



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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

FOREWORD

Waleed Al Muhairi
Board Chair

***“The progress
GLIDE has made
both in the UAE
and globally
remains inspiring.”***



I am proud to present GLIDE's Annual Report for 2024 - a year in which the organization celebrated its fifth anniversary and made significant progress toward its mission to eliminate infectious diseases affecting the world's most vulnerable communities.

In October 2024, GLIDE was honored to become part of Erth Zayed Philanthropies, an initiative announced by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, to increase coordination and collaboration among Abu Dhabi-based philanthropic organizations. This milestone is a testament to GLIDE's achievements over the past five years. It also underscores GLIDE's role as a trusted authority, facilitator, convener, and accelerator of potential solutions for global health and disease eradication.

Over the past year, GLIDE has continued to champion initiatives that amplify the voices of young researchers. This commitment is exemplified by the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, which held its third call for proposals in 2024, focusing on the Western Pacific region. The resulting six projects - including GLIDE's first advocacy award on community education - explored integration, post-elimination surveillance, and the intersection between climate and health.

GLIDE's 2024 initiatives—ranging from expanded Disease Elimination and Eradication Courses in Rwanda and Ghana with local university partners to the launch of the Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination—demonstrated its commitment to nurturing the next generation of disease-elimination experts.

The progress GLIDE has made both in the UAE and globally remains inspiring. Through deeper collaboration with governments, multilateral agencies, research institutions and local organizations, GLIDE has supported research and advocacy to accelerate healthcare advancements that save millions of lives.

Over the next five years, GLIDE will build on the strong foundations it has established since 2019, prioritizing high-impact solutions to critical disease-related challenges. Meanwhile, it will remain an unwavering advocate for the policies and investments necessary to accelerate progress toward disease elimination.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to GLIDE's journey. Your dedication is key to our success and drives us toward a healthier, disease-free world.

FOREWORD

Simon Bland

CEO

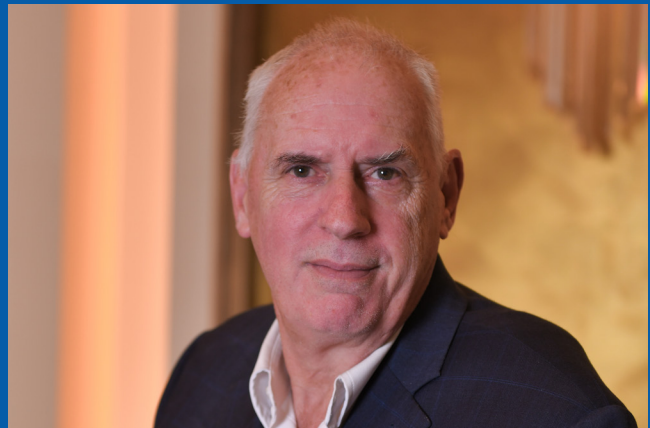
“As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to accelerate the elimination of preventable diseases through collaboration, research, advocacy, and innovative ideas”

I write this at a time of great uncertainty in global health and development, with significant cuts to international aid announced by countries who have, for decades, championed multilateralism and the importance of development assistance. It is within this new context that we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and finalizing our next five-year strategy, positioning efforts to eliminate ancient infectious diseases within a crisis in global health.

However, despite the clear challenges, there lie opportunities and scope for reinventing and enhancing health and development approaches to be more country-led and owned and efficient. Our response must reflect this reality, ensuring we are aligned with communities, countries, and international partners to protect the gains and help support health systems strengthening that truly put people at the center.

The 2024 Annual Report is both a reflection on and culmination of GLIDE's first five years. It demonstrates an Institute coming into its own — identifying its value as an accelerator, strategic and technical advisor, and convener. It also underscores the strength of our partnerships and our belief in country-led, sustainable solutions, which are now more crucial than ever. Within this context, I am pleased to share some of the highlights from our work this past year.

We launched the Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination, welcoming a dynamic inaugural cohort from Cameroon, Jordan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. The Fellowship is designed to equip the next generation of global health leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks needed to drive elimination forward.



We also convene the Integration Working Group, which explores cross-disease and cross-sector opportunities to accelerate elimination — particularly vital in resource-constrained settings where communities often face multiple health risks. Integration is more important today than ever. That's why, in 2025, integration will be a central pillar in our largest Falcon Awards to date. These will include a deepened focus on operational research and advocacy in the Pacific, where we aim to support context-specific approaches and amplify national and regional leadership.

As a knowledge institute, we also support a Health Economics Community of Practice, which seeks to better define the investment case for neglected diseases, recognizing that sometimes the case may be more moral and social than backed by return on investment. We hope this initiative will yield useful resources for the broader community as we all develop resource mobilization strategies in an increasingly crowded space.

I am also encouraged by our first-ever Falcon Award advocacy project, which signals our increased focus on advocacy for sustainable elimination. Furthermore, we are honored to have been invited to Rwanda and Ghana to continue our work with our Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC) — a sign of the trust placed in our partnership model and capacity strengthening initiatives.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to accelerate the elimination of preventable diseases through collaboration, research, advocacy, and innovative ideas. The progress outlined in this report is a testament to the dedication of our partners, supporters, and the communities we serve. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to this shared vision of a world free of preventable infectious diseases.

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2024 IN REVIEW

January

Launched Malawi NTD Master Plan
World NTD Day

February

GLIDE's Inaugural Symposium
Attended the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Global Fund and GAVI Partners Meeting (London)
Met with H.E Francesco La Camera,
Director-General of the International
Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

March

Announced 3rd iteration of the Falcon Awards
for Disease Elimination: The Western Pacific Edit
Attended the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
PAC NTDs Partners Meeting (Nairobi)
Co-hosted a workshop with Kikundi in
the Dossier Development (Nairobi)
Met with Clémence Finaz, Vice President of
Community Affairs, Mubadala Foundation

April

Launched Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination
Inaugural meeting of the Integration
Working Group (IWG) (Abu Dhabi)
Participated in the Onchocerciasis
NGDO Group Meeting
Attended the Mectizan Expert
Committee (MEC) (Paris)
Co-sponsored event at Asian
Venture Philanthropy Network Global
Conference (Abu Dhabi)
Attended the Southeast Asia
Regional CORNTD (Delhi)
Attended the 8th Pan-African
Malaria Conference (Kigali)
Attended Masdar's World Future Energy
Summit (WFES) (Abu Dhabi)

May

Attended National Onchocerciasis Elimination
Committee Meeting Cameroon (Cameroon)
Aga Khan University - Malaria Elimination
Consortium (MEC) Symposium (Karachi)

June

Third cohort of the Disease Elimination and
Eradication Course with the University of
Global Health Equity (UGHE) and support
from The Carter Center (Rwanda)
H20 Summit (Geneva)

July

Third cohort of the Disease Elimination and
Eradication Course with the Noguchi Memorial
Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) and
support from The Carter Center (Ghana)

September

Launched revamped visual branding for
the Elimination Exchange Podcast
Hosted reception at the 79th United
Nations General Assembly (New York)
Attended Asia Pacific Leaders' Summit
Met with H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri,
Head of the International Affairs
Office at the Presidential Court

October

Launched refreshed website
Co-hosted the 4th ECSA-HC Health Economics
Community of Practice meeting (Abu Dhabi)
Attended Inaugural Ceremony of
The MENA Regional Network of the
Global Health Network (Dubai)

November

Attended World Innovation
Summit for Health (Doha)
Hosted roundtables and poster presentations
at the ASTMH Annual Meeting (New Orleans)
Attended Erth Zayed Philanthropies Forum



OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

FALCON AWARDS FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION – WESTERN PACIFIC

In March 2024, GLIDE launched its third iteration of the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination with a focus on accelerating disease elimination efforts in the Western Pacific. GLIDE has awarded up to \$250,000 to five formative research projects and one advocacy initiative with the potential to make a significant impact on disease elimination in the region.

The winning projects were selected based on their potential to achieve the following aims:

1. Generate evidence to advance the elimination of infectious diseases in the Western Pacific Region
2. Disseminate knowledge to enhance understanding and catalyse action for disease elimination.
3. Support local or regional advocacy efforts to advance disease elimination.
4. Raise awareness for disease elimination strategies and approaches.
5. Cultivate partnerships with civil society aimed at advancing elimination through new approaches that enhance knowledge or evidence around the transmission, control, elimination, and eradication of infectious diseases

“The support from GLIDE was instrumental in allowing flexibility and autonomy by the project leads to conduct proposed project activities without the hurdles and red tape of the usual financial systems that govern (and delay) health finance availability to programs.”

Falcon Awards Winner

The winning projects of 2024's Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination – Western Pacific were:

Community education in urban and rural settings: a pilot project – Kiribati

This advocacy initiative aims to educate, link, and influence positive health initiatives among community groups, leaders, and members from rural and urban villages towards communicable diseases (TB, viral hepatitis, leprosy, scabies, HIV, and syphilis) of national interest.

Lead: Dr Thomas Russell, Master of Medical Training, Senior Internal Medicine Registrar, and Dr Alfred Tonganibeia, Deputy Director of Hospital Services, Tungaru Central Hospital, Ministry of Health & Medical Services, Tarawa, Kiribati



Using malaria data for lymphatic filariasis geostatistical modelling – Papua New Guinea

This formative research project aims to investigate whether malaria prevalence and intervention data can improve the ability of geostatistical models to predict lymphatic filariasis infections in Papua New Guinea.

Lead: Dr Simon Westby, Principal Research Fellow and Deputy Director, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR)



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Impact of mass drug administration on skin neglected tropical diseases – Papua New Guinea

This formative research project aims to investigate the impact of a four-drug Mass Drug Administration (MDA) on the prevalence of skin disease and the perception of well-being of participants and explore what factors affect the acceptability of MDA efforts in the West New Britain Province in Papua New Guinea.

Lead: Dr Joseph Nale, Director of Public Services, West New Britain Provincial Health Authority, Kimbe, West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea



Integrated strategies for disease surveillance in the Pacific Islands – Niue

This formative research project aims to investigate the prevalence of Lymphatic filariasis, and other eliminated, near-eliminated and priority neglected tropical, vaccine-preventable and vector-borne diseases in Niue. In addition, it will attempt to define what factors support the efficient, effective and sustainable implementation of integrated infectious disease surveillance in Pacific Island settings, as well as determine the costs of implementing integrated surveillance compared to disease-specific approaches.

Lead: Dr Adam Craig, Senior Research Fellow, Operational Research and Decision Support for Infection Diseases (ODESI) Program, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia



Evaluation of social and economic outcomes of Scabies Mass Drug Administration – Solomon Islands

This formative research project aims to address the social factors that impact scabies MDA delivery and coverage in urban and rural settings in Solomon Islands, including the cost-effectiveness of scabies MDA and the cost drivers and potential cost-saving measures in urban and rural settings.

Lead: Professor Andrew Steer, Director, World Scabies Program, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia



Impact of climate change on vector-borne disease control – Papua New Guinea

This formative research project aims to explore if climate change is causing VBD vectors to expand into high-altitude areas previously not conducive to transmission. In addition, it will investigate whether the rapid expansion of oil palm plantations in PNG changed vector ecology and pathogen transmission potential.

Lead: Dr John Keven, Postdoctoral Scientist at the Vector-Borne Disease Unit, The Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR), Papua New Guinea



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PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES

Enhance National Efforts to Eliminate Malaria in Pakistan

GLIDE continues to collaborate with Aga Khan University (AKU) to support national efforts toward malaria elimination in Pakistan. As part of this initiative, the Malaria Elimination Consortium (MEC) was established in 2023. The MEC brings together national and international experts in technical, programmatic, and policy domains to strengthen the framework of Pakistan's Malaria Elimination Program. Although still in its early stages, MEC has already made significant progress in addressing key challenges that hinder effective malaria control and elimination in the country. In 2024, GLIDE supported and participated in the MEC's first symposium, and the GLIDE delegation participated in a field visit to Thatta to see the district hospital and its malaria program activities. Currently, MEC and the Directorate of Malaria Control—the national malaria program—are jointly leading the development of an operational plan for Thatta, with support from partners, including GLIDE.



Accelerating malaria progress in the Sahel region

GLIDE remains engaged in ongoing collaboration with the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) to accelerate elimination under the Sahel Malaria Elimination (SaME) initiative. Recognizing the strong connection between malaria and neglected tropical diseases, ALMA is now supporting the development of an NTD regional scorecard tool. This tool will strengthen coordination and collaboration across countries in the region. It will also help ensure that malaria and NTDs are included in the political agenda of Regional Economic Communities, while encouraging greater alignment and integration between efforts to address both.

Malaria data platforms and nationally driven analytics to understand receptivity and recession in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

Through our partnership with WHO EMRO and collaborators, this project aims to better understand the receptive risks for the possible re-introduction of malaria across the region by mapping out the ecological extents of anopheline vectors of malaria in the MENA region and historical prevalence of malaria infection. This is being achieved in partnership with countries through building geo-coded inventories of malaria vectors sampled over many years through to the present day and historical community or school surveys of malaria infection to understand the intensity of malaria transmission pre-elimination. Through this project, we are building an open-access platform that brings together 100 years of historical data, maps of vector habitats, and environmental risk factors. By combining old data with satellite imagery we are creating the first integrated malaria archive for the region. This initiative enables national and regional stakeholders to model receptivity and forecast risk, directly informing reintroduction prevention strategies as well as cross border strategies. It reflects how regional data infrastructure can empower evidence-based policymaking, even in fragile or post-elimination settings. Through this project, data will be housed on an open-access regional platform, ensuring it is available for national and regional partners to use and build upon.

"A little over a century ago, we believed most infectious diseases were incurable, but thanks to research we are speaking about elimination."

***Dr Therese Shema Nzayisenga,
Falcon Award Winner***

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

In partnership with APLMA and in-country partners, we supported a joint initiative between the national malaria programs of Indonesia and Timor-Leste to improve cross-border collaboration for malaria elimination. Using a participatory action research approach, three key interventions were developed and piloted:

- **Community engagement for migration surveillance:**

Locally tailored education materials in Indonesian and Tetun were distributed across 14 health and border sites to raise awareness of malaria risk among mobile populations.

- **Cross-border malaria dashboard:**

A joint data-sharing platform was co-developed to improve case reporting, accompanied by training and a WhatsApp group for rapid case notification mechanism.

- **Joint malaria task force:**

Terms of Reference was developed and planning began for the first formal task force meeting.

While the interventions laid groundwork for improved surveillance and coordination, challenges remained in ensuring consistent data quality, stakeholder engagement, and sustainability. The findings informed a policy brief and have contributed to early planning for a cross-border malaria elimination plan and advocacy for a formal task force.

Strengthening Integrated Surveillance for Malaria and Lymphatic Filariasis in Milne Bay Province, PNG

In partnership with APLMA and in-country partners, we supported ongoing efforts in Milne Bay Province to improve program decision-making and provincial capacity on integrated surveillance and control responses for malaria and LF. A landscape analysis highlighted limitations in health system capacity, resource constraints, and the absence of surveillance data to guide targeted interventions. In response, we worked with local stakeholders to analyse system capacity, co-develop vector control microplans, and pilot practical approaches for strengthening LF surveillance through health facility and vector surveys.

These efforts aim to build a more integrated and responsive surveillance system for malaria and LF in the province.

DISSECT: Developing innovative, scalable solutions to entomology gaps and cross-border transmission of onchocerciasis

The DISSECT project, delivered in partnership with Sightsavers, aimed to strengthen entomological capacity for onchocerciasis elimination in Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire. The project developed and piloted a standardized toolkit for breeding site identification, introduced optimized blackfly traps to replace human landing capture. It also supported lab capacity building through training. Project findings have already informed national program decisions, including triggering new MDA in Mozambique. Final analysis and reporting are expected by May 2025.



Integration Working Group (IWG)

The Integration Working Group (IWG) is comprised of stakeholders from international health organizations, national health ministries, and global health initiatives, and held virtual meetings on 28 May and 9 September 2024. These meetings emphasized advocating for an integrated approach to disease elimination, culminating in a call to action for national policymakers, funders, and partners to move away from siloed efforts. The IWG plans a series of publications, starting with a 2024 call-to-action paper for the global health community, followed by a second paper advocating integrated approaches to global health funders, and a third paper outlining "Integration Essentials" as a minimum requirement for national policymakers. GLIDE advocated the integration efforts at the WHO SEARO NTD Regional Partners Meeting, the Leaders Malaria Summit in Papua New Guinea, and presented at the University of Surrey's workshop on integrative interventions for NTDs.

Community engagement with the Cameroon Ministry of Health

The 18-month study in Cameroon, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, conducted in 32 communities across four regions to better understand community views and perspectives on ivermectin treatment in MDA for onchocerciasis, resulted in the development of a policy brief. This brief highlighted the main challenges identified in the communities and provided recommendations to enhance community engagement in onchocerciasis elimination efforts in Cameroon. The policy brief was presented at the National Onchocerciasis Committee meeting in May in Douala, where GLIDE participated as a committee member. One of the committee's recommendations was to formally share the policy brief with the Minister of Health. The document was subsequently shared by the Permanent Secretary and is currently under review by the Minister's cabinet. The policy brief is also being translated into English.



"Effective integration at the country level requires a comprehensive, adaptable, and context-specific approach, supported by stakeholder collaboration, advocacy, and resource-sharing."



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Disease Elimination and Eradication Courses (DEEC)

Following the successful delivery of the Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC) in 2022 and 2023, GLIDE launched an updated iteration of the course in 2024, in partnership with The Carter Center, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana, and the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Rwanda. To accommodate growing interest and increase course accessibility, the course was held in Ghana and Rwanda.

The 2024 courses targeted country teams composed of mid- to senior-level public health professionals, including national disease program managers, academics, researchers, and representatives from NGOs. The course aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of the core principles of disease elimination and eradication - particularly for neglected tropical diseases, polio, and malaria - through analysis of real-world challenges and lessons learned.

DEEC responds to a critical gap in global health training by equipping professionals with the knowledge and skills required to design and implement effective, evidence-based strategies for eliminating and eradicating preventable infectious diseases. The course incorporates core concepts such as systems thinking, human-centered design, and behavioral theories to support more adaptive, context-sensitive, and sustainable approaches. Participants benefited from working in diverse, interdisciplinary teams and engaging directly with subject matter experts, fostering peer learning, regional cooperation, and professional networks that extend beyond the course.

DEEC in Rwanda

The Disease Elimination and Eradication Course, in partnership with the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Rwanda and with support from The Carter Center, was held in June. The course brought together 25 public health professionals from 7 different countries to develop innovative strategies to support elimination efforts and to further support participants in their respective countries.

The participants visited Zipline Rwanda Operation Site, a health logistics company that is in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Rwanda to assist in delivering vaccines, blood, and other essential, routine, and emergency medical supplies from distribution centers to district hospitals and rural health centers. Zipline has played a critical role during the COVID-19 crisis, and it is still contributing a lot to the health outcomes of the Rwandan population.





DEEC in Ghana

The Disease Elimination and Eradication Course, in partnership with the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana and with support from The Carter Center, also took place in June. The course brought together 31 public health professionals and graduate-level students from 8 different countries to collaborate on innovative strategies to support elimination efforts to support elimination efforts and to further support participants in their respective countries.

The participants visited Pokrom in the Akwapem South district for a community engagement on the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative. They also traveled to Aburi, the district capital, to meet with the district health management team to better understand the processes and protocols in lower-level health facilities when seeking care in Ghana. Topics of interest included patient flow, available services, the referral process, and supply chain management. Participants had the chance to identify and describe the context in which patients seek healthcare at primary health facilities in Ghana. Special attention was given to the efficiency of the process and the challenges that patients encounter. Participants also interacted with the malaria MDA pilot community to understand how it is being implemented for the people.





Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination

In April, GLIDE announced the Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination for the 2024-2025 cycle. This program is the first of its kind designed to support global efforts in eliminating infectious diseases. The fellowship will focus on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), malaria, and polio. Four fellows have been selected for this cycle, with the aim of providing them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and leadership in disease elimination.

The term “Injaz” is derived from Arabic and signifies achievement and accomplishment. The Injaz Fellowship is in line with GLIDE’s goal of addressing the growing need for skilled professionals in disease elimination to meet the ambitious elimination targets for 2030 and beyond. By focusing on diseases that have a significant impact on underserved populations, the Injaz Fellowship serves as a platform to promote global health equity and work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The winning individuals were selected based on their contribution in disease elimination, project proposals, and leadership potential to address key needs within the following areas of disease elimination:

- **Capacity strengthening:** Developing a cadre of professionals well-versed in the latest disease elimination strategies and opportunities, as well as the larger public health architecture that it fits into.
- **Implementation excellence:** Developing the fellows’ skills in operational research, policy analysis and implementation science through both conceptual and practical experience in implementing and evaluating disease elimination programs.
- **Global health diplomacy:** Fostering the skills necessary for effective global health diplomacy, advocacy, and international collaboration in disease elimination efforts.

GLIDE’s 2024-2025 Injaz Fellows are:

1. Dr Waqas Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Narowal Campus, Lahore, Pakistan

Towards rabies elimination: ‘One Health’ approach to establish diagnostic surveillance of dog-mediated human rabies in Pakistan

This pilot project in Narowal, Pakistan, aims to determine the prevalence of dog-bite injuries, establish a diagnostic facility and set up a ‘One Health’ reporting network. The network will quantify the impact of dog-mediated human rabies in the region and establish ways to reduce its impact.

2. Leen Daoud, Technical Officer, Public Health Programs, Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) HQ, Amman, Jordan

Enhancing the capacity of community health workers to actively participate in trachoma control and reporting in a high-risk district in Aden, Yemen

This project aims to assess how targeted training to address knowledge gaps could enhance the capacity of community health workers in managing trachoma in a high-risk rural village in Aden, Yemen, given their crucial role in controlling this significant public health problem.

3. Lucrece Eteki, Epidemiologist, WHO, Yaoundé, Centre Region, Cameroon

Mapping of available services, gaps, and opportunities for implementation of community centered interventions to enhance of delivery of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) projects to women and vulnerable populations

Women have a higher burden to NTDs however, NTDs projects in Cameroon do not integrate gender considerations. Therefore, this proposal aims to assess which services are available to women and vulnerable populations in Cameroon, as well as understand gaps and opportunities to increase access.

4. Martins Imhansoloeva, PhD Candidate, Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Bridging the entomological data gap: assessing entomological indices for onchocerciasis transmission in Bié province of Angola

This study aims to close the critical entomological data gap in Angola through conducting an entomological survey to estimate the monthly, seasonal, and annual vector density, infectivity, and transmission potential of blackfly vectors in the Andulo/Nharea areas of Bié province of Angola.

ADVOCACY

GLIDE Symposium

In early 2024, GLIDE held its inaugural symposium from 7-8 February in Abu Dhabi. 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.



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.

Falcon Winners at the Symposium

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.

2021 Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, the inaugural Falcon Awards, four winning projects showcased their operational research projects to advance the elimination of malaria, polio, onchocerciasis, and lymphatic filariasis in Pakistan, Ghana, and the Philippines. At the end of the presentations, speakers were invited back on stage to receive their awards.

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. further in advancing knowledge and progress towards disease elimination.

During the two-day symposium, several key points were highlighted: the importance of setting clear targets, leadership at the highest level, the significance of data, and the central role of communities in accelerating disease elimination efforts. Speakers also discussed the value of economic data in guiding investments and resource distribution for NTDs, as well as opportunities for integration to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The symposium further reinforced the need for strengthened integration across disease programmes, enhanced collaboration among global stakeholders, and practitioner learning through shared field experiences. It also set the stage for a strategic agenda focused on integrated data systems, cross-border coordination, sustainable financing, and climate-adaptive approaches. We appreciate everyone who attended our inaugural symposium at GLIDE and are excited to collaborate further in advancing knowledge and progress towards disease elimination.



Local Outreach within the UAE

One of GLIDE's areas of focus is to increase its presence and raise awareness of infectious disease elimination within the UAE. In 2024, this took the form of bilateral meetings with Abu Dhabi and Dubai-based government departments, public sector companies, universities, and relevant private sector partners. This approach aims to help bridge the innovation and expertise within the UAE with global partners and vice versa, building on GLIDE's role as a convener and connector.

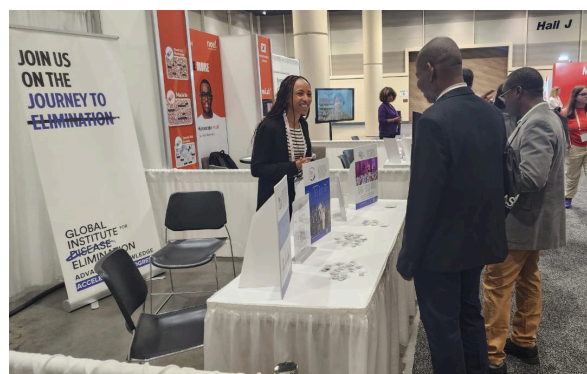
United Nations General Assembly (New York)

Held during the 79th UN General Assembly in New York, GLIDE hosted its annual evening reception "Celebrating Five Years of GLIDE." The event brought together partners in global health and development to network, reflect on lessons learned, celebrate elimination successes, and showcase efforts to accelerate progress toward disease elimination—reinforcing commitments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



GLIDE At TropMed2024

For the third year in a row, GLIDE maintained a strong presence at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH). The 2024 meeting, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, brought together nearly 5,000 attendees, primarily infectious and vector-borne disease scientists and researchers from around the world.



GLIDE hosted two stakeholder engagement roundtables focused on integrating emerging innovations into onchocerciasis elimination strategies.

The first roundtable, **"Moxidectin Use to Support Onchocerciasis Elimination"**, explored programmatic moxidectin use to accelerate elimination efforts. Discussions centered on implementation pathways, next steps, and countries' readiness to adopt moxidectin as an additional tool in the coming years.

The second roundtable, **"Community-Centered Delivery Approaches"**, emphasized the critical role of communities in elimination efforts. Participants explored the development of community-informed strategies and policies to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of onchocerciasis interventions. In addition to these discussions, GLIDE and its partners presented a poster highlighting efforts to accelerate onchocerciasis elimination in Cameroon, drawing on global examples and best practices. GLIDE also hosted an exhibition booth, providing a platform to showcase its initiatives, engage with partners, and explore potential collaborations to advance disease elimination.

World NTD Day

GLIDE coordinated a group of NTD partners to identify the overall theme and advocacy messages for **World NTD Day**, held annually on 30 January. This group, comprised of the WHO NTDs department, Uniting to Combat NTDs, and Reaching the Last Mile, worked together to hold consultations with a broad group of NTD advocates, resulting in the agreed theme of Unite. Act. Eliminate. under which all World NTD Day activities would fall.



Revamped Podcast Series

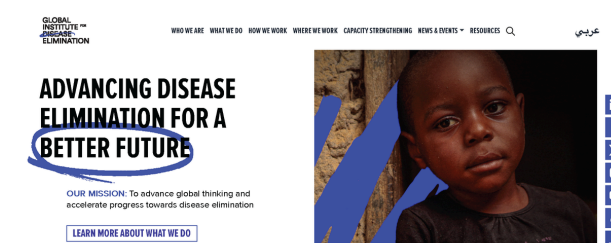
GLIDE revamped the visual branding of its Elimination Exchange podcast, introducing a new logo and video elements to enhance its identity. This year's episodes focused on linking infectious disease elimination with broader global health priorities.

The season featured five episodes with expert partners discussing key topics and global health challenges, including pandemic and outbreak preparedness, global health equity for disease elimination, cross-disease and cross-border efforts, country-level successes, and the impact of climate change on public health. All episodes are available on **GLIDE's website**, **YouTube channel**, and on **Spotify** and **Apple podcasts**.

Revamped Website

As GLIDE marked five years of operations in the fight against infectious diseases, we launched a redesigned website that reflects our journey and vision for the future. The refreshed website enhances accessibility, engagement, and storytelling, showcasing our commitment to disease elimination.

To accompany the launch, a **blog** was published highlighting five key features of the website that capture the essence of GLIDE's work. This milestone served as an opportunity to reaffirm our mission and invite partners to join us in the journey toward a world free of preventable infectious diseases.



OUR WORK



ADVOCACY

GLIDE works to elevate awareness of and engagement with specific diseases of focus – these are malaria, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, and polio. We link disease elimination efforts at global, regional, and national levels with other relevant global health priorities.

[READ MORE](#)



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Working together with country partners and ministries of health, GLIDE provides technical advice and, capacity building initiatives. We seek to facilitate cross-disease, cross-border, and cross-sector action to help amplify lessons learned and identify synergies to advance elimination.

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OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

By identifying gaps in disease elimination efforts, GLIDE aims to strengthen utilization of knowledge and research, and support innovation to help accelerate progress.

[READ MORE](#)

LATEST NEWS

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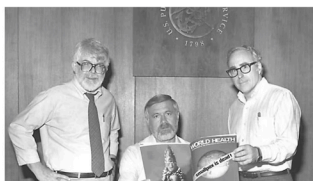
Vector Control Examining the overlap in lymphatic filariasis prevention and malaria elimination: evidence not accurate use in endemic Africa – Link Malaria-targeted malaria control – Link Characterization and abundance of mosquito vectors in Sokoto, Central Niger of the Sahel – Link Strengthening vector control in the Sahel – Link Vector-borne zoonoses: a road map for current and future research [...] [READ MORE](#)

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Smallpox was wiped out –
 other diseases can be too



Three former directors of the Global Smallpox Eradication Programme: Dr J Donald Miller, Dr William H. Foote and Dr A Michael Lurie, with the "World Health" magazine, 1980. Centres for Disease Control / Show more

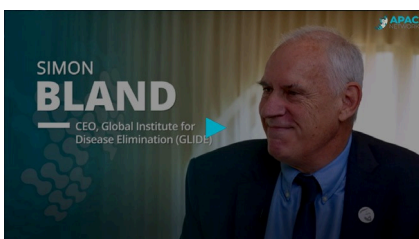


Simon Bland

use Elimination (GLIDE), a global health

Only once in history has a human disease been eradicated, wiped off the face of the planet. That was smallpox in 1980. "This was an amazing task," it took leadership

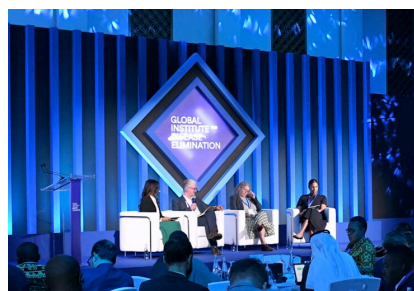
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**THE NATIONAL OP-ED BY
 CEO, SIMON BLAND, ON
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 PHILANTHROPY AGE BY
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 POST-EVENT BLOG BY
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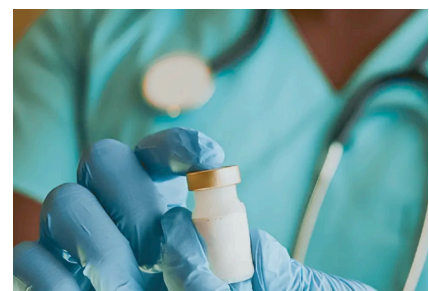
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By Simon Bland, CEO

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January y
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ABOUT GLIDE

The Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) is a global health institute based in Abu Dhabi that envisions a world free of eliminable infectious diseases by 2030 and beyond. GLIDE works across three strategic pillars: operational research, capacity strengthening, and advocacy to advance its mission with a current disease focus of malaria, polio, lymphatic filariasis, and river blindness. GLIDE seeks to promote integrated solutions to help partners go further and faster to achieve sustainable disease elimination.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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