

## GLIDE's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) came as a result of the most consultative and inclusive process spearheaded by the United Nations and sets out a plan of action to eradicate poverty for people, planet, and prosperity. It builds on its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which aimed to tackle key drivers of poverty in developing countries from 2000-2015. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the core part of the 2030 Agenda build on the MDGs by setting out a universal, transformative, and comprehensive agenda comprised of 17 goals and 169 targets, applicable to all countries. The goals and their associated targets span several thematic areas and aim to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. The cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda is “that no one will be left behind,” making elevating marginalised populations central to the realisation of the SDGs.



At GLIDE, we envision a world free of infectious diseases of poverty and are currently focusing our efforts on accelerating the elimination of malaria, polio, onchocerciasis (river blindness), and lymphatic filariasis, which affect billions of people worldwide. GLIDE's mandate aims to reinforce the efforts of the SDGs by not only advocating for the health and well-being of those who are often overlooked, but also collaborating across communities and countries and developing new approaches for disease elimination. We achieve this by building on country ownership and local solutions, promoting integrated health system approaches, and fostering partnerships towards disease elimination.

Infectious diseases of poverty cause severe pain, disabilities, deformities, malnutrition, stunted growth, cognitive impairment, social isolation, and humiliation. The devastating effects of these diseases inhibit the ability of those affected to find meaningful work, attend school, actively contribute to their families and communities and live healthy lives. GLIDE's efforts feed directly into the achievement of SDG 3: *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*, and target 3.3 “By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.” Our work also serves to achieve other aspects of SDG 3, including Universal Health Coverage (UHC), supporting universal access to vaccines and medicine, increasing health financing, supporting health workers in developing countries, and improving early warning systems for health risks - all of which are targets underneath the SDG 3 umbrella.

While GLIDE’s work is strongly aligned with SDG 3, none of the 17 goals exist in isolation. There are many instances where achievement of one goal can positively impact the achievement of another. For example, the elimination of an infectious disease in a country can help enhance people’s ability to attend work or school and participate meaningfully in their communities, contributing to the achievement of SDG 1 (ending poverty), and increased economic power as a result of the ability to participate in the workforce can impact SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). Similarly, investments in another SDG can have a positive spillover effect on disease elimination. For example, efforts to achieve SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) can help to reduce the burden of waterborne diseases and improve environments where common vectors for infectious diseases live. Interlinkages like these demonstrate that coordinated inputs from multiple actors across sectors underpin the success of this agenda.



There are several global strategies that work to fulfil the goals and targets of the SDGs specifically related to GLIDE’s current diseases of focus:



The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched in 1998 after a decision by the World Health Assembly to eradicate polio and has since made significant progress towards this end. [The Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026: Delivering on a Promise](#) aims to achieve a polio-free world with a greater focus on implementation and accountability, emphasising cutting outbreak response times; increasing vaccine demand; transforming campaign effectiveness; working systematically through integration; increasing access in inaccessible areas; transitioning towards government ownership; and improving decision-making and accountability.

The World Health Organization (WHO) provides a comprehensive framework to guide and accelerate country efforts to eliminate malaria, through the [Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030](#), which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2015. It provides a framework for the development of tailored programmes to accelerate elimination and intends to be the foundation of strategies for national and subnational programs. It defines a clear and ambitious path for endemic countries as well as partners over the next five years, emphasising the need for universal coverage of core malaria interventions, high quality surveillance and improved data. In addition, the strategy identifies areas where innovation is essential, and summarised the estimated costs of implementation under the overarching target of reducing global malaria incidence and mortality rates by at least 90% by 2030.





In 2021 the WHO released [Ending the Neglect to Attain the Sustainable Development Goals: A roadmap for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030](#). The Roadmap for 2021–2030 sets global targets and milestones to prevent, control, eliminate, and eradicate the 20 conditions grouped as neglected tropical diseases. It also sets cross-cutting targets aligned with both WHO’s Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 and the SDGs, with strategies for achieving the targets during the next decade. The three pillars of the roadmap are: 1. Accelerating programmatic action, 2. Intensifying cross-cutting approaches, and 3. Changing operating models and culture to facilitate country ownership. This document is supported by an additional resource developed by the WHO, which recognises the interlinkages between disease elimination and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation):

[A Global Strategy on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021–2030](#).

GLIDE aims to fulfil the promise of the SDGs and these global strategies by supporting countries to sustain and accelerate progress towards elimination through our three strategic pillars:

1. Elevate awareness and engagement;
2. Advance elimination strategies; and
3. Foster and scale innovations.

[Our strategy](#) aligns with WHO recommendations by focusing on a cross-sector, cross-border, and cross-disease approach to elimination, with partnership at the centre (SDG 17).

GOAL 1 ELEVATE AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT	GOAL 2 ADVANCE ELIMINATION STRATEGIES	GOAL 3 FOSTER AND SCALE INNOVATION
<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve understanding of pathways to elimination</li> <li>2. Secure stakeholder commitment</li> <li>3. Increase financing for disease elimination</li> </ol>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amplify data, research, and lessons learned</li> <li>2. Problem-solve challenges</li> <li>3. Facilitate cross-disease, cross-sectoral and cross-border action</li> </ol>	<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify opportunities</li> <li>2. Stimulate and test new approaches and tools</li> <li>3. Translate learning to action</li> </ol>

The SDGs serve as a valuable framework and common language which can be leveraged to enable holistic policy discussions across all sectors and themes. While significant progress has been made to address global health issues since the advent of the MDGs and the SDGs, challenges to global health continue to persist, particularly in low-income, hard to reach areas. To achieve the SDGs, global health organisations and partners must work in collaboration with other sectors and be focused on their efforts as the last mile of elimination and eradication is the most challenging. With collective action we have the opportunity to consign preventable infectious diseases of poverty to the history books and move further down the road towards achieving the SDGs.