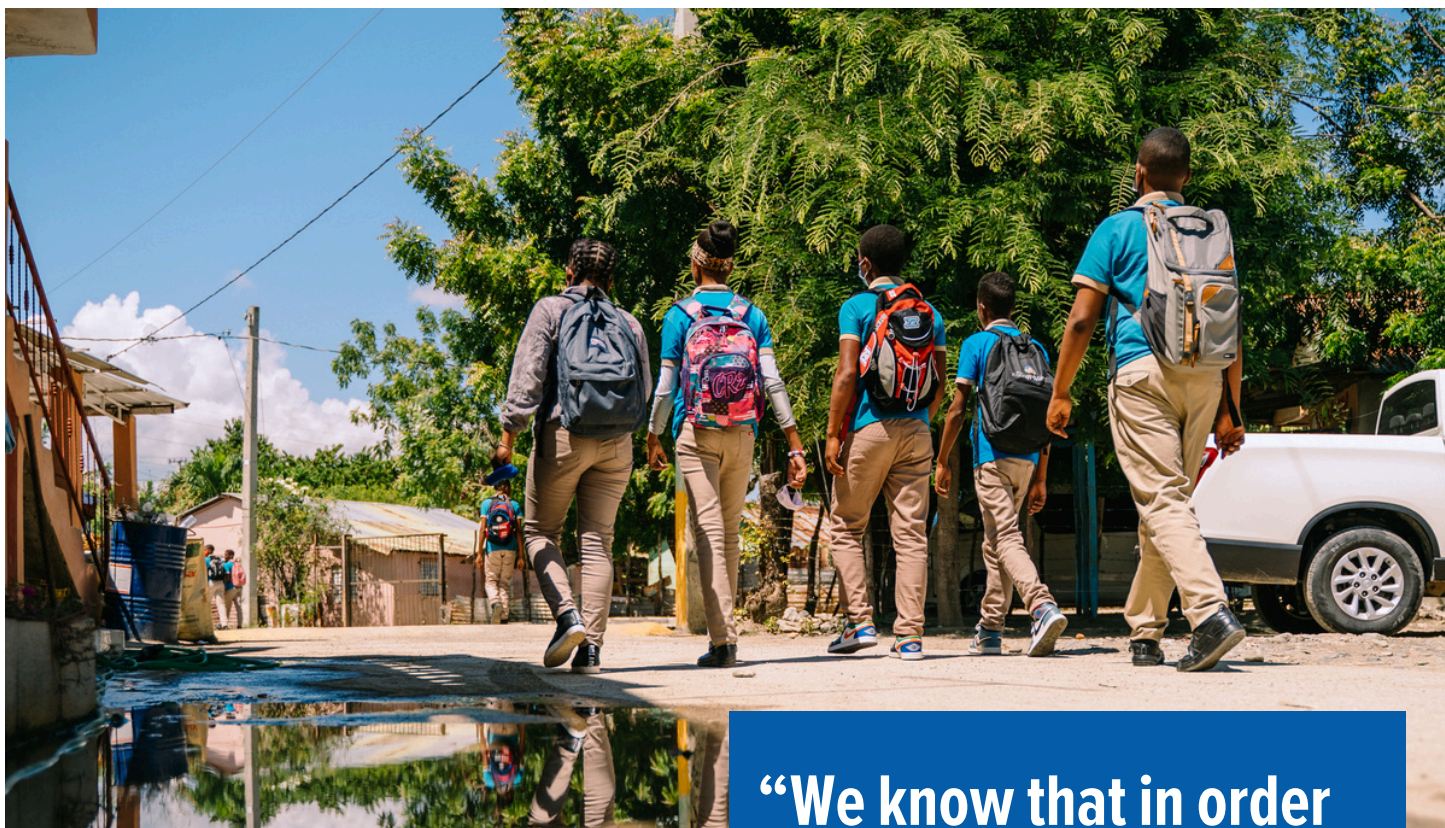
Course facilitators included global public health experts from leading public health institutes in African and beyond, and global networks or alliances, such as the Global Onchocerciasis Network for Elimination (GONE) and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF), which not only facilitates knowledge transfer from experts at the global level but also promotes the alignment of strategies.

THE COHORT WAS COMPRISED OF:

- 10** Students in the PhD or MPH programs at NYU
- 21** Public Health professionals
- 11** Countries: UAE, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Singapore, Tanzania
- Diverse regions: AFRO, SEARO, EMRO, WRPO**
- 4** Types of stakeholders
 - National health entities (e.g. MoH, DOH)
 - NGOs (eg APLMA, The End Fund)
 - WHO
 - Research & Academic Institutions

The course takes a transdisciplinary, multi-institutional and collaborative learning approach that holds immense value for the fight against these diseases in Africa and beyond. By bringing together participants from diverse backgrounds and passionate global health and development students, this course creates a unique opportunity to co-develop strategies and gather insights from diverse country contexts. Through this course, participants gain the tools and knowledge needed to overcome challenges, adapt strategies to local needs, and effectively achieve disease elimination goals.

The exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices not only strengthens individual capacities but also fosters regional collaboration. By harnessing the collective expertise and experiences of participants, this course demonstrates GLIDEs continued efforts to drive advancements in disease elimination efforts across the globe.



THANZI LABWINO – UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The Thanzi Labwino (Better Health) (TLab) program aims to contribute towards the broader ambition of the Thanzi la Onse (Health of All) research programme, to improve population health and reduce health inequalities in East and West Africa by supporting cost-effective and equitable investments in disease elimination. It will do this by pursuing three interrelated sets of activities, leading to:

- Novel, robust, and relevant health economic evidence generated on investments in disease elimination.
- Stronger partnerships were established between academic, policy, and community stakeholders to learn from one another and inform and disseminate new knowledge on disease elimination.
- Capability improved among academic, policy, and community stakeholders to generate, interpret, and use health economic evidence to inform their disease elimination and resource allocation decisions.

TLab will be co-led by the University of York and the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), and include other key collaborators (Imperial College London, Kamuzu University of Malawi, Makerere University of Uganda), with additional partners being identified through the life course of the 3-year project.

“We know that in order for governments to invest in NTDs, we need a strong economic case. This work will help us better make the case for investing in NTDs and enhance health economics capacity.”

**SIMON BLAND, CBE
CEO, GLIDE**



EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AND GAPS IN MALARIA AND LF IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ASIA PACIFIC LEADERS MALARIA ALLIANCE (APLMA)

Improving cross-border collaboration between Indonesia and Timor-Leste for malaria elimination

The goal of the project is to generate operational evidence to guide programmatic decision-making in both countries on joint cross-border efforts. Specifically, the objective of the project is to conduct an operational research (OR) study to identify interventions that are best suited to the cross-border malaria situation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste. The findings of the OR study will inform the development of a joint cross-border malaria elimination plan as well as an advocacy plan for setting up a joint malaria elimination task force for cross-border collaboration.

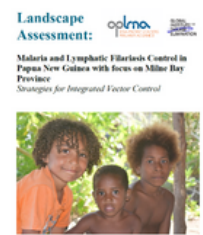
A joint cross-border meeting was conducted in October 2023, with the aim to finalize the common indicators and coordination mechanism for joint data sharing and discuss the recommendations for the joint migration surveillance activity. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss and advocate for setting up a joint task force for cross-border collaboration to ensure consistent and timely communication and sustained collaboration between the two countries. The discussions from this meeting will support the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM) team in developing a piloting plan to test the joint data-sharing mechanism and further finalize the proposed joint action plan. The proposed joint action plan will be added as an addendum to the existing joint action plan between the two countries, in alignment with the cross-border MoU between them.

The expected impact of improved harmonized cross-border efforts is continuous, synchronized and effective cross-border collaboration between the two programs leading to strengthening of health systems in border areas and improved control and prevention of border malaria.



Joint workshop on Strengthening Migration Surveillance and Cross Notification Flows at Border of Indonesia and Timor Leste Atambua, Belu Regency, Indonesia. 23-24 October 2023

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED PROVINCIAL LEVEL RESPONSE TO MALARIA AND LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)



In partnership with the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) and Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research (PNG IMR), a landscape assessment was conducted on malaria and Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) control in Papua New Guinea (PNG) with a focus on Milne Bay Province.

The completed landscape analysis identified several priority areas around health systems capacity, resource limitations, and the lack of surveillance to inform the targeting of Integrated Vector Management (IVM) interventions in Milne Bay Province. Given these findings, the proposed operational research will focus on strengthening Milne Bay Provincial Capacity for malaria and LF integrated surveillance and control.



INTEGRATION WORKING GROUP (IWG)

In November, GLIDE convened the first kick-off meeting for the IWG. The group is evolving and consists of diverse individuals and organizations from endemic countries and global organizations. The purpose of the IWG is to advance cross-disease/sector integration efforts by informing and enhancing policy and practice through thought leadership and collective analysis of experience and available research. The group will convene throughout 2024 to explore opportunities for integration for NTDs and other diseases and sectors, identifying when there is a clear rationale for such efforts.

MALARIA DATA PLATFORMS AND NATIONALLY DRIVEN ANALYTICS TO UNDERSTAND RECEPTIVITY AND RECESSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) REGION, WHO-EMRO PARTNERSHIP

GLIDE signed a partnership agreement with WHO-EMRO for a project that aims to define the natural extent of malaria, receptivity, and the changing geography linked to changing social and climate ecologies over the last 100 years in the MENA region. This will be achieved through building layers of geo-coded biotic and abiotic proximate determinants of transmission, malaria vector and parasite data, creating interoperable data platforms and shared for national-led analysis, integrating new knowledge into national and regional policy. A carefully curated and geo-coded, historical malaria data archive has never been previously developed for the WHO-EMRO/MENA region. Using regional scientific expertise to analyse these data will create a community of practice to enable a more informed understanding of the intersection between climate, economic growth and malaria control and the threats/requirements to prevent the re-establishment of malaria transmission.

COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (CHIP) - SIGHTSAVERS

GLIDE continued its collaboration with Sightsavers to support the expansion of the Country Health Information Platform (CHIP). Since its launch in December 2021, the dashboard has been scaled up to include all African countries reporting data on PC-NTDs to ESPEN. All dashboards in the AFRO region are available on the ESPEN portal. Additionally, all 44 CHIP dashboards have been updated to reflect the 2021 and 2022 treatment data, addressing all remaining data gaps. CHIP was presented to key stakeholders in several meetings to build awareness. It was also demonstrated at the WHO Data Managers meetings in April and May 2023, the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in October 2023, and at the GONE meeting in Senegal in November 2023.



ACCELERATING MALARIA PROGRESS IN THE SAHEL REGION – ALMA

GLIDE continues to work closely with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) to accelerate elimination under the Sahel Malaria Elimination (SaME) initiative. In 2023, the Secretariat of the SaME initiative organized a technical meeting in Cabo Verde. The meeting aimed to assess the progress made by the initiative and hear from Cabo Verde about the progress on their certification for malaria elimination.

The meeting brought together approximately thirty representatives from the initiative's eight member states, along with their teams. It featured the participation of various technical and financial partners, including The Global Fund, ALMA, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, and Speak Up Africa. The opening session of the technical meeting was led by Evandro Monteiro, the Deputy Secretary of State for Health, while the Minister of Health, Dr. Filomena Gonçalves, delivered the closing remarks. The meeting resulted in several key recommendations. These included the importance of strengthening cross-border collaboration, promoting country ownership among member states, supporting their efforts to mobilize funds, developing a collaborative advocacy plan with the Secretariat, and exploring opportunities for integration to reduce costs.



ENHANCE NATIONAL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MALARIA IN PAKISTAN – AKU

In 2023, GLIDE partnered with Aga Khan University (AKU) and Zenysis to enhance national efforts for malaria elimination in Pakistan. GLIDE is committed to supporting this initiative, which aims to strengthen coordination among various stakeholders working on malaria in Pakistan. AKU and Zenysis collaborated with the Sindh Health Department's vector-borne diseases department and the Director-General of Health. They conducted a rapid assessment of the malaria information system used by the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Sindh, synthesizing the findings to develop a set of recommendations for the Thatta and Sindh malaria programs.

Additionally, AKU is establishing a Malaria Elimination Consortium (MEC) in Pakistan. The activities undertaken by MEC will be informed by the recommendations outlined in the report.

COMMUNITY VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION (MDA) WITH IVERMECTIN IN CAMEROON

GLIDE continues to work with the Cameroon Ministry of Health on a project focused on gathering community views and perspectives on mass drug administration (MDA) with ivermectin for onchocerciasis. Since the project's kickoff in April 2022, a qualitative study has been conducted in 32 communities across four regions in Cameroon with the lowest therapeutic coverages. Data were collected through focus group discussions and individual interviews with key informants. This study provides insights that offer new approaches to enhance awareness and community engagement, thereby improving participation in MDA and advancing onchocerciasis elimination.





FOSTERING INNOVATION

DEVELOPING AN INNOVATIVE, STANDARDIZED APPROACH FOR ADDRESSING CROSS-BORDER TRANSMISSION OF ONCHOCERCIASIS AND OTHER VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES (DISSECT) - SIGHTSAVERS

Sightsavers and GLIDE continue to work together with Ministries of Health and in-country and external partners on a project testing innovative ways to trap blackflies, identify their breeding grounds, and enhance laboratory analysis. Through a focus on entomology, DISSECT aims to fill critical gaps and thus progress toward elimination of onchocerciasis within the four project countries of Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire, such as 1) Lack of operational guidance for standardised entomological data collection 2) The need to replace human landing capture with a safer, more standardised alternative 3) Outdated methods of breeding site identification and monitoring 4) The need to improve capacity for analysing entomological samples within endemic countries.

The project began with a four-month inception period from December 2021 to March 2022. With a 24-month research and implementation period from April 2022 to end of March 2024, the work plan was organised into two phases: Phase 1 focused on developing and piloting an entomological toolkit to accompany the new WHO onchocerciasis entomology manual and Phase 2 focuses on developing and piloting a new black fly trap to replace human landing capture as the primary method of collecting adult black flies in programmatic settings.



Phase 1 of the implementation of the protocol, developing and piloting the toolkit for standardised entomological data collection, has now been completed. As a result, a standardised entomological toolkit has been developed and piloted in each DISSECT country. Pause and reflect meetings were held in July 2023 and learnings from it are being integrated within the toolkit.

Phase 2 which is developing and optimising black fly traps, is now active across the 4 project countries. Despite the progresses made to date, there have been challenges and delays with the procurement process and natural disasters in Mozambique and Malawi.

Outcomes of DISSECT will guide the refinement of practices within cross-border foci of onchocerciasis. These adjustments can be applied to other NTDs which face matching challenges. The investigation of novel trapping methods could influence Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO policy documents to move away from outdated HLC reliance. The combination of vector activities could influence MoH practices and funding for spatially sympatric vector-borne diseases.



FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION – THE CLIMATE EDIT

After a successful first iteration of the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination in 2021, where five winners from endemic countries were awarded up to \$200,000 to lead projects tackling polio, malaria, and NTDs in their respective communities, GLIDE launched a second iteration of the awards in January 2023, the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination - *The Climate Edit* - a global initiative which aims to expand the evidence base regarding the intersection of disease elimination and climate. Through the awards, GLIDE provided catalytic support to researchers to examine new and under-explored areas of the climate and infectious disease nexus.

Objectives of The Climate Edit:

- 1 Elevate consideration of infectious diseases in the climate change discourse and drive momentum towards improved understanding of the intersection between infectious disease and climate.
- 2 Support formative research to enhance understanding of infectious diseases within the climate-health nexus and inform potential intervention design.
- 3 Disseminate knowledge to increase understanding and catalyse action in the climate and health space.
- 4 Cultivate partnerships with research institutions exploring the impacts of climate change on the transmission, control, elimination, and eradication of infectious diseases.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, GLIDE, with the support of a Scientific Panel of global health experts, selected a total of nine research proposals as the winners of the Falcon Awards. The findings from the awardees has been compiled into a [compendium of research](#), which was published in December at a webinar event alongside the UNFCCC COP28 meeting held in Dubai.



“WIDE-SCALE ACCESS TO EXISTING MEDICINES HAS BEEN KEY TO THE UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION OF INTERVENTIONS AGAINST NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES. UPHOLDING THIS PRINCIPLE AND EXPANDING GLOBAL SUPPORT TO THE PROCUREMENT OF NEWLY DEVELOPED NTD MEDICINES AND DIAGNOSTICS WILL BE EQUALLY KEY TO REACHING THE 2030 NTD AND UHC TARGETS”

DR DIRK ENGELS

Global Health Consultant and Senior
Adviser to Uniting to Combat NTDs

INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NTDs

In June 2023, GLIDE collaborated with Uniting Efforts to co-host a Roundtable on pooled procurement for NTDs titled "Shifting Paradigms: Can NTD innovations fit within existing pooled procurement mechanisms?" This event served as the second installment in GLIDE's Innovative Finance for NTDs Roundtable series. The meeting's primary focus was to discuss the challenges and potential solutions related to accessing health technologies for neglected diseases throughout the entire Access Value Chain. Several important recommendations and next steps emerged from this discussion. A [meeting report summarizing](#) the outcomes is available on GLIDE's website.

Building on the discussions from this roundtable, GLIDE, in partnership with Uniting Efforts for Innovation, Access, and Delivery (Uniting Efforts) and Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative (DNDi), co-hosted a side event at the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) in November 2023 to examine the feasibility of regional and country-specific solutions for integrating NTD interventions into existing pooled procurement mechanisms. This meeting provided regional and country perspectives, enabling participants to engage with and learn from representatives of countries with endemic NTDs. They shared insights, experiences, and perspectives on integrating NTDs into existing pooled procurement mechanisms.



ABOUT GLIDE

GLIDE is a global health institute based in Abu Dhabi, focused on accelerating the elimination of preventable infectious diseases: currently malaria, polio, lymphatic filariasis, and river blindness, by 2030 and beyond. Founded in 2019 as the result of a long-standing collaboration between His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GLIDE works to elevate awareness and engagement, advance elimination, and accelerate progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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