



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

# **GLIDE'S INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO DISEASE ELIMINATION**

## **MEETING REPORT**

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June 2024

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
ALMA	Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance
CHWs	Community Health Workers
GLIDE	Global Institute for Disease Elimination
KEMRI	Kenya Medical Research Institute
LF	Lymphatic filariasis
MARA	Mapping Malaria Risk in Africa
MDA	Mass Drug Administration
MDGH	Medicines Development for Global Health
MDP	Mectizan Donation Program
NIH	National Institute of Health
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
RLM	Reaching the Last Mile
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UHC	Universal Health Coverage

## OVERVIEW

GLIDE held its inaugural symposium in Abu Dhabi from 7-8 February 2024. The symposium's theme, "Integrated Approaches to Disease Elimination," highlighted the importance of exploring opportunities for integration when there is a rationale for it for disease elimination and eradication initiatives. This two-day event comprised high-level conversations, roundtables, and panel discussions, complemented by interactive Q&A sessions. Over 100 participants from 30 countries engaged in dynamic discussions covering key elements of disease elimination and eradication such as advocacy and resource mobilization, cross-border collaboration community involvement, data and innovation. The symposium also featured presentations from Falcon Award for Disease Elimination winners from 2021 and 2023, showcasing their impactful projects on disease elimination and the intersection of climate change and disease.

## SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

- 1 To provide partners with the opportunity to connect, share experiences, milestones, and lessons learned on their journeys to elimination as well as best practices;
- 2 To foster intellectual exchange between researchers, policymakers, and global experts;
- 3 To reflect on successes;
- 4 To foster cross-disease, cross-sector, and cross-program collaborations and integrated approaches;
- 5 To facilitate opportunities for networking, collaboration, and exchange of ideas with internationally renowned leaders and experts in disease elimination.

## SUMMARY OF DAY 1

In his opening remarks, Mr Simon Bland, GLIDE CEO, underscored that despite remarkable strides, the challenges faced by infectious disease elimination and eradication efforts are many encompassing issues ranging from climate change to conflict and antimicrobial resistance. He also highlighted that geopolitical dynamics remain a prominent concern, especially given the unprecedented number of elections scheduled for 2024, spanning 64 countries plus the European Union. This raises questions about potential shifts in political priorities and their impact on official development assistance.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prof Margaret Gyapong delivered the symposium's opening keynote address, in which she highlighted GLIDE's commitment to accelerating progress toward disease elimination globally and locally, amidst challenges. She emphasized the vital role of empowering young people in advancing the agenda forward, while also highlighting the importance of innovation and capacity building for sustainable progress. Together, collaboration, innovation, and capacity building will ensure sustainable progress.

*“Young people must be supported to work in this field and move the elimination agenda forward.”*

## CEO ROUNDTABLE: CHAMPIONING DISEASE ELIMINATION – EXPLORING THE UAE'S LEGACY AND COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL HEALTH, REACHING THE LAST MILE, AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Following the opening of the symposium, the first discussion featured a CEO roundtable moderated by Simon Bland, CEO of GLIDE, that brought together four heads of global health entities to consider the challenges and opportunities ahead to accelerate progress toward disease elimination and better health. This session explored the legacy of the UAE and Abu Dhabi's engagement in global health, the progress made thus far, and some of the unique global challenges that the disease elimination community faces.

Mr Nassar Al Mubarak, CEO, Reaching the Last Mile, highlighted the historical context of the UAE's health transformation, rooted in the visionary leadership of HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE. He discussed how listening to communities played a large role in the UAE eliminating polio and malaria. Finally, he emphasized the importance of partnerships, agile approaches, and community-centric strategies in tackling last-mile diseases.

Building on the importance of new approaches, Dr Caroline Harper, CEO of Sightsavers, discussed the evolution of the RLM Fund 2.0 announced at the Reaching the Last Mile Forum in December 2023, and its role in mobilizing resources for disease elimination, particularly for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. She emphasized the need for innovation, data-driven solutions, and strengthening lab capacity and supply chains, while highlighting the significance of country ownership and community involvement.

Dr Michael Charles, CEO of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria, highlighted the challenges and opportunities in the global fight against malaria. He emphasized the importance of a unified approach, advocating for integration across sectors and listening to community voices. Dr Charles stressed the importance of utilizing new tools, fostering strong country leadership, ensuring adequate funding and implementing effective advocacy to achieve malaria elimination within our lifetime.

## **PANEL: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & ADVOCACY**

This panel delved into advocacy and resource mobilization strategies to help accelerate progress toward achieving the targets in the WHO NTD Roadmap and the WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria and explored possibilities for joint advocacy and collaboration. The panel was moderated by Ms Priya Kanayson, Director of Advocacy and Communications at GLIDE.

Mr Stuart Halford, Director of Advocacy and Resource Mobilization at Uniting to Combat NTDs, highlighted Uniting's strategic initiatives and the need for innovative resource mobilization approaches amid global challenges. He stressed the importance of community expertise and endemic country leadership in resource mobilization, along with identifying opportunities for shared messaging and advocacy.

*“Elimination is possible and is happening. We are halfway to the WHO target. Working together and collaborating is crucial.”*

The importance and power of country ownership was further highlighted by Dr Melanie Renshaw, Principal Director at the Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), especially when linking country ownership at the highest level with tangible action for malaria elimination. This level of ownership can often be encouraged through peer-to-peer pressure and collaboration among heads of states. In order to link commitment to action, real-time, data and indicators are essential for decision makers. Dr Renshaw advocated for integration as a solution and emphasized the need for actionable indicators to drive progress.

Finally, Ms Yacine Djibo, Founder & Executive Director of Speak Up Africa, underscored the importance of partnership building and national advocacy strategies. She highlighted successful joint advocacy campaigns and stressed the importance of fostering connections among communities for mutual benefit. Ms Djibo noted the impact of global commitments, such as those made at the RLM Forum, in driving progress at both the global and country levels.

## **PANEL: CLIMATE & HEALTH**

Climate change is one of the biggest issues of our time, and its full impact on disease elimination and eradication efforts are not yet understood. Following the first-ever Health Day at a UN Climate Conference at COP28 in Dubai in 2023, this panel discussion explored the complex nexus between climate change and health, with a specific focus on disease elimination. The panel was moderated by Dr Farah Qamar, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Aga Khan University.

Setting the stage for the panel conversation, Dr Maria Neira, Head of the Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department at the World Health Organization (WHO), highlighted the critical importance of acknowledging and addressing the potential effects of climate change in a video message shared with attendees. She emphasized the significance of action and investment in mitigating climate change's impacts on health, and urged all present to continue to be advocates for action on climate and health.

Ms Tala Al Ramahi, Chief Strategy Officer at Reaching the Last Mile, discussed the need for increased understanding of the relationship between climate change and infectious diseases, highlighting the importance of supporting research in understanding this link. RLM is supporting research in this space to better understand these links and look towards breaking siloes between sectors and diseases.

In addition to the evidence base that helps us understand the links between climate change and health, we also need to ensure the right tools are made available to all who need them, said Ms Kelly Willis, Managing Director, Strategic Initiatives at Malaria No More US. She highlighted the challenges in equitable distribution and utilization of new tools for disease prevention, especially amid disruptions induced by climate change. She emphasized the importance of leveraging epidemiological surveillance and community healthcare systems for effective implementation, coupled with predictive modelling.

Finally, Dr Hosni Ghedira, Director of Research Engagement at the Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, emphasized the role of AI in supporting decision-making and integrating climate and healthcare data for predictive modelling. He stressed the importance of investing in data quality and accuracy, highlighting the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing climate-health challenges.

*“Data is the critical information that we need - we can have the best model in the world but if you do not have the critical ground data then you cannot accurately predict disease outbreaks.”*

*“You do not often find a climate expert, infectious disease expert, and AI expert in the same conference and these discussions should be encouraged.”*

## FLASH TALKS: FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION

This session aimed to provide the audience with a succinct overview of the results from the winners of the 2023 Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination – The Climate Edit. Nine pioneering research projects showcased their 6-month formative research projects on the intersection of climate change and disease elimination. At the end of the presentations, speakers were invited back on stage to receive their awards. This session was facilitated by Ms Lara Dahan, Head of Programs and Partnership at GLIDE.

Dr Mustapha Immura, Research Fellow at the Centre for NTDs Research, University of Health and Allied Sciences shared insights on the impact of rising temperatures on anopheles mosquitoes and emphasized the need for empirical evidence to address policy gaps regarding NTDs and Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Salum Azizi, a research entomologist at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, presented findings from a cross-sectional community-based surveillance study on LF in Tanzania, showing a positive correlation between climate change factors and LF persistence. The primary vector of LF transmission has shifted with changing climate patterns.

Dr Walter Musakwa, Professor at the University of Johannesburg presented the correlation between malaria and climate factors in the Chiredzi District, Zimbabwe, emphasizing the importance of considering climate changes when designing interventions for malaria control.

Dr Benjamin Rice, Principal Investigator at Princeton University shared insights from studies conducted after cyclones in Madagascar, highlighting the potential impact of vaccination coverage on reducing infections. He underscored the necessity for increased investments to understand climate-vulnerable settings like Madagascar.

Dr Theresa Shema, Researcher at Zambia National Public Health Institute, presented her findings showing the correlation between malaria incidence and climate factors like humidity and precipitation. Extreme climate events have disrupted malaria interventions, necessitating advocacy for climate adaptation in elimination strategies.

Dr Judite Pinto, Focal point of climate change at PATH, discussed Mozambique's vulnerability to climate change and the lack of a specific platform within the national health system to analyze climate and health data. National entities are implementing strategies to promote data sharing with WHO's support.

Dr Gabriel Carrasco, Associate researcher at the Health Innovation Laboratory, Institute of Tropical Medicine, UPCH, focused on dengue in the Peruvian Amazon, emphasizing the importance of warning and response systems. High-resolution data collection methods improve forecasting accuracy, aiding decision-making at the village level.

Dr Meghnath Dimal, Senior Research Officer at the Nepal Health Research Council highlighted the endemicity of vector-borne diseases, including LF, Malaria, and Dengue. Shifting transmission patterns to higher altitude areas require increased investments in vector control and malaria intervention strategies.



## **FIRESIDE CHAT**

This session featured a discussion around partnership and possibilities between two leaders of influential and global health organizations: the WHO NTD program represented by Dr Ibrahima Socé Fall, Director of NTDs, and Sightsavers represented by its CEO, Dr Caroline Harper. The fireside chat was facilitated by Ms Sally Mousa, Senior Presenter at Forbes Middle East, and emphasized the need to integrate NTD programs and sustain visibility and advocacy. Dr Socé highlighted national political commitment and successfully integrated programs, like the malaria & NTDs proposal to the Global Fund. Dr Harper stressed the potential cost-effectiveness of NTD interventions as a means to help achieve other global health targets. She also highlighted the importance of celebrating country successes in eliminating NTDs despite challenging environments, with countries like Malawi eliminating Trachoma showcasing the feasibility of NTD elimination. Both speakers urged transparent collaboration and avoiding the pitfall of territoriality in implementation.

## **PANEL: BRIDGING BORDERS: CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATIONS AND CHALLENGES**

This panel session aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted approaches required for successful cross-border health initiatives. The discussion featured different regional perspectives, highlighting cross-border disease elimination efforts. The moderator of this panel was Dr Gregory Noland, Program Director, River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, and Malaria at The Carter Center.



Starting off the discussion, Dr Luccene Desir, Senior Country Representative of the Hispaniola Initiative at The Carter Center, discussed the benefits and feasibility of eliminating LF and malaria in Hispaniola, which is one of The Carter Center's long-standing programs. He highlighted challenges such as resource limitations – including availability of tests and medicines - and language barriers between countries, underscoring the need for integration between malaria and LF programs.

Dr Melanie Renshaw, Principal Director at ALMA, presented the findings of a desk review on successful cross-border collaboration in African countries, highlighting the importance of political leadership and economic development initiatives. She outlined key successes, such as integrated approaches to sub-regional collaboration and initiatives in the Greater Mekong Subregion focused on malaria.

Finally, Dr Elsa Herdiana Murhandarwati, Parasitology Lecturer at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia, discussed a cross-border initiative between Indonesia and Timor-Leste for malaria elimination. She highlighted the importance of data sharing, bilingual joint workshops and border area plans to help address challenges such as different political contexts and efforts to scale up services to new districts.

## **PANEL: CONNECTING THE DOTS FOR CROSS-DISEASE AND CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION IN DISEASE ELIMINATION**

The final panel discussion of day one, moderated by Ms Diana Yousef, Technical Advisor at GLIDE, highlighted lessons learned from different programs on cross-disease and cross-sector collaboration and integration efforts.

Dr Alan Brooks, Managing Partner & Co-Founder at Bridges to Development emphasized intentional integration, highlighting the need to build on the strengths of different programs which could inform when and how to integrate. Integration is not a single, perfect solution to solve all things, and must be considered as an investment model based on the potential for outsized returns. Dr Brooks stressed the importance of community-centric approaches and the need to reassess metrics set for success.

In Zanzibar, some integration efforts were intentional while others built on spontaneous opportunities that arose through the work, explained Dr Fatma Kabole, Deputy Director at the Zanzibar MOH. She emphasized the importance of documenting success stories to show what is possible, and highlighted the importance of inter-ministerial collaboration, particularly between Health and Environment Ministries, to tackle climate change-induced malaria upsurge.

Dr Fe Esperanza, Medical Specialist, at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in the Philippines, expanded upon the importance of tools to enhance understanding of disease transmission.

She also stressed the need for integrated surveillance efforts and building confidence in data through close collaboration with programs, advocating for timely action and robust governance.

The panellists also stressed the need for financial support to transition community health workers from stipends to salaries, as they are often the ones on the frontlines who are called upon to deliver integrated services. When considering integration, all partners and programs must have a shared understanding of the synergies and opportunities.

## **SUMMARY OF DAY 2**

### **HIGH-LEVEL CONVERSATION: CELEBRATING MILESTONES - REFLECTION ON DISEASE ELIMINATION SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

This panel celebrated the incredible successes and real progress that has already been made, as far too often, only the challenges in disease elimination are discussed. Panellists, moderated by Dr Ngozi Erondu, Technical Director at GLIDE, shared stories illustrating specific disease elimination journeys. Their narratives aimed to inspire participants by demonstrating that disease elimination and eradication are achievable goals.

Cabo Verde was declared malaria-free on 12 January 2024, but this was the third time it had applied for elimination certification, shared Dr Michael Charles, CEO RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Their success in becoming malaria-free was the result of country leadership, robust surveillance, data-driven decision-making, community engagement, collaboration and targeted funding.

Dr Yao Sodhalon, Director of the Mectizan Donation Program (MDP), highlighted Togo's remarkable achievements in eliminating four NTDs – Guinea worm, LF, Trachoma, and sleeping sickness – serving as a proof of concept for the WHO NTD roadmap. He highlighted MDP's crucial role in LF and onchocerciasis elimination efforts, along with progress updates on Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for onchocerciasis.

With over 40 countries now certified malaria-free, Dr Altaf Lal, President of Global Health and Pharmaceuticals Consulting Inc, discussed the progress in malaria elimination efforts. He shared insights from the Mandla-Malaria Elimination Demonstration project in India, demonstrating the feasibility of stopping indigenous transmission and projecting continued declines in malaria cases.

Finally, Dr Greg Noland, Program Director, River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, and Malaria at The Carter Center, discussed ongoing efforts to eradicate Guinea worm disease, which could join smallpox as the second human disease to ever be eradicated.

Despite the fact there is no vaccine or treatment, it is still possible to eradicate Guinea worm through community-level interventions. He emphasized the importance of strong political leadership, partnerships, and persistence in achieving success.

Throughout the discussions, common themes emerged, including the critical role of leadership at the highest level, the power of partnerships, and the importance of persistence in driving progress, recognizing that fatigue can often set in during the long road to disease elimination. Panellists also highlighted strategies for preventing the reintroduction of vector-borne diseases post-elimination, emphasizing the need for sustained surveillance and integration with other NTD programs. These insights provide valuable guidance for future efforts in disease elimination.

## **PANEL: COMMUNITIES AT THE CENTER OF DISEASE ELIMINATION EFFORTS**

This panel discussion, moderated by Dr Aïssatou Diawara, Technical Specialist at GLIDE, explored the pivotal role of communities in disease elimination efforts. It emphasized the importance of prioritizing community engagement in disease programs and initiatives, offering practical recommendations for implementing community-centric approaches.

In a recorded video, Professor Alison Krentel, Associate Professor at the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa, provided her insights on how community participation contributes to the overall health of communities and how this must go beyond the 'outreach' stage. She also highlighted the importance of inclusion and the collective responsibility across different geographic sites and diseases.

Professor Emilienne Epée, Chief of Service, Disease Control Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon, shared insights from a study on community attitudes toward ivermectin during MDA for onchocerciasis. She stressed the importance of understanding cultural beliefs, advocating for tailored community-centered interventions to promote behavioral change.

While we have polio eradication within our sights, we must ensure communities are included during the design and implementation phase of interventions, stressed Dr Jai Das, Assistant Professor for the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health from Aga Khan University. He shared insights into effective behavioral change strategies, particularly in the context of polio vaccine uptake, emphasizing the importance of short-term, tangible results and active community engagement, including incentives and community clustering approaches.

CHWs are often those who have the most interaction with populations at risk, and it is important they are well-trained, incentivized, and compensated.

Prof Anil Krishna, Director, Center for Leadership in Global Health Equity at the University of Global Health Equity, discussed the role of policies and incentives in motivating CHWs in the context of malaria and influencing national policy, citing examples from Rwanda, where CHWs were given performance-based incentives. He also underscored the significance of strong leadership and political will in driving program success.

Finally, during the audience Q&A, panellists emphasized that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to engaging communities. Engagement strategies must be tailored to the specific country, disease, and context. A thorough understanding of community dynamics and characteristics enables the implementation of targeted activities that effectively support disease elimination efforts.

## **PANEL: LEVERAGING DATA FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING IN DISEASE ELIMINATION**

This panel aimed to underscore the critical importance of leveraging data for informed decision making in disease elimination efforts, and was moderated by Dr Ye Min Htet, Senior Technical Advisor at GLIDE.

Mr Levinson Nkoma, Data Specialist at the Ministry of Health in Zambia, highlighted the effectiveness of the CHIP program in addressing data quality issues, citing Malawi as an example. He also discussed the benefits of standardized reporting forms in streamlining data collection processes and encouraged data sharing between countries and partners to support ESPEN.

In addition to data collection, timely data dissemination is essential for decision making, discussed Professor Asim Beg from Aga Khan University, especially when considering the need for malaria to be a notifiable disease. He also highlighted the impact of temperature on mosquito-borne diseases and urged for timely data dissemination to inform programmatic responses effectively.

Often, the power of scorecards to monitor performance based on indicators selected by countries can facilitate collaboration, explained Dr Monique Murindahabi, Senior Malaria Program Manager at ALMA. She discussed ALMA's support for countries through malaria scorecards, emphasizing their role as tools for monitoring performance and fostering collaboration among countries, while also facilitating data ownership.

Dr Bob Snow, Professor of Malaria Epidemiology at KEMRI, provided insights into initiatives like the MARA project and the Inform project, emphasizing their role in informing national strategic plans and resource allocation. He raised concerns about data ownership, advocating for shared ownership at the country level.

## FLASH TALKS: FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION

This session featured an overview of the results from the winners of the 2021 Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination. Moderated by Ms Lara Dahan, Head of Programs and Partnerships at GLIDE, the inaugural Falcon Award projects delved into disease elimination efforts of GLIDE's partners from Pakistan, Ghana and the Philippines.

Dr Masroor Alam, NIH Pakistan, presented his work to lead a massive effort testing 61,000 clinical specimens to detect polio virus, expanding capacity for wider genomic samples and training labs for surveillance of other pathogens.

Prof Daniel Boakye, Visiting Professor, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana used an onchocerciasis theoretical model to better understand vector movements, emphasizing the importance of assessing both high and low-risk areas to inform onchocerciasis policy.

Dr Jai Das, Assistant Professor for the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Aga Khan University, addressed polio vaccine refusal through qualitative and quantitative research, implementing community-driven solutions that reduced refusals significantly and highlighted the need for better programmatic measures.

Dr Fe Esperanza, Medical Specialist Medical Specialist, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines, focused on malaria and LF elimination, utilizing historical data analysis and sample collection to identify surveillance gaps.



## PANEL: INNOVATIONS - VACCINES, DIAGNOSTICS, TREATMENTS, SURVEILLANCE, AND OTHER TOOLS

This panel, moderated by Dr Ngozi Erondy, Technical Director at GLIDE, offered insights into the current landscape of treatment, vaccines, and diagnostics for NTDs. It also presented examples of innovative tools and initiatives driving new developments in the field.

Dr Louise Hamill, Director of the lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis technical unit at Sightsavers, advocated for ethical innovation in catching black flies, as the current method involves human-landing capture. She also stressed the need for innovation in entomology for onchocerciasis control.

In addition to antiquated methods such as human-landing capture, there are significant equity issues regarding access and availability of NTD treatments. Mr Mark Sullivan, CEO of MDGH, shed light on these issues and the high development costs compared to other diseases. The high cost of development for new NTD medicines is a barrier to innovations in the field, and we must consider incentives to encourage innovations in NTD treatments.

Dr Neil McCarthy, Head of External Relations at Medicines for Malaria Venture, advocated for partnerships in often expensive phase 3 clinical trials. He also emphasized the importance of investing in a single-tablet solution for all forms of malaria, which is something the world may not see until 2030.

During the audience Q&A, participants discussed financing barriers hindering NTD drug development, highlighted a significant leadership gap, and emphasized the need to bridge gaps between research development and end-users

## **PANEL: ECONOMICS AND INVESTMENT CASE FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION**

In the final session of the symposium, GLIDE CEO Simon Bland moderated a discussion on the importance and need for enhanced economic thinking in addressing neglected diseases and in pursuing disease elimination and eradication.

Dr Sara Al Dalal, President of the Emirates Medical Association's Emirates Health Economics Society, emphasized the importance of merging health and economics for sustainable healthcare solutions. Doing so can provide essential data for informed decision making and help direct necessary investments to health interventions. She also advocated for increased representation of health economists in global health discussions.

Continuing the discussion on investments in health, Prof Paul Revill, Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, highlighted the potential of small investments to yield significant health improvements. He shared insights from Malawi, demonstrating the efficacy of evidence-based decision-making in health policy and stressing the importance of collaboration between researchers and policymakers. Both panellists called for equitable resource allocation to address global health challenges.

## **CLOSING**

Over the course of two days, several main takeaways emerged: setting clear targets, the importance of leadership at the highest level, the power of data, and the need for communities to be at the center, recognizing their expertise to help accelerate disease elimination efforts. Speakers also explored the importance of economic data to help inform investments in and resource allocations to NTDs, as well as identifying opportunities for integration to deliver mutually beneficial solutions. We at GLIDE thank everyone who joined us for this inaugural symposium, and we look forward to continuing to work together to advance knowledge and accelerate progress towards disease elimination.

## ANNEX 1

Time	Day 1: Thursday, February 8, 2024	Speakers
8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Welcome Refreshments	
9:00 - 9:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	
9:15- 9:25	<b>Keynote</b>	Prof Margaret Gyapong, Director of the Institute for Health Research, Ghana
9:25 – 10:00	<b>CEO Roundtable:</b> Championing Disease Elimination – Exploring the UAE’s Legacy and Commitment to Global Health, Reaching the Last Mile, and Future Prospects	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr Simon Bland, CEO, GLIDE Mr Nassar Al Mubarak, CEO, Reaching the Last Mile  Dr Michael Charles, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria Dr Caroline Harper, CEO, Sightsavers
10:00 -10:30	<b>Cultural Interlude:</b> Liwa Maritime Ensemble	
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Break	
<b>Spotlight: Key Priorities for Accelerating Disease Elimination through Integrated Approaches</b>		
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Panel:</b> Resource Mobilization & Advocacy	<b>Moderator:</b> Ms Priya Kanayson, Director of Advocacy and Communications, GLIDE Mr Stuart Halford, Director of Advocacy and Resource Mobilization, Uniting to Combat NTDs  Dr Melanie Renshaw, Principal Director, Africa Leaders Malaria Alliance  Ms Yacine Djibo, Founder & Executive Director, Speak Up Africa
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Panel:</b> Climate & Health	<b>Moderator:</b> Dr Farah Qamar, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, The Aga Khan University  Dr Maria Neira, Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department, World Health Organization ( <i>recording</i> )



		<p>Ms Tala Al Ramahi, Chief Strategy Officer, Reaching the Last Mile</p> <p>Ms Kelly Willis, Managing Director, Strategic Initiatives, Malaria No More US</p> <p>Dr Hosni Ghedira, Director of Research Engagement, Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence</p>
12:00 - 12:40	<b>Flash Talks:</b> Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination - The Climate Edit	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Lara Dahan, Head of Programs and Partnerships, GLIDE</p> <p>Dr Mustapha Immura, Research Fellow, Centre for NTDs Research, University of Health and Allied Sciences Dr Meghnath Dimal, Senior Research Officer, Nepal Health Research Council</p> <p>Dr Judite Pinto, Focal Point of Climate Change, PATH</p> <p>Dr Benjamin Rice, Principal Investigator, Princeton University</p> <p>Mr Salum Azizi, Research Entomologist, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College</p> <p>Dr Gabriel Carrasco, Associate Researcher, Health Innovation Laboratory, Institute of Tropical Medicine, UPCH</p> <p>Dr Walter Musakawa, Professor, University of Johannesburg</p> <p>Dr Therese Shema, Nzayisenga, Co-investigator, Climate change advisor, Zambia National Public Health Institute</p>
12:40 - 14:00	Lunch & Flash Talk Poster Exhibition	
14:00 - 14:20	<b>Fireside Chat</b>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Sally Mousa</p> <p>Dr Caroline Harper, CEO, Sightsavers</p>

		Dr Ibrahima Soce Fall, Director Global NTDs Control and Elimination, World Health Organization
<b>Spotlight: Cross-cutting Approaches for Disease Elimination</b>		
14:20 - 15:00	<b>Panel:</b> Bridging borders: Cross-border collaborations and challenges	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Greg Noland, Program Director, River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Malaria, The Carter Center</p> <p>Dr Luccene Desir, Senior Country Representative, Hispaniola Health Initiative, The Carter Center</p> <p>Dr Melanie Renshaw, Principal Director, African Leaders Malaria Alliance</p> <p>Dr Elsa Herdiana Murhandarwati, Parasitology Lecturer, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia</p>
15:00 - 15:45	<b>Panel:</b> Connecting the dots for cross-disease and cross-sector collaboration in disease elimination	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Diana Yousef, Technical Advisor, GLIDE</p> <p>Dr Alan Brooks, Managing Partner &amp; Co-Founder, Bridges to Development</p> <p>Dr Fatma Kabole, Deputy Director, Zanzibar Ministry of Health</p> <p>Dr Fe Esperanza, Medical Specialist, Philippines, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine</p>
15:45 - 15:55	Day One Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks	
18:30 - 21:30	Dinner & Networking	

Time	Day 2: Friday, February 9, 2024	Confirmed Speakers
<b>Spotlight: Achieving Milestones in Disease Elimination</b>		
8:30 - 9:25	<b>High-Level Conversation:</b> Celebrating Milestones- Reflection on disease elimination successes and lessons learned	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Ngozi Erondu, Technical Director, GLIDE</p> <p>Dr Michael Charles, CEO, RBM Partnership to End Malaria</p> <p>Dr Yao Sodhalon, Director, Mectizan Donation Program</p> <p>Dr Altaf Lal, President, Global Health and Pharmaceuticals Consulting Inc.</p> <p>Dr Greg Noland, Program Director, River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Malaria, The Carter Center</p>
9:25 - 10:20	<b>Panel:</b> Communities at the center of disease elimination efforts	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Aïssatou Diawara, Technical Specialist, GLIDE</p> <p>Prof Alison Krentel, Associate Professor at the School of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Ottawa (<i>recording</i>)</p> <p>Prof Emilienne Epée, Chief of Service, Disease Control Department, Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon</p> <p>Dr Jai Das, Assistant Professor for the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Aga Khan University Prof Anil Krishna, Director, Center for Leadership in Global Health Equity, University of Global Health Equity</p>
10:20 - 10:25	Video Highlights	
10:25 - 11:00	Morning Break	
11:00 - 11:45	<b>Panel:</b> Leveraging data for informed decision making in disease elimination	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Ye Min Htet, Senior Technical Advisor, GLIDE</p> <p>Mr Levison Nkoma, Data Specialist, Ministry of Health, Zambia</p>

		<p>Prof Asim Beg, Consultant Parasitologist and Professor, The Aga Khan University</p> <p>Dr Monique Murindahabi, Senior Malaria Program Manager, African Leaders Malaria Alliance</p> <p>Dr Bob Snow, Professor of Malaria Epidemiology, KEMRI</p>
11:45 - 12:10	<b>Flash Talks:</b> Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Lara Dahan, Head of Programs and Partnerships, GLIDE</p> <p>Prof Daniel Boakye, Visiting Professor, Parasitology Department, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana</p> <p>Dr Fe Esperanza, Medical Specialist, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines</p> <p>Dr Jai Das, Assistant Professor for the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, The Aga Khan University</p> <p>Dr Masroor Alam, Department of Virology, National Institute of Health, Pakistan</p>
12:10 - 14:00	Lunch & Flash Talk Poster Exhibition	
<b>Spotlight: Advancing Global Health</b>		
14:00 - 14:45	<b>Panel:</b> Innovations - vaccines, diagnostics, treatments, surveillance, and other tools	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr Ngozi Erondu, Technical Director, GLIDE</p> <p>Dr Louise Hamill, Director of the lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis technical unit, Sightsavers</p> <p>Mr Mark Sullivan, CEO and Managing Director, Medicines Development for Global Health</p> <p>Mr Neil McCarthy, Head of External Relations, Medicines for Malaria Venture</p>

14:45 - 15:30	<b>Panel:</b> Economics and investment case for disease elimination	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr Simon Bland, CEO, GLIDE Prof Paul Revill, Professor at Centre for Health Economics, University of York Dr Sara Al Dalal, President of the Emirates Medical Association's Emirates Health Economics Society
15:30 - 15:45	Day Two Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks	

## **ANNEX 2 - GLIDE SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS**

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