



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

GLIDE

2025
ANNUAL REPORT



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Foreword from

Waleed Al Muhairi

Board Chair

I am pleased to present GLIDE's Annual Report for 2025, which was a year of continued progress and strategic evolution as the Institute advances its mission to eliminate preventable infectious diseases impacting the world's most vulnerable communities.

As the global health landscape grows increasingly complex, the need for integrated, collaborative, and forward-looking approaches to disease elimination has never been more urgent. Building on the strong foundations established over the past five years, GLIDE continues to strengthen its role and reputation as a trusted convenor, thought leader, partner, and accelerator of tangible solutions and new evidence for global health and disease elimination.

A defining milestone this year was the appointment of H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani as Chief Executive Officer, who brings exceptional leadership, deep technical expertise, and a proven track record in public health. Her stewardship during the UAE's COVID-19 response, combined with her commitment to advancing health equity and innovation, positions GLIDE strongly for its next phase. On behalf of the Board, I extend our full confidence in her leadership as she guides the Institute's strategic direction and its local and global engagement.

This past year also provided an opportunity to recognize the foundational leadership of GLIDE's inaugural CEO, Simon Bland. The Institute was established during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Simon developing strong systems, processes, and partnerships from the outset.



His leadership has been instrumental in building GLIDE into the organization it is today, well-positioned to scale its impact and ambition in the years ahead. The Board extends its sincere appreciation for his vision and contributions.

The progress GLIDE has made, both in the UAE and globally, remains encouraging. Through deeper collaboration with governments, multilateral agencies, local partners, and academic and research institutions, the Institute continues to support operational research, capacity strengthening, and advocacy that accelerate progress towards disease elimination.

Looking ahead, GLIDE, as an affiliate of the Erth Zayed Philanthropy Foundation, will build on its strong foundations, prioritizing high-impact, integrated, and sustainable solutions to critical health challenges to achieve our shared vision.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to GLIDE's journey. Your dedication continues to drive our collective ambition to a healthier, more equitable world.

Foreword from

Dr. Farida Al Hosani

CEO



As I reflect on the past year, I must acknowledge the continued uncertainty in global health and development, with shifting funding landscapes and increasing pressures on health systems worldwide. It is within this evolving context that we reflect on our 2025 accomplishments and further define GLIDE's strategic direction for the years ahead.

The past year marks an important chapter in GLIDE's journey. Having joined the Institute as Deputy CEO and subsequently assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer, I am honored to build on the strong foundations established since 2019. Today, GLIDE is increasingly recognized as a trusted authority, strategic and technical advisor, and convener, working across research, policy, and practice to support countries and partners in advancing disease elimination.

Within this context, I am pleased to share some highlights from our work over the past year.

Building the next generation of disease elimination experts and advocates remains central to our work. The Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC), delivered in partnership with the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, continues to equip country program managers with practical tools to advance elimination efforts. Our inaugural Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination further strengthened this commitment, supporting four emerging leaders through learning, mentorship, and field immersion experience across diverse settings.

Through initiatives such as the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination Integration Edit edition, we continue to champion integration as a means for accelerating disease elimination efforts.

With over 160 applications featuring research and advocacy projects, this cohort of 14 final projects showcases increased demand for GLIDE's technical and strategic input and partnership.

At the same time, GLIDE has continued to strengthen its role as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Through policy and advocacy convenings, articles, and partnerships with academic institutions, we are connecting expertise, generating evidence, and supporting the translation of knowledge into action.

The progress outlined in this report reflects an Institute that is evolving in both scope and ambition, strengthening its role as a 'think and do tank' that partners, convenes, trains, and publishes to drive meaningful and lasting impact.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to accelerate the elimination of preventable infectious diseases through collaboration, research, advocacy, and innovation. I extend my sincere thanks to our partners, fellows, and the GLIDE team for their continued commitment. Together, we are one step closer to a world free from preventable infectious diseases.

January

- H.E. Dr. Farida Joins GLIDE as Deputy CEO
- Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination, Geneva Week
- Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, Abu Dhabi
- COR-NTD AFRO, Rwanda (attended and sponsored)
- Participated in Arab Health, Dubai
- Attended the 2025 Mufakiru Al Emarat Forum in Abu Dhabi, hosted by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)
- Cross-border project dissemination meeting Indonesia x Timor-Leste
- World NTD Day
- Opening of Climate, Sustainability and Health: Promoting Science Writing and Policy for Journalists in the Arab World

February

- Participated in the UAEU First Institute of Public Health Forum, Abu Dhabi
- Participated in Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum, Riyadh
- Participated in Investopia 2025
- Attended World Government Summit

March

- Launched the first national integrated MDA for trachoma & scabies, Kiribati
- Participated in the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC)
- Guest lecturers at NYUAD, Abu Dhabi
- Brief on for NYU Exchange students from the New York and Shanghai campuses at the GLIDE office.

April

- World Health Day
- World Local Production Forum (WLPF), Abu Dhabi
- Abu Dhabi Global Health Week, Abu Dhabi
 - Hosted a roundtable discussion on AI and Disease Elimination
- Participated in the 10th Annual Dubai International Conference on Infectious Diseases & Vaccination, Dubai
- Participated in the AIM Congress Investing in Health: Unlocking Opportunities in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing for Developing Countries Panel
- Launched the call for proposals for the 4th iteration of the Falcon Awards: The Integration Edit
- Participated in the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference
- World Malaria Day
- DISSECT Trap Meetings
- Participated in the 10th Annual Dubai International Conference on Infectious Diseases & Vaccinations, Dubai

May

- Attended the National Onchocerciasis Elimination Committee, Nigeria
- Participated in the International Union for Health Promotion and Education Conference
- World Health Assembly, Geneva
 - Integration panel discussion
 - Economics Working Group meeting
- Participated in the 1st International Public Health Conference, Sharjah
- Attended the Gates Foundation NTD Advocacy Partners Meeting, Geneva
- Attended the International Public Health Conference 2025 at the University of Sharjah

June

- Injaz Fellowship Field Immersion, Ethiopia and Senegal
- Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC), Rwanda
- APLMA Malaria Summit, Indonesia
- Attended the Global Forum on Cervical Cancer Elimination, Indonesia
- Attended Gavi HL Pledging Summit, Belgium
- Attended the 4th International Conference Financing for Development, Seville

• July

- Participated in the Regional Meeting for Middle East and North African (MENA) countries on the Prevention of Re-establishment of Local Transmission of Malaria, Cairo
- Injaz Fellowship Field Immersion, Ghana

• August

- Attended Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9)
- Injaz Fellowship Field Immersion, Malaysia

• September

- Participated in the Gates Malaria Advocacy Partners Meeting, London
- Participated in the High-Level Meeting for Health Emergency Leaders, Morocco
- UNGA 80, New York
- Hosted a roundtable on AI and disease elimination
- Hosted annual partners reception
- Bilateral engagements

• October

- Attended the NNN Conference, Uganda World Health Summit, Germany
- Participated in the Doha Global South Health Policy Forum
- Participated in the 2nd edition of the Water Quality Forum, Abu Dhabi
- Virtually participated in Pandemic Epidemic Preparedness (PEPP), MENA Forum, American University of Beirut
- Virtually participated in the Annual Regional Meeting on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Contribution (PC) and WHO's Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) Implementation in SEAR
- World Polio Day
- Future Investment Initiative Summit, Riyadh
- Participated in the Public Health Symposium at Khalifa University
- Signed an MoU with Khalifa University

November

- Second World Summit for Social Development 2025, Qatar
- African Health Funders Forum, South Africa
- Participated in the Abu Dhabi, American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Abu Dhabi
- Participated in the Forbes Healthcare Leaders Summit, Abu Dhabi
- MOCCAIE inaugurates Biosecurity Forum, Dubai
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Conference, Canada
 - Symposiums
- Injaz Fellowship Completion and Graduation, Canada

December

- Attended Abu Dhabi Finance Week
- Attended Goal keepers Abu Dhabi Abu Dhabi



DELIVERING FOR IMPACT

GLIDE continues to strengthen its impact through strategic partnerships, operational research, and global convenings that accelerate progress toward infectious disease elimination.

Since the launch of the Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination, **GLIDE has supported more than 46 partnerships globally**, advancing research, advocacy, and country-driven solutions across multiple disease areas.

In 2025, the fourth iteration of the Falcon Awards — **The Integration Edit** — received over **160 concept submissions**, from which **14 projects** were selected through a competitive review process. The portfolio represents a total investment of approximately **USD 2.6 million**, supporting research and advocacy initiatives focused on integrated approaches to infectious disease elimination.

These projects span multiple regions and address diseases such as malaria, lymphatic filariasis, dengue, and other neglected tropical diseases, generating evidence that informs policy, strengthens surveillance systems, and advances integrated elimination strategies.



ADVANCING INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS

▪ Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination

In April 2025, GLIDE launched the fourth iteration of the Falcon Awards, aimed at advancing the body of knowledge and evidence for integrated approaches to the elimination of infectious diseases. The Awards supported research projects and advocacy initiatives that were co-created with GLIDE, enabling selected partners to collaboratively refine and develop full project plans alongside the GLIDE team.



Funded initiatives focused on one or more of the following objectives:

- Generating evidence and testing approaches to advance infectious disease elimination through integrated strategies.
- Disseminating knowledge to enhance understanding and catalyse action for integrated disease elimination.
- Supporting local and regional advocacy efforts to promote integrated approaches to disease elimination.
- Raising awareness of integrated disease elimination strategies and approaches.
- Cultivating partnerships that advance elimination through integrated approaches and strengthen evidence related to the transmission, control, elimination, and eradication of infectious diseases.

The selected projects are:

1. **Bridging Borders, Breaking Blindness:** This project, led by Nigeria Health Watch, focuses on the elimination of onchocerciasis in Nigeria through community-led advocacy and policy engagement. The project links onchocerciasis efforts with malaria, lymphatic filariasis, and WASH programs in underserved regions. (Country focus: Nigeria)
2. **Promoting Collaboration and Learning on Integrated Disease Elimination Strategies:** This project, led by the Bruyère Health Research Institute-iCHORDS, shares practical, equity-focused guidance to support multi-level integration across countries, with a focus on capacity strengthening knowledge cafés and a policy hackathon. (Country focus: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda)
3. **Increasing Domestic Investments in NTD Programs Through Advocacy and Integration Strategies:** This project, led by the Task Force for Global Health/Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis with Kikundi University, supports countries to mobilize domestic funding for NTD programs amid declining external support. The project promotes integration and resource-sharing to protect elimination gains globally. (Country focus: African region)



4. **Youth and Community Health Workers for Resilient Communities:** This project, led by Amplify Health and Development in Africa (AHDA), focuses on empowering youth and community health workers in Tanzania to lead integrated, climate-resilient disease elimination. The initiative strengthens local advocacy and action against malaria and NTDs. (Country focus: Tanzania)
5. **Integrated Community-Based Model for Controlling Mosquito-borne Diseases in Low-resourced Settings:** This project, led by the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), focuses on implementing integrated community approaches to control malaria and dengue through shared vector interventions. The model targets overlapping mosquito-borne risks in vulnerable communities. (Country focus: Sudan)
6. **AIM4NTD: AI-Driven Multiplex Diagnostics for Integrated NTD Elimination:** This project, led by Enablers, will introduce scalable, AI-powered diagnostics to support integrated detection of multiple NTDs. The project streamlines cross-disease workflows and strengthens health systems in resource-limited settings. (Country focus: Madagascar)
7. **Integrated LF and Malaria Surveillance with Molecular Xenomonitoring for Post-MDA Surveillance:** This project, led by the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research at the University of Ghana, will combine LF diagnosis with malaria testing and molecular xenomonitoring. The project strengthens post-MDA surveillance to prevent disease resurgence. (Country focus: Ghana)
8. **Mainstreaming Integrated Malaria and NTD Campaign Interventions in the Health System:** This project, led by the Collaborative Research and Training Center at Arba Minch University, focuses on embedding integrated malaria and NTD interventions into routine health system operations. This approach improves efficiency, reduces costs, and supports sustainable elimination. (Country focus: South Ethiopia)
9. **Integrated Platform for Ecological Niche Modelling of Vector Borne Diseases in the Middle East:** This project, led by WHO-EMRO, focuses on developing a regional platform to predict and manage vector-borne disease risks across the Middle East. The initiative supports data-driven prevention amid climate change and population movement. (Country focus: Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)
10. **Implementation of Environmental Surveillance of Polio and Enteric Viruses in North African Countries:** This project, led by the Institut Pasteur de Tunis, focuses on establishing integrated environmental surveillance for polio and other eliminable viruses in North Africa, strengthening cross-border security. (Country focus: Algeria, Tunisia, Libya)
11. **Institutionalizing LF Post-Validation Surveillance through Integrated National Health Systems:** This project, led by the Expanded Special Project for Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN), WHO-AFRO, focuses on embedding LF post-validation surveillance into national health systems. The project operationalizes WHO frameworks to sustain elimination and prevent resurgence. (Country focus: Malawi, Togo)

12. **Integrated Care Model for People with Lymphatic Filariasis and Other Disabling NTDs:** This project, led by the WHO Madagascar office, focuses on delivering person-centered, integrated care for LF and skin NTDs. The model combines medical, psychosocial, and community-based support. (Country focus: Madagascar)
13. **Bridging Malaria and LF Elimination through Vector Control:** This project, led by Osun State University Osogbo, focuses on integrating malaria and LF programs through targeted vector control in urban Nigeria. The approach optimizes shared resources to accelerate progress toward elimination. (Country focus: Nigeria)
14. **Hispaniola: Post-Validation Surveillance for Lymphatic Filariasis:** This project, led by The Carter Center, focuses on integrating molecular xenomonitoring and high-risk area periodic surveys to prevent reintroduction amid population displacement. (Country focus: Haiti, Dominican Republic)



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

The DISSECT project was a large-scale research initiative led by Sightsavers from 2021 to 2025, implemented in partnership with GLIDE, ministries of health, and research institutions in Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire. The project focused on advancing the elimination of onchocerciasis as a public health problem by strengthening the country capacity to monitor transmission of the disease.

A central focus of DISSECT was improving methods for collecting and studying blackflies, the vectors that transmit onchocerciasis. The project sought to develop safer and more effective alternatives to the outdated 'human landing catch' method, which relies on people acting as bait to capture flies. This method exposes fly collectors to significant risks, including bites from disease-carrying insects, encounters with wildlife, and harsh environmental conditions, highlighting a persistent inequity in global health practice.

Through its multi-country implementation, DISSECT generated important findings with the potential to modernise surveillance approaches and inform global strategies for the elimination of onchocerciasis.



▪ Regional Malaria Meeting

In July, technical experts from across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) convened at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo for a regional meeting focused on preventing the re-establishment of local malaria transmission in countries that have eliminated the disease.

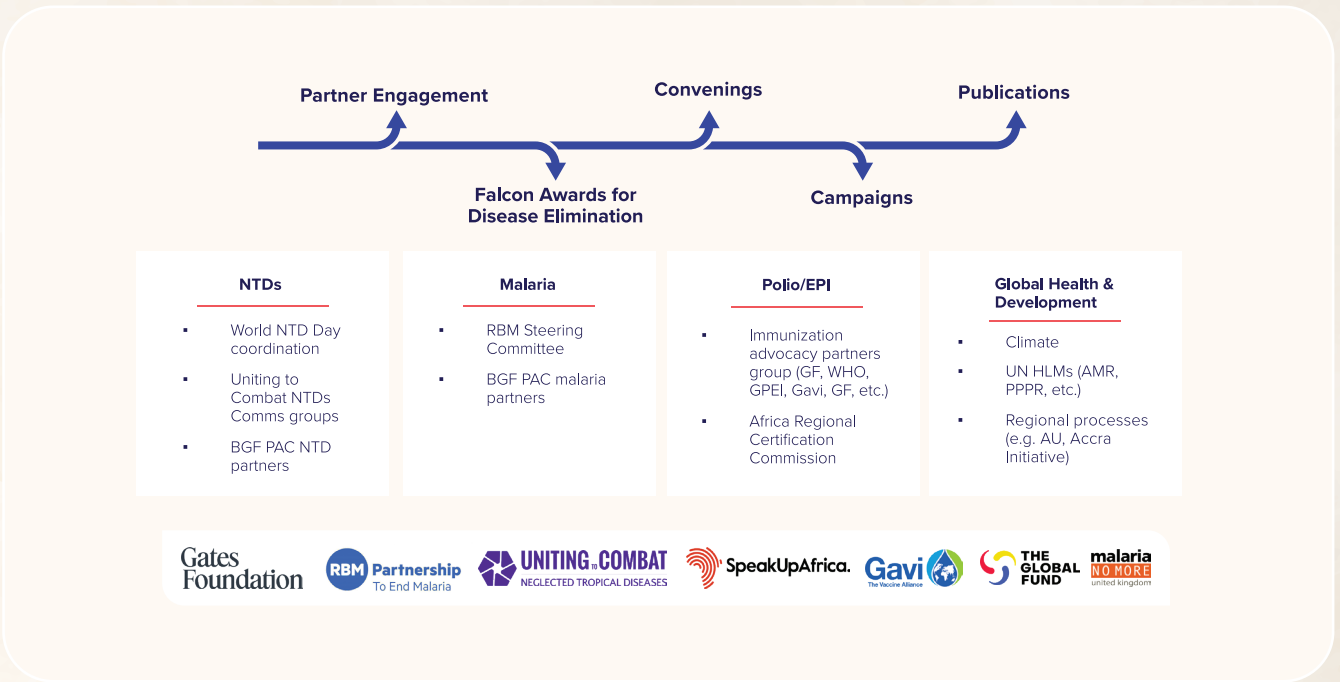
Hosted by the WHO Regional Office in collaboration with the GLIDE, the meeting brought together representatives from MENA countries to strengthen cross-border collaboration, enhance surveillance approaches, and align regional efforts with the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2030–2016.

The meeting formed part of an ongoing collaborative initiative between the WHO Regional Office, GLIDE, and Ministries of Health across the MENA region. This initiative is developing an integrated regional knowledge platform and malaria database to support the prevention of malaria re-establishment. The platform brings together more than 100 years of historical malaria data, alongside maps of vector habitats and environmental risk factors, creating the region's first integrated malaria archive to inform policy, surveillance, and preparedness efforts.

The initiative reflects how regional data infrastructure can empower evidence-based policy-making. To fully harness the potential of novel data, accessibility is key. Through the project – with countries' agreement – data will be available for national and regional partners to use and build upon. It is a model example of how accessible, regional data infrastructures can drive informed, resilient public health decisions.



Policy & Advocacy Advisory



Demand For Glide Technical Engagement In Expert Groups



▪ Integration Working Group (IWG)

Established in 2023, the IWG brings together 16 members from international health organizations, national ministries of health, academia, implementing and finance partners to advance practical, country-led approaches to cross-disease and cross-sector integration. In 2025, quarterly convenings provided a forum to highlight emerging evidence, regional leadership, and actionable tools to move integration from policy to practice. This included a presentation by Aya Yajima, NTD Regional Advisor at WHO SEARO, on the Region's People-Centered Multi-Disease Elimination (MDE) Initiative, as well as a multi-disease scoping review on integrating disease elimination programs into primary health care systems, led by Dr. Margaret Baker of Georgetown University. The review directly informed the development of a practical case study research protocol to support implementers and researchers in documenting integration efforts and identifying facilitators, barriers, and pathways to scale.

In December, IWG members co-authored **“Replenishing Hope: The Time for Country-led Integration Is Now,”** published in the International Journal of Health Policy and Management. Drawing on lessons from NTD and malaria programmes in Zambia, Zanzibar, Ethiopia, and Ghana, the paper outlines five concrete actions to accelerate country-level integration and progress toward the 2030 global health targets. Through its work, the IWG aims to expand shared knowledge on when, how, and why to integrate programmes; strengthen the science of integration through case studies and economic evidence, and advance the adoption of integrated policy and practice. For GLIDE, this reinforces its leadership in shaping the global integration agenda and translating evidence into practical, policy-relevant guidance that supports health systems strengthening and coordinated delivery.

▪ Economics Working Group (EWG)

Established in 2025, the EWG brings together health economists, policy experts, and country and partner representatives to strengthen the economic case for disease elimination and integration. Through regular meetings, the group provides a forum to examine how economic analysis can better support elimination strategies in a context of constrained financing, shifting priorities, and growing pressure to use limited resources more strategically. In 2025, discussions focused on responding to current uncertainty, partner updates, and horizon scanning, and disease elimination strategies exploring synergies and innovations.

Across these exchanges, the EWG examined both the strengths and limitations of current investment cases. While many analyses articulate costs and health benefits clearly and increasingly use ROI- and DALY-based approaches, members highlighted recurring gaps in the treatment of opportunity costs, uncertainty, implementation realities, equity, incentive alignment, and political uptake. Discussions also underscored the need to move beyond broad global ROI ratios toward country- and subnational analyses that are better aligned with planning cycles, budget decisions, and national priorities. Other themes included the economics of integration and its trade-offs, the importance of linking elimination investments more closely to universal health coverage and health systems goals, and the potential value of community health workforce strengthening, surveillance and early warning, WASH, targeted diagnostics, and fuller valuation of non-health benefits such as productivity, resilience, and tourism. Through this work, the EWG is helping shape more practical methods, tools, and policy-relevant economic evidence to support sustainable health investment and country decision-making.

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

FOR DISEASE ELIMINATION



• Disease Elimination and Eradication Courses (DEEC)

In 2025, GLIDE launched an updated iteration of the Disease Elimination & Eradication Course (DEEC) in collaboration with The Carter Center and the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE). To respond to growing demand and enhance accessibility, the course was hosted at the UGHE campus in Butaro, Rwanda.

The course was delivered in a blended format, with online sessions held from 5 May to 3 June 2025, followed by an in-person component in Rwanda from 11 to 19 June 2025. A total of 29 participants from 10 countries —Bangladesh, Botswana, The Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Yemen— took part in the course.

The course targeted country teams composed of mid- to senior-level public health professionals, including national disease program managers, academics, researchers, and representatives from NGOs. It 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. In their country teams, participants apply these core concepts in developing their context and disease specific elimination strategies.

During the in-person component, participants conducted field visits to local health centers and engaged with community health workers, gaining firsthand insight into how primary healthcare systems and community engagement support disease elimination efforts.

The course concluded with country teams presenting their strategy proposals to address country-specific disease elimination challenges. The winning teams of the fifth iteration of DEEC were:

- **First Place – Philippines:**

An integrated Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) approach for skin neglected tropical diseases, focusing on leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

- **Second Place – Yemen:**

A community-driven, two-pronged strategy to interrupt onchocerciasis transmission in Al-Mahweet Governorate.

- **Third Place – Bangladesh:**

An approach integrating technology, community action, and climate forecasting to accelerate malaria elimination in the Hill Tracts region.

DEEC 2025 highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, local leadership, and innovation in advancing global disease elimination efforts.

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.



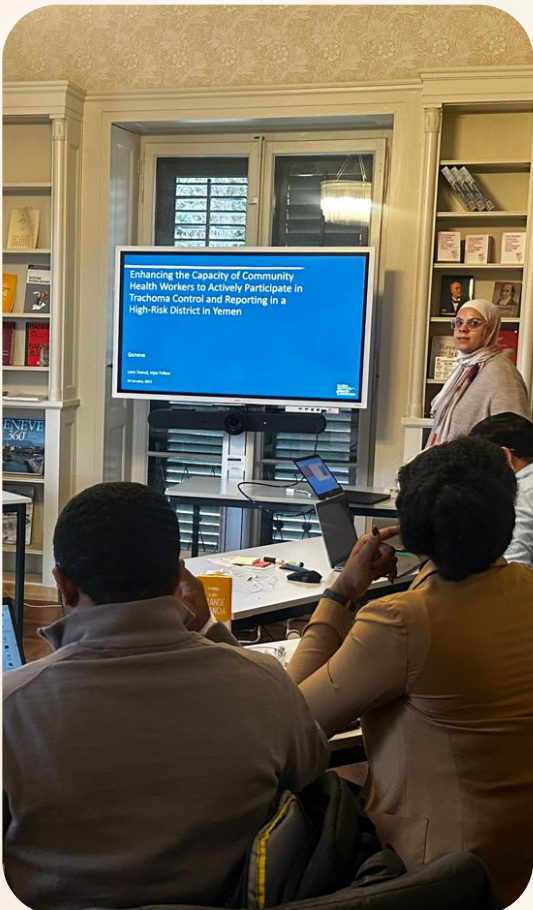
- **Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination**

GLIDE launched the Injaz Fellowship for Disease Elimination in 2024, with the program delivered and completed in 2025. The one-year Fellowship was designed to strengthen leadership capacity among emerging global health professionals working to advance disease elimination.

The inaugural cohort of Injaz Fellows—Dr Waqas Ahmad, Leen Daoud, Martins Imhansoloeva, and Lucrece Eteki—completed a structured program combining technical learning, leadership development, mentorship, and field-based experience.

The Fellowship began with online learning modules that built fellows' technical and strategic understanding of disease elimination. In 2025, this was followed by a two-week in-person immersion in Geneva, where fellows engaged with elimination tools, data systems, human-centered approaches, and partnership models to accelerate progress toward global health goals.

Each fellow was paired with a dedicated mentor who provided continuous guidance throughout the program, supporting the development of fellows' leadership approaches and project work.



The program also included field immersions in Malaysia, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Senegal, enabling fellows to engage directly with national programs, partners, and community health workers to observe the implementation of disease elimination strategies in diverse operational settings.

The Fellowship concluded in 2025 with the Injaz Final Forum, held alongside the ASTMH Annual Meeting in Toronto, where fellows presented their final projects and posters and were formally recognized for their achievements.



“GLIDE invests in future global health leaders by strengthening the skills, systems, and partnerships needed to sustain disease elimination.”

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLECTIVE ACTION

▪ Integrated MDA for Scabies and Trachoma

In March, GLIDE joined the World Scabies Program, Fred Hollows Foundation, Kiribati Ministry of Health, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to design and launch the first-ever national integrated mass drug administration (MDA) for scabies and trachoma. GLIDE specifically supported the World Scabies Program to develop integrated health promotion advocacy messages and strategies, and supported the post-MDA prevalence survey.

Scabies and trachoma are both highly prevalent in Kiribati, and the cause of significant morbidity, impacting the health and well-being of the island nation's 130,000 people. The World Scabies Program and Fred Hollows Foundation came together to implement an integrated, national mass drug administration – the first of its kind in the world – to significantly reduce the prevalence of both scabies and trachoma. This program was developed with the Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and was launched in April 2025 and will continue through the end of 2026, with surveillance for scabies and a third round of MDA for trachoma being delivered in 2027.

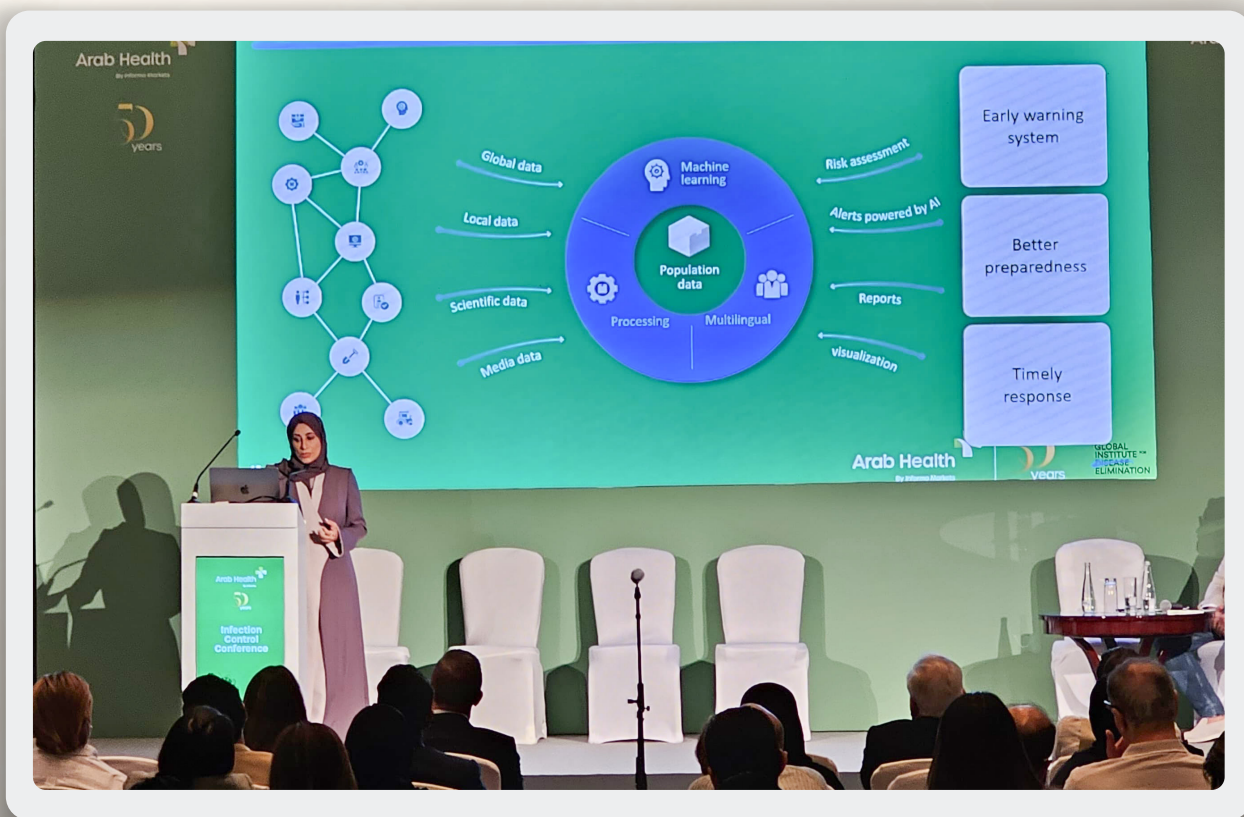


GLIDE embedded staff in Kiribati with the World Scabies Program for one month, to help development of the integrated advocacy messaging, health promotion strategies, and planning and delivery of community health worker training and several launch events. As a result of these activities, 87% of the Kiribati population received treatment, resulting in a reduction of prevalence from over 25% for both scabies and trachoma to less than 2%.

▪ **Community-Led Approaches to Address Neglected Tropical Diseases**

In January, GLIDE convened a panel on community-led approaches to addressing neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) at the Public Health Conference, Arab Health Forum. The discussion brought together partners working across the NTD elimination value chain and highlighted the critical role of communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of NTD interventions. Speakers shared practical insights on strengthening community capacity, integrating community-led approaches into national NTD policies, and addressing persistent challenges faced by local leaders and community health workers in endemic settings.

Presentation by Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO on Pandemic Preparedness, where she raised visibility about GLIDE’s mandate and efforts towards disease elimination, and then highlighted how to build a resilient healthcare system in the UAE.



- **Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW)**

In January, the GLIDE team attended the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) Summit, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). The Summit convened global leaders to advance dialogue on sustainable development and foster integrated solutions for socioeconomic growth.

As part of the program, GLIDE participated in a fireside chat titled “Our Health, Our Planet: A Joint Vision,” held on 15 January 2025. The session featured **Simon Bland, former Chief Executive Officer of GLIDE**, alongside Nassar Al Mubarak, Presidential Court. The discussion explored the interconnected impacts of climate change on human health, particularly within vulnerable countries and communities, with a focus on the growing burden of climate-sensitive and vector-borne diseases, widening health inequities, and the resilience of health systems.

Drawing on global examples, the conversation highlighted both the risks posed by climate change and the opportunities to innovate, adapt, and strengthen integrated approaches that protect population health while advancing environmental sustainability.



- **Riyadh International Humanitarian Forum
Panel on Strengthening Maternal, Newborn, and Child Nutrition & Health**

Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO of GLIDE, participated in a panel on Strengthening Maternal, Newborn, and Child Nutrition & Health: Innovations and Solutions for Fragile Settings and LMICs. During the discussion on the role of artificial intelligence in early disease detection, triaging, and referral to specialist care, audience members raised concerns about its applicability and reliability in fragile settings. Dr. Farida responded with the following reflection, encouraging bolder action in AI adoption and expressing confidence that human beings will adapt and refine its application as we learn through practice.

“ Do we sideline AI and emerging technologies due to potential risks, or do we harness them effectively by adapting them to the context, ensuring end users are part of the design for optimal development? In resource-constrained environments, the uptake of these tools can be extremely beneficial. ”



- **GLIDE Learning Session with NYUAD Public Health Students**

In March, the GLIDE hosted an interactive session titled “How Does GLIDE Accelerate Progress Towards Infectious Disease Elimination?” at its office. The session provided NYU Abu Dhabi public health exchange students from Shanghai and New York campuses with an overview of GLIDE’s mission to advance knowledge and catalyze action for sustainable infectious disease elimination. Students also explored GLIDE-supported initiatives and their alignment with global technical strategies, gaining firsthand insight into practical approaches to disease elimination.



- **Third World Local Production Forum (WLPF) and AIM Congress**

During the third World Local Production Forum (WLPF) in Abu Dhabi, the GLIDE delegation participated in panel discussions and bilateral meetings to advance disease elimination efforts and highlight GLIDE’s work.

Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO of GLIDE, spoke at the plenary session “Building Effective Partnerships for Thriving Local Production and Pandemic Preparedness,” emphasizing the role of partnerships, data sharing, and research collaborations in improving the quality and efficiency of locally produced health products and ensuring equitable access in resource-limited settings.



Dr. Ngozi Erundu, GLIDE’s Technical Director, joined a panel on strengthening local production ecosystems through innovative financing and investment strategies, highlighting the potential of creative financing to accelerate the development and availability of diagnostics and treatments for diseases that traditionally receive limited global attention and investment.

In addition, the GLIDE team conducted bilateral meetings to explore potential collaborations with partners across the local production and global health ecosystem.

▪ Abu Dhabi Global Health Week, Abu Dhabi Feature

During Abu Dhabi Global Health Week (ADGHW) 2025, the GLIDE delegation participated in panel discussions, hosted a roundtable, and held bilateral meetings to advance disease elimination efforts and foster regional and global health collaborations.

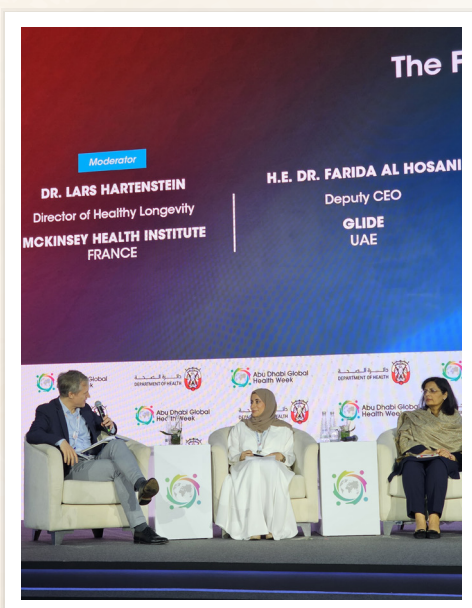
Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO of GLIDE, joined three panels:

1. Advancing regional progress on Cervical Cancer Elimination:

Participated in the **2025 Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum**, which convened global leaders, ministries of health, the World Health Organization, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Bank, and civil society to advance the shared mission of ending cervical cancer. The discussions highlighted the urgent need to expand HPV vaccine access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where coverage remains below global targets.

2. The Future of Data:

Novel Sources, which explored the use of non-traditional data sources and tools in public health decision-making, including key barriers to their adoption. Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO of GLIDE, participated in the session **“The Future of Data”**, which examined the use of non-traditional data sources to anticipate and respond to public health challenges. Emerging streams—such as mobility and environmental data, wearables, social media, and global travel patterns—were highlighted for their potential to enhance early detection and real-time interventions. The discussion emphasized how integrating these sources with AI and advanced analytics can enhance early warning systems, improve disease forecasting, and provide actionable insights into population health trends, particularly in resource-limited settings, while ensuring that these advances remain equitable, secure, and scalable.



3. A discussion with M42 on the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to support infectious disease surveillance and eradication.

Joined experts in epidemiology and public health on a panel discussing the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in infectious disease surveillance and eradication. The discussion highlighted AI's potential to strengthen genomic and infectious disease surveillance, enhance early outbreak detection, and support evidence-based public health interventions.



GLIDE also hosted its first **roundtable on AI and disease elimination**, moderated by **Dr. Ngozi Erondu**. The session explored practical applications of AI in surveillance, diagnostics, decision-making, and resource allocation, with a focus on accelerating the elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The roundtable brought together AI experts, policymakers, and global health leaders to discuss ethical considerations, identify actionable solutions, and generate recommendations for integrating AI into public health strategies. **A meeting report summarizing outcomes was published.**

In addition, GLIDE held bilateral meetings with partners to strengthen collaborations across the disease elimination and global health ecosystem.



- **DIHAD 2025**

GLIDE participated in the 21st Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD), hosting a booth to showcase its initiatives and engage with the global health and the broader development & Humanitarian community. The delegation also held **bilateral meetings with partners** to explore collaboration opportunities, support outreach efforts for Falcon Awards for Disease Elimination (Integration Edit) applications and strengthen ongoing efforts in disease elimination.

- **World Health Assembly
Integration panel**

78th World Health Assembly – Integration for Disease Elimination

During the 78th World Health Assembly, GLIDE convened a side event focused on practical pathways for integration in disease elimination amid global challenges. The event featured a presentation from Dr. Maggie Baker of Georgetown University highlighting the findings from a literature scoping review on integration, which highlighted the need for additional research into practical examples of integration in country. It brought together policymakers, researchers, donors, and implementing partners to share experiences and discuss strategies for integrating programs to improve efficiencies, strengthen service delivery, and accelerate sustainable health outcomes.

Reflecting GLIDE’s ongoing commitment to integration, the discussion emphasized the importance of inclusive leadership and collaborative planning.



“Integration isn’t optional; it’s essential for sustainable disease elimination. Achieving it requires inclusive leadership and joint planning to make integration a reality.”

- **United Nations General Assembly (New York)**

2025 UN General Assembly Engagements

During the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, GLIDE convened and participated in a series of strategic engagements aimed at advancing global collaboration on disease elimination and health equity.



Roundtable on AI and Disease Elimination

In partnership with the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, GLIDE hosted its second roundtable focused on the role of artificial intelligence in global health and disease elimination. The discussion brought together global health leaders and technical experts to explore how AI can support countries in overcoming persistent health system challenges. Key insights highlighted that AI has the potential to accelerate progress when used to strengthen, rather than replace, human expertise, and that its effective application depends on strong governance frameworks, AI literacy, and meaningful community engagement. Participants also emphasized the opportunity for AI-driven solutions to extend reach to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. A meeting report summarizing outcomes was **published**.



Annual Partners Reception

GLIDE hosted its annual partners reception under the theme “Building Bridges: From Abu Dhabi to the World.” The reception highlighted GLIDE’s role within the UAE’s global health ecosystem and its contribution to advancing health equity through the elimination of preventable infectious diseases. The event also showcased partnerships and initiatives led by Abu Dhabi–based entities that are accelerating progress toward global health targets.

Bilateral Engagements

Throughout UNGA, GLIDE held bilateral meetings with partners across the global health community, strengthening existing relationships and exploring opportunities for collaboration to advance disease elimination efforts.



▪ GLIDE At TropMed2025

From Pilot to Scale – Implementing Moxidectin to Support Onchocerciasis Elimination GLIDE co-hosted a symposium with Medicines Development for Global Health (MDGH) focused on scaling moxidectin implementation to accelerate onchocerciasis elimination. The session, co-chaired by GLIDE’s Technical Specialist, Aïssatou Diawara, brought together national program leaders and partners including WHO ESPEN, Reaching the Last Mile, Sightsavers, and The Carter Center that shared operational insights on regulatory pathways, country-level adoption strategies, implementation challenges, and opportunities to integrate moxidectin within existing mass drug administration (MDA) platforms. The session reinforced GLIDE’s role in facilitating technical dialogue, connecting research to programmatic implementation, and supporting practical strategies that translate innovation into scalable impact.

During ASTMH, GLIDE with partners from the University of Queensland, WHO, Helen Keller Institute, COR-NTD and The Carter Center also co-hosted a symposium titled: Integrated Approaches for Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in Post-Elimination and Near Elimination Settings. This symposium examined the growing need for sustainable strategies to maintain LF elimination. In the context of declining global funding for neglected tropical diseases, the discussion emphasized the importance of efficient, context appropriate surveillance models that reflect evolving epidemiological realities and operational constraints. The session was co-chaired by GLIDE Technical Advisor, Diana Yousef, and highlighted the institute's support of post-validation surveillance efforts through the 2025 GLIDE Falcon Award for Disease Elimination.

▪ **Khalifa University and GLIDE Sign MoU to Advance Public Health**

In October, Khalifa University of Science and Technology and GLIDE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on capacity-strengthening initiatives aimed at enhancing public health systems and accelerating global progress toward infectious disease elimination.

The partnership will support programs including the Disease Elimination and Eradication Course (DEEC), scheduled at Khalifa University in March 2026, which will welcome delegations from across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.



The MoU was signed by Professor Bayan Sharif, Khalifa University Provost, and Dr. Farida Al Hosani, CEO of GLIDE, during the Khalifa University Public Health Symposium 2025, which convened international experts and policymakers to discuss pressing challenges in communicable and non-communicable diseases. Through its College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Khalifa University continues to lead in health innovations, including AI-powered remote diagnostics, advanced biomedical designs, precision healthcare research, and antimicrobial resistance.



“Collaboration is key to ending infectious diseases. Through this MoU, we are not only investing in cutting-edge research and education but also empowering the next generation of public health leaders. In line with the UAE’s vision to be a global hub for innovation and health, this partnership will help support national capacity and deliver sustainable solutions that protect communities and accelerate progress towards a disease-free future.”

Dr. Farida Al Hosani - CEO of GLIDE

COMMUNICATING FOR IMPACT

Media Engagement



PR: H.E. Dr. Farida Al Hosani Joins GLIDE as Deputy CEO



GLIDE Statement – 2025 World NTD Day

January



Blog: Innovative approaches for the Last 2025 Mile, World NTD Day

February



Blog: Challenges and Community-based approaches to accelerate control of NTDs



Blog: International Women's Day: Recognizing Women and Girls Role in Global Health

March

April

UAE wins the war against malaria

■ Emirates is the only country in the region without the disease and must be

ZAMBIA NEWS
SOUTH NEWS REPORTER
After more than 10 years of hard work, the UAE has become the first country in the Arab and Mediterranean region to be declared free of malaria by the World Health Organization (WHO).
"Our celebration of the UAE as a malaria free country asserts that the time has come to well-deserved... among other spaces who...
said Minister of Health Hamed Al-Qasbi.
"After more than 10 years of hard work, the UAE has become the first country in the Arab and Mediterranean region to be declared free of malaria by the World Health Organization (WHO)."
"Our celebration of the UAE as a malaria free country asserts that the time has come to well-deserved... among other spaces who...
be presented among the... of malaria-free nations in the... is with World Health...
Assembly in May.
"The UAE has been working to reduce and eradicate malaria a disease that kills one million people worldwide every year – since the 1997 when the first Malaria Control Department was set up.
"Back in the 1990s, no one would ever have thought a country in the part of the world could be able to say a...
Dr. Ali Kharrash and Fahim" said Dr. Hamed Al-Qasbi, chairman of WHO expert committee.
"It has been done. It's time, starting with the way – going against the way, identifying the local and setting up means to be added.
"Gradually, the UAE started its onslaught against malaria and by the end of the last millennium, there...

Blog: From Endemic to Elimination: How the UAE Beat Malaria and Became a Global Model



UAE Leads efforts to achieve malaria free world



GLIDE Statement – 2025 World Malaria Day

July



PR: WHO EMRO – GLIDE Partnership and collaboration with Ministries of Health in MENA countries



Blog: Research based mosquito control in the fight against Buruli ulcer in Australia



Al Khaleej: A journey that embodies a belief in science

August



Aletihad: Emirati women bring with them a belief that progress must always serve humanity



Blog: Learning through others: DEEC 2025

September



Aletihad: MoU with Khalifa University



Meeting report: Integration Side Event, WHA

October
December



Comment: Why the polio eradication pledge in Abu Dhabi should fill us all with optimism

ABOUT GLIDE

GLIDE is a think-and-do tank 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.

As part of the wider UAE ecosystem, GLIDE is uniquely positioned to break the cycle of disease once and for all. As a global hub for innovation under Erth Zayed Philanthropies, we recognize that our past success provides us with the tools, the blueprint, and local and global partnerships to fulfill our mission.



Socials:

 @GLIDE_AE

 Global Health Channel

 GLIDE_UAE

 Global Institute For Disease
Elimination (GLIDE)

 GlobalHealthChannel

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