

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE

# Artificial Intelligence

for Health and Disease  
Elimination: From Strategy  
to Scalable Action



MEETING REPORT  
24 SEPTEMBER 2025  
UNGA80, NEW YORK CITY, USA



# Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
GLIDE	Global Institute for Disease Elimination
LLMs	Large Language Models
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
ROI	Return on Investment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNGA80	80th Session of the UN General Assembly

## Executive Summary

The Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) and the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity (the Foundation) co-hosted a high-level roundtable titled “Artificial Intelligence for Health and Disease Elimination: From Strategy to Scalable Action” alongside the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) in New York City. This event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders from across the global health ecosystem to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in accelerating disease elimination efforts. While discussing AI’s potential to serve as a catalyst for progress in global health, participants also identified key questions and nuances around equity and accessibility, intentional and strategic integration into health systems, government and multilateral engagement, balancing innovation and safety, AI education and determining metrics of success that must be addressed for AI to be a truly effective tool in healthcare settings. The roundtable concluded with a call for bold, collective action to identify synergies and expedite successful AI deployment for greater impact across the global health community.

# Context

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities rapidly evolve, so too must our approaches to leveraging them for health and disease elimination. This is particularly relevant for preventable infectious diseases to help accelerate progress towards sustainable elimination and improve public health outcomes in an equitable manner. There is a growing need to move from theoretical frameworks to field-level implementation and pilots that demonstrate how AI can make a measurable difference in health systems, especially in hard-to-reach communities and resource-constrained settings.

In continuation of its stakeholder roundtable series, GLIDE together with the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity convened a high-level dialogue on the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly, an opportune moment to broaden the conversation to infectious disease prevention and elimination. The roundtable built on insights from a side event at Abu Dhabi Global Health Week in April 2025, which explored the opportunities for integrated AI use in disease elimination and aims to translate insight into action. The discussion was jointly chaired by Simon Bland CBE, CEO of GLIDE, H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani, Deputy CEO of GLIDE, and Tala Al Ramahi, from the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity.

## Objectives for roundtable

- **Introduce GLIDE and the Foundation's role in the global health agenda:** Introduce both entities' missions and work around innovative and collaborative approaches to disease elimination.
- **Facilitate cross-sector dialogue:** Between policy makers, global health leaders, AI innovators, and funders on practical opportunities.
- **Identify enablers and barriers:** Discuss the infrastructure, enabling policy environment, governance models, and data systems necessary to scale up AI-driven interventions.

## Participants and format of the roundtable

The roundtable convened 15 strategically selected stakeholders representing organizations that have global health as a central pillar of their missions and core work, including private sector, philanthropic, and policy-focused organizations. The 75-minute session began with opening remarks by GLIDE and the Foundation, followed by a moderated discussion between participants. Held under Chatham House Rule, this roundtable provided a space for participants to openly share their unique perspectives and insights from their respective areas of expertise.

## AI as an Opportunity for More Equitable and Accessible **Global** Health

AI holds significant promise for advancing and accelerating progress toward sustainable disease elimination, especially if implementation can expand access to the world's most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, where field-level integration is crucial for concrete impact. The success of healthcare solutions often hinges on accessibility and affordability and applying AI through this lens will be essential to its overall impact on health and development.

While AI can be viewed as a disruptive force, it can also help do more with less by optimizing processes and enabling cost-effective solutions, which is essential in resource-constrained environments with gaps in disease elimination expertise and scarcity of healthcare providers. To be effective, Large Language Models (LLMs) and their deployment must be built and trained on equitably sourced data that represents diverse regions and populations and reflects local realities where the AI-driven solutions will be implemented. This can be especially true in enabling faster vaccine development, where AI can reduce both the time and cost associated with identifying target pathogens and finding candidates for clinical work and trials, making rapid vaccine development and scale-up achievable.

*We must conduct a mapping of what problems AI could solve in order for it to be deployed in the most effective manner for health.*

## Intentional Integration of AI in Healthcare Systems

Participants highlighted the need for clear pathways to integrate AI into existing health systems, particularly in fragile settings where last-mile delivery is a common challenge. AI can empower frontline healthcare workers – such as midwives in remote regions – to deliver better care, suggesting that successful integration in challenging environments can then be replicated in other settings. However, effective integration requires a comprehensive data collection approach that combines clinical, demographic, and even climate data to address the needs of the most vulnerable. This includes establishing local and regional data centers with governments, not international partners, owning data that reflects their own populations. Throughout the discussion, several participants emphasized the opportunity for AI to help African countries “leapfrog” traditional health-related barriers, calling for not only global convenings like this roundtable, but also regional gatherings to advance the agenda through practical conversations reflecting country-specific realities.

*AI can and should be a way for countries to leapfrog and accelerate equitable access to public health interventions*

# Elevating Government and Multilateral Engagement

The passage of an AI resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in March 2024, co-sponsored by 120 countries, illustrates the global appetite for regulatory frameworks that leverage AI to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within clearly established guardrails. Several discussion participants noted that while there is strong demand for AI technologies in low-resource countries, especially for medical support, successful use will require the establishment of basic implementation principles, clear terminology, and early government engagement to enable integration and scale. Today, current economic and foreign policy considerations are still driving AI development, implementation and regulation agendas, and deeper collaboration with policymakers is needed to ensure that these considerations are taken a step further to enable scalability and integration of AI products into existing health systems through future policy developments.

## Balancing Innovation and Safety through AI Regulation

Throughout the discussion, participants emphasized that widespread concerns remain about the safety, efficacy and trustworthiness of AI, especially given remaining questions about data ownership, credibility and reliability, as well as a lack of previous benchmarks for such rapid technological advances. Participants called for regulation and education that foster user and patient trust without stifling innovation, as well as an enabling regulatory environment that still encourages innovation, even as underlying infrastructure challenges persist. AI usage must also reflect a balance between artificial and human intelligence, exemplified by one case study where AI could not make the logical conclusion behind why a user asking about depression may also ask for information on the highest bridges in their city; this reflects the imperfect nature of AI, and the continued need for human reasoning and empathy as the backbone of health services. At the same time, AI must also balance patient demands for interaction with human healthcare providers in the context of a shrinking healthcare workforce.

## A People-First **Approach** to AI Education

As a baseline for successful AI integration, basic education and ongoing user engagement will be needed for individuals to make informed choices about AI use. Capacity strengthening courses focused on building AI literacy for health workers will become more necessary and relevant as patient trust in AI solutions is still in early stages. Partners who have the opportunity to develop such courses should also adapt them to local and regional contexts. While some discussion participants pointed to fears of AI-related job displacement, others noted that AI tailored to specific local contexts can alleviate overstretched health workers' burdens and provide integrated care, especially in regions like Africa, putting them and the communities where they operate at the center of the solution.



*Imagine a doctor in everybody's pockets, imagine what digital health and what some of these new tools will be. Yes, we have this massive disruption, but we can also be optimistic and forward-looking about how we do ever more with ever less, and AI will be a big part of that.*



## Identifying AI's Success Metrics

Evaluating the impact of AI is vital to scaling effective solutions, including measuring what works, adapting, and then expanding proven approaches to other markets. To make AI-driven solutions more sustainable from an investment perspective, participants noted that funding must be aligned with solutions that have demonstrated effectiveness. One participant voiced the idea of using performance-based financing to provide companies with demand-based funding, which would help improve ROI and the overall impact of using AI in healthcare.

## Illustrative Use Cases

Throughout the discussion, participants agreed on AI's potential to be used for disease diagnosis, health worker training and delivering interventions to underserved or remote areas. They also shared their own examples of existing AI use-case studies, including:

- **Drug Discovery:** AI-enabled drug discovery is advancing treatments for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- **Maternal and Child Health:** AI-powered ultrasounds are improving outcomes for mothers and newborns in rural communities.
- **Diagnostic Tools:** AI-enhanced chest x-rays and MRIs are being used to identify heart disease in Uganda and cerebral malaria in Malawi.
- **Predictive Analytics:** Patient-level data and disease mapping are guiding resource allocation and intervention targeting.

## A Call for **Action** and Building on UNGA80's Momentum

In the face of ongoing global health challenges, participants emphasized the need for bold and collective action, particularly as international support for global health wanes. AI undoubtedly holds transformative potential for global health and disease elimination. However, realizing this promise will depend on equitable access, effective integration, government engagement, robust regulation, and above all, collaboration between AI experts, health providers, funders, private sector, and philanthropies across sectors and geographies with people at the core. Empowering communities, building provider and patient trust, and ensuring that investments in AI-driven solutions reflect the local contexts where they will be applied must remain at the center of this global effort. The role of AI in disease elimination will continue to be an evolving conversation, and the momentum of the UNGA80 roundtable will be carried forward in future discussions held as part of this series on AI and health.

# Appendix

To help structure and anchor the conversation, some guiding questions were shared with the group ahead of the meeting. The questions allowed participants to share their own experiences of working with AI in the context of global health, as well as to reflect on the opportunities and nuances of using AI in a healthcare context to create a forward-looking discussion.

## Guiding Questions

- 01 What are the biggest opportunities and challenges when it comes to utilizing AI and digital tools for infectious disease elimination and health more broadly?
- 02 How are you/your organization thinking about leveraging AI to advance your work for infectious diseases/health?
- 03 What are some of the opportunities to link digital health technologies and AI to help sustain momentum and not lose the progress made to date given the significant funding cuts in the global health and development landscape?
- 04 How can we utilize AI and digital technologies to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and promote a multi-stakeholder approach that reduces fragmentation, breaks down silos, and accelerates progress in a more efficient and coordinated way?
- 05 Are you optimistic or pessimistic about AI / digital health technology in your field? Why?

# Participating Organizations

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The Carter Center

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Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

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Children's National Hospital

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Delft Imaging

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Doctors with Africa CUAMM

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Erth Zayed Philanthropies

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FIND

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Gates Foundation

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Grand Challenges Canada

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Merck & Co., Inc.

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Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity

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Project Hope

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UNICEF