



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022

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

# FOREWORD

## FROM

## WALEED AL MUHAIRI, BOARD CHAIR



**“THIS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT SERVES AS A TESTAMENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE AND WHAT IT HAS ACHIEVED IN WHAT CAN BE CONSIDERED ITS FIRST FULL YEAR OF OPERATION.”**

Despite challenges and uncertainty in many parts of the world, 2022 was a year of development and expansion for GLIDE. As a young organization, GLIDE has continued to make remarkable strides in expanding its reach while continuing to forge strong partnerships that bring tangible benefits to the communities it serves.

With a presence in over 20 countries, GLIDE's footprint today extends from the Dominican Republic to Papua New Guinea. Its work spans a wide range of groundbreaking initiatives and research projects, such as developing new ways to trap black flies responsible for river blindness and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to help policymakers tackle neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). In addition, GLIDE has conducted pioneering research to identify guidelines for integrating complementary health programmes, such as malaria and NTDs.

I am pleased that GLIDE is now well-established within the UAE's healthcare ecosystem, and I am encouraged that there is increasing demand for its technical advice and expertise. The 2022 Annual Report showcases the Institute's exceptional achievements in the first full year since COVID-19 travel restrictions were lifted.

As we look ahead to the next phase of GLIDE's development, I am confident that we have the resources, skills, and ambition to build on the progress made over the last year as we move ever closer to fulfilling our universally shared vision of disease elimination and eradication. Thanks to the Board of Directors' unwavering support and guidance, the team's experience and commitment, and the significant contribution of a growing number of partners, GLIDE will continue to deliver a profound impact in 2023, offering practical solutions and hope to communities most vulnerable to NTDs.



# FOREWORD

## FROM SIMON BLAND, CEO

**“OUR PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND INITIATIVES HAVE MATURED, AND WE ARE STARTING TO SEE OUR WORK HAVING AN IMPACT ON EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.”**

I write this foreword at a pivotal moment for GLIDE, which is now three years old. The pandemic placed serious constraints on the Institute, preventing travel and necessitating remote working for over a year, but 2022 has been noticeably different. Teams have been able to travel and physically engage with partners, as much of the world emerged from the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic as borders opened and travel resumed. Members of the GLIDE team were able to conduct field visits to interact with and learn from local partners in Senegal, Cameroon, Egypt, Malawi, Tanzania, and Rwanda, and attend global health and development conferences in Berlin, Geneva, New York, Singapore, and Qatar, providing important platforms for raising the profile of GLIDE and its work to accelerate disease elimination.

Our programs, partnerships, and initiatives have matured, and we are starting to see our work having an impact on efforts to eliminate infectious diseases. Our GEAR project (Global Elimination Acceleration Review), with Bridges to Development, focused on river blindness, with many of the recommendations adopted by the World Health Organization in the creation of a global coordination network (GONE) for river blindness. The winning projects of the inaugural Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination are well underway, and we launched the second iteration of the Falcon Awards at the end of the year, seeking to support formative research projects exploring the intersection between climate change and infectious disease. Our inaugural course on Disease Elimination and Eradication with the New York University attracted 53 participants from eighteen



countries, including representatives from WHO, and is attracting more interest as we plan the next course in 2023.

This year, we were able to convene in-person events for the first time, from roundtable discussions to networking receptions, increasing our visibility and strengthening our voice. The GLIDE team hosted a reception in the margins of the General Assembly in New York to highlight the Institute's integration work. The team also organized a symposium session at the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's annual meeting, focused on integration between malaria and NTDs, which was a standing-room only event. I am proud that the work we have underway is in demand and of interest to our partners and the disease elimination and eradication community.

As we emerge from our start-up phase, we will further deepen our partnerships and continue seeking ways in which we can be catalytic and strategic, recognizing that the world looks drastically different from when we were founded. The Institute has been leading thinking on the application of innovative finance models to the challenges of NTDs and is in the final stages of agreeing a partnership with the University of York to better understand the economics of neglect and of disease elimination to improve investment case analyses.

We thank all our partners who have joined us on the journey towards disease elimination thus far and look forward to continuing to walk down the path together towards a world free of infectious diseases that have no place in today's modern world.

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# 2022 IN REVIEW

## JANUARY

Amplified World NTD Day

## FEBRUARY

Launched 'Eliminating Diseases,' an online series about efforts to eliminate diseases at EXPO 2020 Dubai

Announced partnership with APLMA-APMEN

## MARCH

Convened a virtual event as part of the GLIDE Labs series, focused on Equity-driven global health agenda: Spotlight on Africa

Celebrated International Women's Day at EXPO 2020 with a roundtable discussion and evening reception at the Surreal water feature

Supported the Guinea Worm Summit in Abu Dhabi

Participated in a workshop on scorecards for malaria elimination in the Sahel

## APRIL

Published an advocacy brief on GLIDE's work and the SDGs

Co-convened workshops on community engagement for MDA for onchocerciasis in Cameroon

Amplified World Malaria Day

## MAY

Attended the World Health Assembly in person for the first time

## DECEMBER

Hosted a session on health equity and data at the Global Data Dialogue in Dubai

Launched Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination - *The Climate Edit*

## NOVEMBER

Published case studies from integration workshops in Ghana and Zanzibar

Convened a symposium at ASTMH on opportunities for integration across NTDs and malaria programs

## OCTOBER

Convened a roundtable on innovative finance for NTDs at the World Health Summit in Berlin

Amplified World Polio Day

## SEPTEMBER

Convened a roundtable discussion on climate change and disease elimination and a reception at the United Nations General Assembly

## JUNE

Designed and conducted a joint course on disease elimination and eradication with the New York University School of Global Public Health

Supported the Kigali Summit on Malaria & NTDs and co-convened a discussion on climate change and health

Co-convened an in-person workshop in Zanzibar on the integration of malaria and NTDs

# ELEVATING AWARENESS

## ADVOCACY FOR ELIMINATION

### LAUNCH OF GLIDE'S FIRST STORYTELLING INITIATIVE

In February 2022, GLIDE launched a series of online videos (webisodes) titled '**Eliminating Diseases**' to raise awareness about the importance of eliminating infectious diseases around the world. The series showcases GLIDE's partnerships and work across its current diseases of focus: malaria, polio, lymphatic filariasis, and river blindness, highlighting work in Pakistan, Cameroon, and the island of Hispaniola. The launch took place at a special screening of the first episode on polio at EXPO 2020 Dubai's UAE Pavilion to coincide with the Health & Wellness Week. The event was moderated by Esraa Bani, a Dubai-based influencer and epidemiologist, and featured a panel discussion, screening, and Q&A with media. As a result of the launch and promotion, GLIDE was interviewed in both English and Arabic by local media outlets, including Emarat TV, Gulf News, and Khaleej Times.



Episode 1  
**POLIO: THE ENDGAME**



Episode 2  
**ONCHOCERCIASIS: THE LONG HAUL**



Episode 3  
**BEYOND BORDERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI**



Episode 4  
**INNOVATE TO ELIMINATE**



## ADVANCING AN EQUITY-DRIVEN GLOBAL HEALTH AGENDA: SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA

In March 2022, GLIDE convened the second ‘majlis’ as part of its GLIDE Labs series, which aimed to foster dialogue on issues of country ownership and self-sufficiency in global health, providing a platform for malaria and NTD program health leaders to share their experiences and perspectives, and to lead the drive towards greater influence and representation in global health decision making. This interactive event provided a space for discussion and more critical thinking about the quality and effectiveness of malaria and NTD interventions amongst country health program managers, NGOs, and Ministries of Health from six countries to exchange insights and suggestions for constructive change within the African context.



## GENDER AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO DISEASE ELIMINATION

On International Women's Day at EXPO 2020, GLIDE and Reaching the Last Mile co-hosted a GLIDE Labs Chatham House-style roundtable discussion on the gender dimensions of disease elimination and potential opportunities to integrate efforts to eliminate malaria and NTDs. The roundtable was held at the New Zealand pavilion and convened an intimate group of global health and development experts ahead of the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs, which was held in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda.

Following the roundtable, GLIDE organized a networking reception at the Surreal Water Feature at EXPO 2020. This event provided an opportunity for global health and disease elimination stakeholders to convene on gender issues and celebrate International Women's Day. The reception featured the debut of an original composition by composer George Acogny, with choreography by dancer Djoniba Mouflet. The evening reception resulted in Arabic and English language coverage in several major news outlets, including two TV interviews on Abu Dhabi TV, and articles in WAM, Al Khaleej, and Al Watan.

## GUINEA WORM SUMMIT

GLIDE supported the Guinea Worm Summit in Abu Dhabi, hosted by The Carter Center and Reaching the Last Mile. The Summit was an opportunity for bilateral meetings with Carter Center leadership, and GLIDE chaired one of the closed-door sessions on cross-border challenges and moderated the press briefing ahead of the Summit, which took place in Qasr Al Watan, and gathered programme leaders to recommit themselves to taking the steps needed to eradicate Guinea Worm disease by 2030. Since the Summit, The Carter Center announced that the world has reached the lowest number of Guinea Worm cases ever to be achieved—just 13 in 2022—bringing us closer to eradication.

## CELEBRATING COUNTRY EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE NTDs AT EXPO 2020

GLIDE and Sightsavers produced a content series displayed in the Malawi and Mozambique pavilions at EXPO 2020 to highlight country efforts and commitment to eliminate NTDs. In Malawi, the boards focused on country- and community-led elimination initiatives, while the content in Mozambique focused on women as community health leaders.





## KIGALI SUMMIT FOR MALARIA AND NTDS

The GLIDE team attended the inaugural Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDS, which was held in June on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda. GLIDE supported the Summit and helped develop advocacy messages and assets. The Summit's key areas of focus were closely aligned with GLIDE's own objectives: promoting integrated approaches, innovation, sustainable financing, and efficient utilization of data. The Summit resulted in the Kigali Declaration on NTDS, which GLIDE has endorsed, and reflects the Institute's commitment to ending preventable infectious diseases.

## EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

Climate change is a threat to achieving not only disease elimination targets, but also the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. GLIDE recognizes that climate change is likely to increase the risk of infectious disease transmission, including vector-borne diseases such as malaria, and that changes in temperature and precipitation will likely result in these diseases appearing at higher latitudes and altitudes than before. As such, GLIDE seeks to become climate-literate through strategic engagement and partnerships in the climate and health discourse.

## FORECASTING HEALTHY FUTURES

GLIDE is a member of the Forecasting Healthy Futures (FHF) Consortium, which seeks to bring greater attention to the inequities at the intersection of global health and climate change, and to encourage investment in proactive solutions that anticipate and mitigate the effects of a warming planet on human health in vulnerable communities. Together with Reaching the Last Mile and Malaria No More US, both members of FHF, GLIDE co-convened an event on climate change and disease elimination in the margins of the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDS.

The event brought together participants for a 'deep dive' into a range of topics encompassing strengthening the capacity of people and communities, realigning donor priorities, implementation science, science and technology, and policy and partnerships. The event resulted in recommendations which helped to inform the planning and focus of the first Forecasting Healthy Futures Summit, to be held in Abu Dhabi in early 2023.







## BEYOND DISEASES AND SECTORS: AN EVENING RECEPTION

GLIDE convened its first external reception at the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level week, which is held each September at the UN Headquarters in New York. The reception allowed GLIDE to introduce itself to new and old partners in global health and development, raised awareness of the Institute about its mission and priorities, and showcased ongoing initiatives in integration within and beyond diseases and sectors to accelerate programs toward disease elimination and eradication.



## GLIDE AT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE

The GLIDE team attended the 71st American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) annual meeting in Seattle, which was the first to be held in person since 2019. The ASTMH Annual Meeting is the premier international forum for the exchange of scientific advances in tropical medicine, hygiene, and global health. GLIDE convened a symposium on the integration of malaria and NTDs that presented work conducted in partnership with Bridges to Development to identify meaningful opportunities for integration across country-level malaria and NTDs programs. The symposium also stimulated discussions on cross-disease integration, highlighting lessons learned from country programs and examples of when programs should integrate to achieve disease elimination and when integration is not the ideal solution.

GLIDE submitted two late-breaker abstracts to the ASTMH meeting: one describing the GLIDE and Bridges to Development integration framework, development process, and workshops in Ghana and Zanzibar, and the other on behalf of the Zanzibar Ministry of Health highlighting its experience in conducting the integration workshop approach and opportunities for integration identified through the GLIDE and Bridges to Development supported workshop. Both abstracts were accepted as poster presentations during the annual meeting.

## GLOBAL DATA DIALOGUE

In December, GLIDE was invited by DataLEADS, a digital media and information initiative that aims to help people understand and engage with the world around them, to convene a session on health equity and data during its inaugural Global Data Dialogue in Dubai. This session featured a fireside chat between GLIDE CEO Simon Bland and Lina Jalouqa, Public Partnerships Manager for UNICEF, exploring how data is essential for achieving health equity for children and reaching the last mile of disease elimination.

## ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO VACCINES

Building on the work started during the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, GLIDE has evolved its Vaccines in MENA regional network of global and public health experts, immunization workers, researchers and academics, and journalists to go beyond a focus on COVID-19 and adapt its focus to equitable access to vaccines. In 2022, GLIDE continued to convene the group at regular intervals to share information, identify opportunities for regional input, and represent the region in global discussions as a member of the Pandemic Action Network.

**“WHERE THERE IS STRONG COLLABORATION, THERE ARE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR ALL. WHERE THERE IS COLLECTIVE EFFORT, THERE IS LASTING PROGRESS. WE MUST THEREFORE CONTINUE PUSHING FOR VACCINE EQUITY.”**

**- SIMON BLAND, CBE,  
CEO, GLIDE**







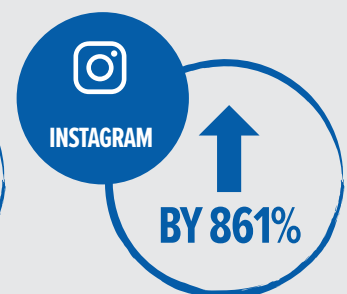
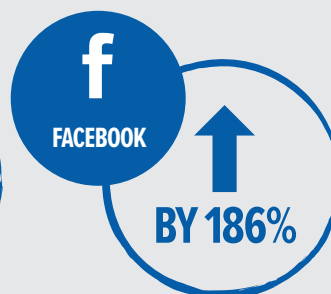
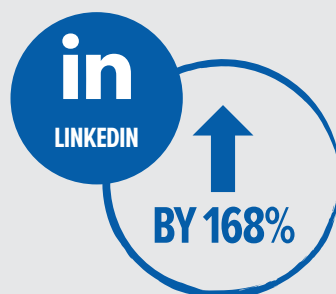
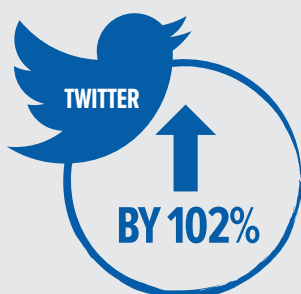
# COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT

In 2022, GLIDE focused on increasing its visibility externally 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. A revamped [Resources page](#) on its website better enables users to access publications and knowledge products. The Institute also continued its [blog series](#),

featuring pieces by GLIDE team and guest authors, with the highest performing blogs for the year focused on climate change and vector-borne diseases and World Polio Day. This year saw an increase in demand for interviews and comment on relevant topics, reflecting GLIDE's growth and role as a stakeholder in global health.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

GLIDE continues to build its voice and visibility across social media to help amplify messages about efforts to eliminate its diseases of focus.



# MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

A key element of GLIDE's work is advocacy and communications, furthering the narrative to eliminate and eradicate preventable diseases of poverty. Over the past year, the Institute has focused on establishing itself as a thought leader through published op-eds and media interviews.



## BBC FOCUS ON AFRICA: INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH KAMGNO

February 2022



## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

March 2022

### GLIDE: Eradicating preventable infectious diseases of poverty

10th March 2022



## HEALTH EUROPA: INTERVIEW WITH SIMON BLAND

March 2022

### World Malaria Day: why sustained investment is key to eliminating malaria and preparing for future health threats

10th March 2022



## EXPRESS HEALTHCARE: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND

April 2022



## NEWS MEDICAL: Q&A WITH AÏSSATOU DIAWARA

May 2022

By Simon Bland // 23 June 2022

Global Health | Research | Trade & Policy | Malaria | NTDs | CHOGM | Kigali, Rwanda



## DEVEX: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND

June 2022



## NEW YORK TIMES: INTERVIEW WITH DR JAI DAS AND SIMON BLAND

August 2022



## EASTERN EYE: OP-ED FROM SIMON BLAND

December 2022



# ADVANCING ELIMINATION STRATEGIES

## BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

GLIDE and the New York University School of Global Public Health (NYU SGPH) jointly designed and delivered an accredited course entitled 'Disease Elimination and Eradication Strategies for Infectious Diseases in LMICs' that took place in June 2022. The course targeted global health students and professionals already engaged or interested in building skills and competencies for infectious disease elimination and eradication strategy design.

The course combined design, systems, evaluative, and strategic thinking and incorporated community engagement, behavior change, resource allocation, health systems strengthening strategies, and budgeting to enable participants, working in a total of eleven teams, to create a formal proposal to reduce the burden of disease in a specific country to achieve disease elimination and/or eradication. It also provided an opportunity for students to work directly with health professionals to create innovative elimination strategies for a specific country. The cohort was comprised of sixteen students in the MPH program at NYU SGPH, fourteen public health professionals working in the field from such countries as Cameroon, Malawi, Uganda, Pakistan, and Togo, twelve WHO EMRO officials from Egypt and Lebanon, four participants from the Carter Center, APLMA, ALMA and USAID, and two virtual teams consisting of eight WHO officials each from Afghanistan

THE COHORT WAS COMPRISED OF:

16

Students in the MPH program at NYU SGPH

14

Public health professionals working in the field from such countries as Cameroon, Malawi, Uganda, Pakistan, and Togo

12

WHO EMRO officials from Egypt and Lebanon

4

Participants from the Carter Center, APLMA, ALMA and USAID

2

Virtual teams, each consisting of eight WHO officials

and Yemen. The course included a two-week online portion followed by an eight-day face-to-face component in Abu Dhabi that allowed participants to work alongside public health professionals from the Middle East and African regions who are working on disease elimination and eradication, with a focus on onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, and polio. GLIDE and NYU SGPH will launch a second iteration of the joint course in 2023.

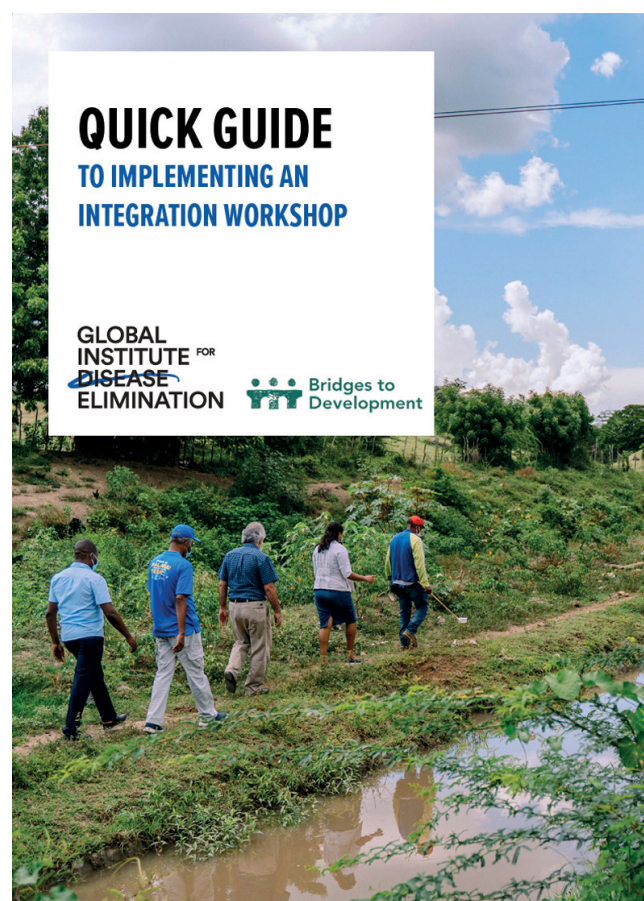




## ADVANCING APPROACHES TO DISEASE INTEGRATION PROGRAMMING

Malaria and NTDs have devastating impacts on the communities they affect and—while they may often share vectors or have common solutions—are usually addressed in vertical programs. Integration across programs within the health sector or other sectors has been identified as a means to increase resource and operational efficiency, sustainability, and community acceptability, when there is a clear rationale for integration. The WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 and the WHO 2030 NTD Roadmap both encourage an increased drive for countries to integrate programs. However, due to resource inequalities across programs, only partial overlap of methods, and different management structures, there has been minimal integration in practice so far. Where it has occurred, donor financing has frequently been the spark, resulting in integrated activities coming to an end once project funds are depleted.

In partnership with Bridges to Development, GLIDE has been investigating where integration has been more or less successful to better determine approaches for when, what and how to pursue integration—and to understand when not to integrate programs. In an effort to support the translation of theories about integration into practice, GLIDE and Bridges to Development developed a **framework** and practical, efficient process to help disease programs identify impactful and feasible win-win integration opportunities. Owned and led by the national programs, the framework and process were designed to be a neutral starting point for two programs, tailored to local context, to facilitate collaboration between programs in a workshop setting.



GLIDE and Bridges to Development supported the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to conduct a virtual, country-led integration workshop in November 2021, followed by an in-person workshop in Zanzibar, Tanzania in June 2022. Both workshops were well received by participants from national and sub-national levels and provided a platform for countries to identify and prioritize and feasible 'win-win' opportunities for the NTD and malaria teams to jointly pursue. Results of the country workshops were published in case studies on GLIDE's website, accompanied by a quick start guide to conducting an integration workshop.





**“WE MUST UNDERSTAND  
THE ECONOMICS OF NTDS  
AND ELIMINATION BETTER  
IN ORDER TO DEVELOP  
AND REFINE INVESTMENT  
CASES IN A MORE  
HOLISTIC WAY.”**

**- SIMON BLAND, CBE,  
CEO, GLIDE**

## **ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF NTDS IN MALAWI**

Over the course of 2022, GLIDE continued its work **supporting Malawi** to develop its NTD Master Plan, including through the onboarding of a local financial consultant who facilitated a three-day budgeting and costing workshop. The workshop resulted in each NTD Program Manager developing costed plans to underpin the execution of their elimination activities over the coming four years. The resulting NTD Master Plan is now being reviewed for approval.







## THE SAHEL REGION



**GOAL: THE ELIMINATION OF MALARIA  
ACROSS THE SAHEL**

## MALARIA ELIMINATION IN THE SAHEL REGION

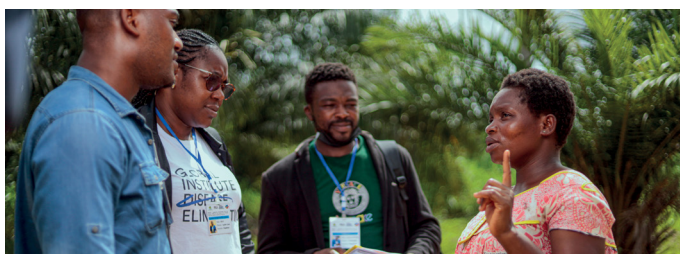
Malaria and NTDs have devastating impacts on the GLIDE and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) continue to work together to help accelerate malaria elimination under the Sahel Malaria Elimination (SaME) initiative. ALMA and GLIDE are working together with other organizations to achieve a common goal: the elimination of malaria in the Sahel region. Through this collaboration, GLIDE is providing support to regional advocacy efforts and the development of the Sahel Resource Mobilization plan, a comprehensive overview of malaria funding in the region. GLIDE is also supporting ALMA to develop a cross-border collaboration framework, designed to guide countries in the Sahel region in their efforts to eliminate malaria. This framework will provide practical recommendations on how to effectively collaborate and coordinate efforts across borders and will take into account the unique challenges and opportunities that come with cross-border collaboration. GLIDE participated in two Sahel Malaria Elimination (SaME) technical meetings held in March 2022 in Dakar and November 2022 in Lomé. These meetings aimed to finalize the regional scorecard and review the progress and next steps of the Resource Mobilization Plan. The active participation of GLIDE in these meetings highlights the Institute's commitment to supporting the SaME initiative and advancing malaria elimination efforts in the Sahel region.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ELIMINATE ONCHOCERCIASIS IN CAMEROON

Cameroon has a population of approximately 27 million, with 60% of the population at risk of onchocerciasis infection and 20% of the population currently infected. Despite ongoing efforts, onchocerciasis remains endemic in all ten regions of the country. GLIDE works with the Ministry of Health in Cameroon to gain deeper insights into community attitudes and perspectives towards mass drug administration (MDA) of ivermectin. The goal of the project is to identify new ways to enhance community engagement and support the Onchocerciasis Program through evidence-based decision making. This approach aligns with Cameroon's strategic plan to increase community involvement and reach its target of onchocerciasis elimination. In April 2022, GLIDE made its first on-site visit to Cameroon to kick off the project.



### CAMEROON AND RIVER BLINDNESS:

**27M** Population

**60%** Are at risk of Onchocerciasis

**20%** Of the population are currently infected

**DESPITE ONGOING EFFORTS, ONCHOCERCIASIS REMAINS ENDEMIC IN ALL TEN REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.**





## EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AND GAPS IN MALARIA AND LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance-Asia Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APLMA-APMEN) and GLIDE **announced a new partnership** in February 2022 to support governments to help drive the elimination of malaria and lymphatic filariasis (LF) in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and malaria elimination in Indonesia and Timor-Leste via innovative cross-disease and cross-border approaches. Malaria and LF are two of the deadliest mosquito-borne diseases, devastating millions of people globally. Both diseases are transmitted by the same vector—the *Anopheles* mosquito. Given the common breeding and feeding habits, integrated vector control and collaborative efforts can effectively reduce the burden of both diseases. As COVID-19 has strained national health budgets, accelerating development of cost-effective, integrated models of service delivery is critical.

APLMA-APMEN and GLIDE are supporting national and sub-national public health and malaria programs to improve data and evidence generation to guide decision-making on integrated vector management for malaria and LF in PNG, and working with key partners to identify interventions to address the cross-border malaria situation between Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

**“WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WORK WITH APLMA-APMEN ON THESE TWO EXCITING PIECES OF WORK. COVID-19 HAS SHOWN US THAT INFECTIOUS DISEASES KNOW NO BORDERS. WORKING TO ADDRESS CROSS-BORDER ELIMINATION OF MALARIA BETWEEN INDONESIA AND TIMOR-LESTE WILL HELP INTERVENTIONS GO FURTHER AND HAVE LONG-LASTING IMPACTS.**

**WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE INITIATIVE IN PNG, WHICH WE HOPE WILL INFORM INTEGRATED APPROACHES THAT SPAN ACROSS DISEASES AND HELP STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS.”**

**-SIMON BLAND, CBE,  
CEO, GLIDE**



## CROSS-DISEASE INITIATIVE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

As part of this new, multi-year partnership, APLMA-APMEN and GLIDE are conducting a situational analysis in Milne Bay Province, where both malaria and LF are extremely common and deadly. This effort aims to enhance the integration of vector management for these two diseases, leading to improved utilization of existing resources and more coordinated community engagement.

## CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION: INDONESIA AND TIMOR-LESTE

Over the last decade, Indonesia and Timor-Leste have made significant progress towards malaria elimination, and both countries have strategies in place to eliminate malaria by 2030 and 2025, respectively. However, controlling malaria across national borders remains a challenge for country-level elimination efforts. The border between Indonesia and Timor-Leste features unrestricted population movement on both sides of a 280km land border, with significant undocumented migration. Cross-border collaboration and joint interventions, such as malaria screening at border control, joint data sharing, surveillance, and service pathways, are also critical to help address the remaining challenges to elimination.

**“SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROVINCIAL PARTNERS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND UPDATING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED VECTOR MANAGEMENT APPROACHES WILL HELP TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE BURDEN OF DISEASE AND HELP ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS ELIMINATION.”**

**- SARTHAK DAS,  
CEO, APLMA**







## THE GLOBAL ELIMINATION OR ERADICATION ACCELERATION REVIEW (GEAR)

GLIDE, in partnership with Bridges to Development, designed the [Global Elimination or Eradication Acceleration Review \(GEAR\)](#) process. The GEAR process provides the framework and tools needed to support teams to solicit and analyze feedback from across the broad community of stakeholders involved in a disease elimination and eradication (E&E) program through surveys, focus groups and interviews. With the help of a disease expert group and an independent advisory group, the findings from the review process, including the identification of strengths and risks to the program reaching E&E goals, were shared back to the disease community to take forward for strategic improvement and increased impact. The purpose of the GEAR process is to ultimately improve and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of disease elimination and eradication efforts by applying an independent review and evaluation framework. The GEAR process was piloted using the global onchocerciasis program, though its lessons can be applied across NTDs.

**“WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GEAR PROCESS BE TAKEN UP BY WHO IN THE CREATION OF THE NEW GLOBAL ONCHOCERCIASIS NETWORK FOR ELIMINATION (GONE).”**

**-SIMON BLAND, CBE,  
CEO, GLIDE**







# FOSTERING INNOVATION

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

**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. Collecting and analysing blackfly data has historically been challenging because, until now, human fly-catchers have been the only reliable way to monitor for infected blackfly and the only method recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO). The DISSECT project includes developing new collection and trapping tools for blackflies (such as bespoke glues) 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 the disease because people and blackflies move freely across national and international borders, and data has shown that river blindness in these areas cannot be combatted with existing, outdated tools.

**“RIVER BLINDNESS CAN BE ELIMINATED AND OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GLIDE IS TACKLING SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN GETTING THERE.”**

**- CAROLINE HARPER,  
CEO, SIGHTSAVERS**

## ENHANCING DATA TO DRIVE DECISION-MAKING

As part of its multi-year partnership with Sightsavers, GLIDE is supporting the development and expansion of the Country Health Information Platform (CHIP), an electronic platform designed to enable health ministries and stakeholders to share and exchange subnational program data in support of the NTD control and elimination goals. The platform aims to provide entities such as National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committees and stakeholders throughout Africa with the evidence they need to:

- Successfully set targets
- Plan activities
- Mobilize resources more efficiently
- Target interventions appropriately to control or eliminate each NTD

In 2022, the program made significant progress in its expansion since the pilot phase in Malawi, Kenya, Guinea, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with CHIP dashboards now configured in 44 countries in the WHO African Region. The final phase will address remaining data gaps and information integration challenges.



## FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION

Since the announcement of the inaugural Falcon Awards winners in December 2021, GLIDE has been collaborating with its new programmatic partners to carry out their respective disease elimination initiatives. GLIDE project leads closely monitor progress and provide technical support at every stage of the project. It is anticipated that all projects will be completed by mid-2023.



## RAPID DETECTION OF WILD TYPE-1 AND VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS USING DEEP SEQUENCING DURING POLIO ERADICATION PHASE IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

Dr Muhammad Salman, National Institute of Health, Pakistan

## OPTIMIZING MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION EXPANSION TO LOW ONCHOCERCIASIS PREVALENCE SETTINGS

Professor Daniel Boakye, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Ghana

## THE LAST MILE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONDITIONAL INCENTIVES TO ACCELERATE POLIO ERADICATION IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED & INSECURE AREAS OF PAKISTAN

Dr Jai Das, Aga Khan University, Pakistan

## DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED AND ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE FOR MALARIA AND LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS FOR NATIONAL PROGRAM DECISION- MAKING TO ACCELERATE THEIR ELIMINATION

Dr Fe Esparanza Espino, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines



# THE FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION: THE CLIMATE EDIT



## SCIENTIFIC PANEL

In December, GLIDE launched the second iteration of **the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination: The Climate Edit**, a global initiative which aims to expand the evidence base on the nexus of disease elimination and climate. Through the awards, GLIDE will provide catalytic support to researchers around the world to examine new and under-explored areas to explore the intersection between disease elimination and climate change, including issues produced and aggravated by the link of these global challenges.

Up to ten winners will be announced in Spring 2023 following an evaluation by a Scientific Panel comprised of global health and climate experts. Each winner will receive a sum of up to USD 50,000 to conduct a formative research project over a period of six months.

The winning projects will be showcased in November 2023, when the UAE hosts the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28).



**DR MARIA P. NEIRA**

Assistant Director-General, a.i., of the Division of UHC/Healthier Populations, and Director of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO



**DR ALAN DANGOUR**

Director of Climate & Health, Wellcome Trust



**DR NGOZI ERONDÚ**

Technical Director, GLIDE



**DR GITHINJI GITAHÍ**

Group Chief Executive Officer, AMREF Health Africa



**DR RENZO GUÍNTO**

Associate Professor of Global Public Health, Inaugural Director of the Planetary and Global Health Program at St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine, Philippines



**“WITHOUT SUSTAINED AND EXPANDED FUNDING TO NTDs, WE RISK NOT ONLY MISSING THE 2030 NTD ROADMAP TARGETS, BUT ALSO RISK OUR PROGRESS TO DATE.”**

**- DR IBRAHIMA SOCÉ FALL  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF NTDs,  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

## **EXPLORING INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NTDs**

Seizing the COVID-19 pandemic-induced opportunity to examine new ways of financing health initiatives and disease programs, GLIDE, with support from McKinsey Consulting, developed an innovative finance workstream to coordinate and lead a 6-month technical exercise with a small core group of 20 partners, including representatives from traditional pharmaceutical companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), product development partnerships (PDPs), and civil society. The objectives of this exercise were to condense existing evidence, galvanize inter-sectoral discussions, and capture voices of stakeholders committed to finding innovative finance solutions for NTDs.

This work, alongside some donor and endemic country engagement, has resulted in a discussion paper that provides a deep dive into four promising innovative finance mechanisms that apply a renewed perspective on the role of innovative finance to fill prioritized gaps along the NTD value chain. The discussion paper will inform a series of events to solicit broader feedback and engagement and identify how to take forward the proposed innovative finance mechanisms.







# ABOUT GLIDE

**GLIDE** is a global health Institute based in Abu Dhabi, focused on accelerating the elimination of preventable infectious diseases of poverty: 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, President of the UAE, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GLIDE works to elevate awareness and engagement, advance elimination strategies, and foster and scale innovation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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