



**REACHING** *the*  
**LAST MILE**



MID-YEAR REPORT | 2020

# Reaching the Last Mile represents the philanthropic global health initiatives of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

The inaugural 2020 mid-year report has been launched as a semi-annual publication, which will present strategic updates, programmatic news and a look ahead to upcoming milestones.

The Reaching the Last Mile Global Health Initiative (RLM) is committed to ending preventable diseases that affect the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Millions of people around the world remain trapped in a cycle of poverty caused by preventable diseases, lack of access to clean water and vulnerability to climate change. By removing the barrier of disease, we can help lift generations of children and adults out of poverty. RLM's work is inspired by the conviction of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, that every person has the right to live a healthy and dignified life, and that investment in health is critical to global development.

Together with partners, RLM supports programs that work to end some of the world's most deadly and debilitating diseases, including polio, Guinea worm disease, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis and malaria.

While serving as an important convener for the global health community, we have also spearheaded programs and partnerships that uniquely incorporate data-driven insights, technology and innovation. Throughout these initiatives we elevate and recognize the critical

role frontline health workers play in reaching the most remote communities, often the last stronghold for preventable, infectious diseases.

This work requires long-term commitment, and the last mile is often the hardest. To catalyze faster change, RLM focuses on areas in which we can have maximum impact, prompt others to act or chart a new path.

Today, as we are facing one of the greatest challenges of our lifetimes, RLM's commitments are more relevant and timely than ever before. Never before has the entire globe been galvanized around health, and never before have we seen firsthand our interconnectedness across countries, cultures and continents. The COVID-19 Virus has alerted the world to the impact that disease and health conditions have on all of us, and how our global society must work together to find solutions and build healthy lives for all.

The role of global health organizations is more critical than ever. In fact, recent studies show that the interruption of inoculation efforts because of COVID-19 could put more than 80 million infants globally at risk of contracting these deadly and preventable diseases. At a time when COVID-19 is consuming global resources and attention, we must focus on maintaining momentum across our programs and remain steadfast in our commitment to improving lives around the world.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reaching the Last Mile looks at innovative ways to tackle global health issues. Critical to this vision is incorporating new technologies as well as new partner voices. This strategic approach results in programs that are both high-impact and represent a cross-section of collaborators.



*Convening & Recognition*

## REACHING THE LAST MILE FORUM

The Reaching the Last Mile Forum, held in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Abu Dhabi in November 2019, convened attendees from across government, the private sector, philanthropy and academia to discuss reaching the last mile of disease elimination faster.

During the Forum, more than \$2.6B USD was pledged as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The pledges came from a diverse array of donors including individuals, foundations and participating countries.

More than 300 global leaders attended, including Dr. Tedros Gebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO; Bill Gates, Co-Founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand; and Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



**\$2.6B  
USD WAS  
RAISED**

*for the Global Polio  
Eradication Initiative*



*More than*

**300  
GLOBAL  
LEADERS**

*were in attendance*



**3 ROUND-  
TABLES  
CONVENED**

*with international  
stakeholders and  
local experts, covering  
health financing,  
health and climate  
and disabilities*



*Convening & Recognition*

## GLOBAL HEALTH DECLARATION

On the sidelines of the Reaching the Last Mile Forum, His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, signed a collaborative declaration on global health. The intention of the declaration is to identify joint initiatives that galvanize the global community and impact health programs for the world's most vulnerable communities.

## REACH AWARDS

An important part of the programming during the Reaching the Last Mile Forum is the recognition of winners of the biennial Recognizing Excellence Around Champions of Health (REACH) Awards. The Awards celebrate the extraordinary leadership and commitment of health workers, innovators and advocates working on the front lines of disease elimination.



### HISTORIC DECLARATION SIGNED

*between His Holiness Pope Francis and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*



*The Reach Awards recognized*

### 15 FINALISTS

*across 4 categories*



*Polio Eradication*

## EMIRATES POLIO CAMPAIGN

Since 2014, the United Arab Emirates has leveraged its unique resources and expertise on the ground in Pakistan through the Emirates Polio Campaign—bringing the vaccine and aid to remote regions previously unreachable.

The Campaign is part of the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE-PAP), which enables the UAE to approach aid holistically, looking broadly at the needs of communities and offering solutions to drive meaningful change. An important part of the Campaign is frontline health workers. The campaign is implemented in various regions of Pakistan with the support of 106,000 workers, including doctors and nurses, and more than 25,000 members of security to protect polio workers.

Local female health care workers are a vital part of the program, uniquely able to access homes and communicate with families. Trained in interpersonal communication skills, these women engage directly with community members to help educate families, leading to decreased refusals and increased demand for the vaccine. In addition, the Campaign provides jobs, income and training in areas where employment opportunities are limited.

*The campaign administered*

**62M POLIO VACCINES IN 2019**

*bringing the total to 430M since 2014*



*His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed personally committed*

**\$160M USD IN 2019**

*bringing his total contribution to global polio elimination efforts to \$327M USD*



**106,000 HEALTH WORKERS**

*are employed through the UAE PAP*



**REACHING** *the* **LAST MILE**

**Above:** Healthcare workers with the UAE-PAP check the vaccination status of neighborhood children in Pakistan



*NTDs: Disease Elimination*

## REACHING THE LAST MILE FUND (RLMF)

The Reaching the Last Mile Fund is paving the way to end two devastating NTDs—onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis—in six countries across Africa as well as Yemen. Much progress has been made particularly in Niger, where the program is expected to complete all remaining mapping and processing of samples by the end of 2020, clearing a path to start the WHO’s process for verifying the elimination of onchocerciasis. As cross-border transmission zones are critical to eliminate onchocerciasis, RLMF has focused on forging unique cross-border collaborations, helping to reach some of the most marginalized people across Ethiopia, which represents RLMF’s largest program. We were also excited to recently announce that Planet has committed \$1M USD in kind, making their advanced satellite services available to RLMF for use in mapping activities.

*In 2019,*

**15 MILLION TREATMENTS**

*were delivered for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis*



**THIS \$100M USD FUND**

*includes a \$20M USD donation from His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*



**359,000 HEALTH WORKERS**

*have been trained through RLMF*





*NTDs: Advocacy & Fundraising*

## WORLD NTD DAY

This past January 30th, we brought together global civil society advocates, community leaders, global health experts and policy-makers for the first annual World Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Day.

The annual day was designed to raise awareness and engage the general public in the urgent effort to beat NTDs. The Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court provided oversight and support for the launch of the first World NTD Day, with the support of organizations and health advocates around the world. In addition, to jump start community-level engagement, the CPC awarded more than 20 micro-grants to civil society organizations working to advance the fight against NTDs.



**350  
GLOBAL  
PARTNERS**

*participating*



**NEARLY  
100  
EVENTS  
HELD**

*around the world to  
commemorate the day*



**>20 MICRO-  
GRANTS**

*awarded to civil  
society organizations  
working to advance  
the fight against NTDs*



NTDs: Advocacy & Fundraising

## REACH CAMPAIGN

In February, we launched The Reach Campaign, a first-of-its-kind fundraising initiative to end the NTD onchocerciasis. The campaign takes an innovative approach to raising money to end the disease, while also educating the public about onchocerciasis. Originally launched in the UAE, the Reach Campaign uniquely involves the entire UAE community, inviting them to participate by donating as little as 2 AED, or \$0.50 USD.

The Emirates Red Crescent serves as a strategic partner for The Reach Campaign. Founding partners include Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), LuLu Group International and Etihad Airlines with supporting partners including ADMM/Yas Marina Circuit, Aldar Properties PJSC, Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, Flash Entertainment and Miral; and media partners TikTok and Abu Dhabi Media.



**>37M AED  
(US \$10M)  
HAS BEEN  
PLEGGED**

*over the next three  
years*



**6.24M AED  
(\$1.7M USD)**

*has been raised  
through the Reach  
Campaign to date*



**11  
CORPORATE  
PARTNERS**

*across 7 sectors*

REACHING *the* LAST MILE

10

**Above:** Mr. Yusuf Ali, Chairman of LuLu Group International, launches Lulu's partnership with the Reach Campaign as a founding partner



*Malaria*

## FORECASTING HEALTH FUTURES

Working closely with fellow global health, technology and public sector organizations, we recently launched this new initiative to develop weather data-informed strategies and accelerate progress against deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

Convened by Malaria No More, RLM joined other partners including PATH, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), The Tableau Foundation and IBM's The Weather Company.

## RBM PARTNERSHIP TO END MALARIA

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria, a global platform for coordinating action to rid the world of malaria, is chaired by Her Excellency Professor Maha Barakat. We have supported RBM's advocacy work since 2010, with our financial contributions enabling the operations of the organization.



*RLM committed*

**\$1.5M USD  
IN SEED  
FUNDING**

*to launch Forecasting  
Healthy Futures*



*The World Health  
Organization has  
identified the*

**CHANGING  
CLIMATE**

*as a threat to health*



*Since 2010, our contri-  
butions have enabled  
RBM to forge part-  
nerships, foster local  
government ownership  
and launch innovative  
campaigns to*

**REACH  
ZERO  
MALARIA**



*Research & Innovation*

## MIT SOLVE

For the second year, RLM is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in their Solve Global Health Challenge. This program advances innovative, entrepreneurial solutions to address the world's most pressing challenges.

This year we are awarding “The Health Workforce Innovation Prize,” which focuses on solutions that expand and support the health workforce for newborns, pregnant women and new mothers in low-income countries.

Last year RLM awarded “The Innovating Together for Healthy Cities Prize” to Faircap Clean Water. Faircap’s water purification device provides a solution for the billions of people around the world who don’t have access to clean water.



## MORE THAN 130 APPLICATIONS

*were submitted for RLM’s 2019 Prize*

*The 2019 winner, Faircap Clean Water, produces*



## A SMALL WATER FILTER FOR < \$5 USD

*that removes bacteria and sediment*

# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



## Donors Pledge \$2.6 Billion for Polio Eradication

“The United Arab Emirates has helped bring the polio vaccine to regions of Pakistan that were once inaccessible.”



## Fighting Polio: What Happened In 2019 And What Is Next

“At the Reaching the Last Mile (RLM) Forum in Abu Dhabi: donors around the world have pledged \$2.6 billion more towards efforts to eradicate polio.”



## Jan. 30 Is the First-Ever World NTD Day. What That Means—and Why It Matters

“This inaugural event was announced by the Crown Prince Court of Abu Dhabi at the Reaching the Last Mile Forum last November. The United Arab Emirates has been working to eliminate NTDs for more than 30 years.”



## UAE aims to rally the world in fight against tropical diseases

“The UAE has been committed to ending NTDs for over 30 years, starting with the UAE’s late founding father Sheikh Zayed...”



## How to prevent two of the world’s worst diseases for less than the price of a can of cola

“This campaign is a platform for the UAE to come together as a community around the very tangible goal of ending onchocerciasis and thus improving the lives of millions around the world.”



## New partnership leverages weather data to tackle mosquito-borne diseases

“The Crown Prince Court, through its Reaching the Last Mile global health initiative, is committing \$1.5 million in seed funding over two years...”



## UAE institute to boost global fight against tropical diseases

“The Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) which is funded by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is the latest commitment by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to eliminate polio, malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), which affect over 1.7 billion people worldwide”



## Using weather data to defeat Malaria

“Changing weather patterns increase transmission risk of mosquito-borne diseases, like malaria. By using data to time and target interventions, we can turn weather obstacles into opportunities.”



# PROGRAM UPDATES

The Reaching the Last Mile Global Health Initiative focuses on ending preventable diseases that affect the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. By ending disease, we can help end the cycle of poverty. The initiative focuses on infectious diseases such as polio, NTDs and malaria and includes programmatic work, novel fundraising and advocacy. While serving as an important convener for the global health community, we have also spearheaded programs that support technology and innovation and seek to elevate and recognize frontline health workers.

# POLIO

Since 2014, the United Arab Emirates has leveraged its unique resources and expertise on the ground in Pakistan through the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE-PAP), which brings the polio vaccine (through the Emirates Polio Campaign) and other crucial aid to remote regions that were previously unreachable. Since launching, the Emirates Polio Campaign has delivered 430 million polio vaccines and mobilized 106 thousand community health workers.

As of 2020, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed has personally committed \$327M USD to global efforts to eliminate polio.

The Emirates Polio Campaign is part of the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE-PAP). UAE-PAP aims to provide help and humanitarian development assistance to the people of Pakistan and support their development initiatives for a better future. The program tackles poverty eradication by delivering food aid, building water treatment plants and spearheading infrastructure projects to connect these communities to essential services and markets. The innovative approach of placing polio eradication within the context of the overall health and wellbeing of a community has been critical to the success of the Emirates Polio Campaign.



**MORE THAN 87 MILLION CHILDREN**

*have received polio vaccines since 2014*



**MORE THAN 106 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

*have been mobilized through the campaign*

The campaign typically reaches 16 million children in Pakistan each month, however, as with many other global health initiatives, with the outbreak of COVID-19 in the first quarter these numbers have been impacted. Many essential programs for polio have been put on hold to divert resources towards the virus. EPC field activity has been postponed, and it has become more difficult to secure frontline healthcare workers as it also puts them at risk of contracting COVID-19.

With these challenges, it is now more vital than ever for us to increase public awareness that polio is still a threat in parts of the world and can directly impact global health.



## REACHING *the* LAST MILE

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**Previous page:** A happy recipient of the polio vaccine in Pakistan wears a sticker with the Emirates Polio Campaign emblem | **Above left:** HE Abdullah Khalifa Al Ghaffi, Director of UAE-PAP, vaccinating a child in Pakistan | **Above right:** Healthcare workers with the UAE-PAP in rural Pakistan

# NTDS: DISEASE ELIMINATION

The UAE has a long history of fighting to end NTDs. What began with a personal donation in 1990 by the UAE's late founding father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan has grown into a decades-long commitment to disease elimination. Reaching the Last Mile works closely with global partners and multilateral initiatives to maintain progress and increase the impact of its programs for disease elimination.

## Reaching the Last Mile Fund

The Reaching the Last Mile Fund (RLMF), administered by the END Fund, is a 10-year, \$100M USD fund launched in 2017 by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Department for International Development (DFID) and The ELMA Philanthropies. RLMF is paving the way to end two devastating NTDs—onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis—in seven countries across the Sahel in Africa and Yemen.

While COVID-19 has certainly impacted a number of global health programs, including NTD programs, the great majority of RLMF's fieldwork takes place in the last half of the year, aligning with fly breeding

season. With that, while the virus has had some impact on RLMF, it has not resulted in major delays in this year's initiatives. The END Fund continues

to monitor the situation in accordance with the interim guidance issued by the WHO on NTD activities during the current pandemic.

We were also excited to recently announce that Planet has committed \$1M USD in kind, making their advanced satellite services available to RLMF for use in mapping activities. Planet provides geospatial insights to

organizations, enabling them to use this data in decision making. Using Planet's technology, RLMF can track water borne NTDs, which requires frequent monitoring of river systems in remote and difficult to access areas.



*RLM has trained*  
**359,000 HEALTH WORKERS**

*to help expand treatment and outreach*



*In 2019,*  
**15.1 MILLION TREATMENTS**

*were delivered for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis*



## RLMF: Country Focus

### Ethiopia

As cross-border transmission zones are critical to eliminate onchocerciasis, RLMF has focused on forging unique cross-border collaborations, helping to reach some of the most marginalized people across Ethiopia, which represents our largest program.

Last year, RLMF reached more than 6.1 million people in Ethiopia, who received treatments for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. This February, the RLMF team supported an inter-ministerial meeting in Gondar, Ethiopia. The two-day event brought together representatives from the ministries of health of Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan, as well as key implementing partners and stakeholders. Attendees defined priority actions to be implemented in shared border areas in the fight to eliminate lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis.

### Mali

Nationwide pre-stop MDA evaluations have been completed in all eligible areas as we continue to lead the last mile of disease elimination activities.



*Mali is poised to reach a significant elimination milestone in 2022 and will be able to*

**STOP MDA**



*Niger is on track to start verification of*

**ELIMINATION OF ONCHOCERCIASIS**

*in 2020*

Following a review of the historical data, the country determined that no areas of Mali are eligible for onchocerciasis elimination mapping. Results from the pre-stop MDA evaluations will determine if Mali will be ready to conduct full-stop MDA evaluations later this year. RLMF supported a virtual data review meeting with all partners to validate the results. The Fund intends to support a virtual convening of the Mali Oncho Elimination Committee. If results in both 2020 and 2021 confirm there is no longer any transmission, Mali will reach a significant elimination milestone in 2022, and will be able to stop MDA of Mectizan.

### Niger

In Niger, RLMF is also leading last mile activities. The Fund has supported training of lab staff in OV16 ELISA with samples currently being analyzed in the lab. The country has continued to make progress on processing data and it was anticipated that by the end of Q4, Niger will have completed all remaining mapping and processing of samples with an eye to compiling the dossier for verification of elimination of onchocerciasis.



# Guinea Worm Disease

The UAE’s longest partner in global health is the Carter Center, which has been leading an international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease since 1986.

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the UAE’s partnership with The Carter Center, initiated by a historic meeting when the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan invited the former US president Jimmy Carter to the UAE for the first time.

During the meeting, Carter brought up his initiative to eradicate a parasitic disease that was causing devastation across large parts of Africa. The late Sheikh Zayed responded with a substantial donation

to the Carter Center, which began three decades of giving by the UAE to fight Guinea worm disease.

With our support and the support of other international partners, The Carter Center has been able to reduce the incidence of Guinea worm disease by 99.99% since 1986, with just 54 provisional cases recorded in 2019.



### 30 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

*between the UAE and The Carter Center*



### ONLY 14 HUMAN CASES

*of Guinea worm disease between Jan. 1–May 31*



# NTDS: ADVOCACY & FUNDRAISING

Key to Reaching the Last Mile’s strategy to fight NTDs is its advocacy and fundraising efforts. When combined, these mutually reinforcing activities keep preventable diseases at the top of the political agenda while raising funds for this critical work.

## World NTD Day

NTDs affect more than 1.5 billion of the world’s most impoverished people and cost developing economies billions of dollars every year. While tremendous progress has been made in the past few years, many challenges remain.

To raise awareness and drive action in the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), this January 30th we brought together global civil society advocates, community leaders, global health experts and policy-makers for the first annual World NTD Day. The Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court provided oversight and support for the launch of the first World NTD Day.



**350 PARTNERS**

*participated, with a reach that spanned the globe*



**20 MICRO-GRANTS AWARDED**

*to civil society organizations working to advance the fight*

World NTD Day served as a platform to both celebrate progress and galvanize the diverse global community around the goal of ending NTDs. Through this day of recognition, the NTD community aligned behind a common set of messages and calls to action that drove home the urgent need for political and financial commitments in 2020, while establishing a sustainable annual moment for the NTD community to drive advocacy for the future.

As a result of this first World NTD Day, diverse voices from grassroots organizations to global leaders, across countries and issue areas, chimed in and spoke out by sharing original videos, graphics, blogs and



more, telling leaders that a future without NTDs is right, smart and possible. This first annual event was a great success with more than 350 global partners participating, nearly 100 events and activities taking place across 35 countries (including 23 endemic for NTDs) leading up to or on World NTD Day, and more than 20 micro-grants awarded to civil society organizations to amplify their voices in the fight against NTDs.

By accessing an incredibly rich library of social media and branding resources, global participants were able to easily amplify the messaging of World NTD Day across various channels, reaching more than 50 million social media accounts, and nearly 6,000 pieces of original content.

An important part of the strategy for World NTD Day was working with partners to educate the local UAE community and raise awareness about NTDs and the importance of this global day. We coordinated with local telecom partners to send messages about the day to the UAE community and worked with corporate partners to illuminate a number of Abu Dhabi landmarks with World NTD Day branding in a show of support, including the ADNOC building and Marina Mall.

We are already looking ahead at 2021 when we will continue to raise awareness in our critical effort to ensure people at risk for NTDs no longer remain “neglected.”



# REACH Campaign

The Reach Campaign, a first-of-its-kind fundraising initiative, launched in the UAE this February. The goal of the campaign is to educate the UAE public about onchocerciasis and invite them to join efforts to end this devastating neglected tropical disease (NTD).

All proceeds from the campaign will benefit the Reaching the Last Mile Fund (RLMF).

We are proud to have The Emirates Red Crescent serve as a strategic partner for The Reach Campaign, administering fundraising activities in the UAE. Our founding partners include Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), LuLu Group International and Etihad Airlines with supporting partners including ADMM/Yas Marina Circuit, Aldar Properties PJSC, Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, Flash

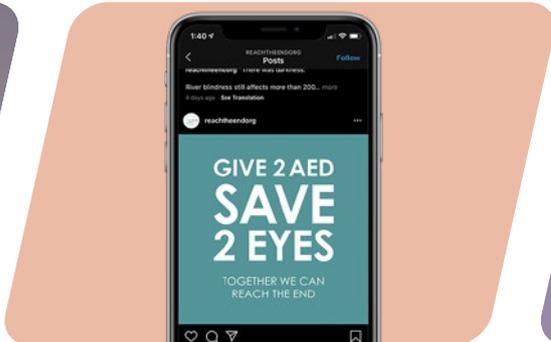
Entertainment and Miral.

With ads running in both English and Arabic on platforms across the UAE, the Reach Campaign uniquely involves the entire UAE community, inviting them to participate by donating as little as 2 AED or about \$0.50 USD.

The first phase of this campaign is focused on the UAE and next, we will be expanding our reach to international partners. At this time, the campaign has raised 6.24M AED (\$1.7M USD) in the fight to end onchocerciasis, with an additional 37M (\$10M USD) pledged over

the next three years. During Ramadan we kicked off a challenge campaign with new media partners including TikTok and Abu Dhabi Media as well as influencer engagement. You can read more about this campaign in our Editorial section on page 30 of this report.

**6.24M AED (\$1.7M USD) HAS BEEN RAISED**  
*with an additional 37M AED (\$10M USD) pledged over the next three years*



# MALARIA

RLM takes a unique approach in the fight against malaria as it seeks new and innovative ways to stop the spread of this and other mosquito-borne illnesses, while continuing to be among the largest donors for advocacy efforts.

## Advocacy

RLM's Malaria focus includes its support of the RBM Partnership to End Malaria. Her Excellency Professor Maha Barakat is Chair of the Board of this global platform for coordinating action to rid the world of malaria. We have supported RBM since 2010, empowering the operational side of the organization.

Today, more countries than ever are close to elimination and fewer communities live in fear of a mosquito bite. However, this year COVID-19 is threatening this progress and it is now, more than ever, necessary to act.



## RLM COMMITTED \$1.5M USD IN SEED FUNDING

*to launch Forecasting Healthy Futures*

## Forecasting Healthy Futures

Working closely with fellow global health, technology and public sector organizations, in February, RLM helped to launch the Forecasting Healthy Futures initiative to improve health outcomes and accelerate progress against deadly mosquito-borne diseases.

The new initiative will develop weather data-informed strategies and policies to help governments and partners better time and target effective health interventions in the face of changing weather patterns and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events.

Convened by Malaria No More, RLM is joining other partners in this initiative including PATH, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), The Tableau Foundation and IBM's The Weather Company.



# RESEARCH & INNOVATION

RLM invests in forward-looking partners who represent both unique technologies and voices that allow us to make an even greater impact in the disease areas and populations we are most committed to.

## Solve at MIT

For the second year, RLM is collaborating with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in their Solve Global Health Challenge. This program advances innovative, entrepreneurial solutions to address the world's most pressing challenges. This year we are awarding "The Health Workforce Innovation Prize," which focuses on solutions that expand and support the health workforce for newborns, pregnant women, and new mothers in low-income countries, where newborn mortality rates are 10

times those in higher-income countries.

Finalists for each Challenge will be invited to pitch at MIT's virtual Solve Challenge Finals event in September. Winners will work with Solve for the next

nine months to scale their solutions with the support of funding, networking, mentorship, marketing, and more from the Solve community.

Last year's prize from The Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court for "The Innovating Together for Healthy

Cities Prize" was awarded to Faircap Clean Water. You can read more about this in our Editorial section on page 28 of this report.

## GLIDE

The Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) was formally launched just this past November, with co-founding partner The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Institute looks to accelerate progress towards disease elimination to alleviate suffering and improve human lives. Its mission is to make a distinctive contribution and materially help advance global thinking and progress towards disease elimination and to develop local, regional and endemic country capabilities and capacity.

GLIDE is initially focusing on a small number of diseases that can be eliminated nationally or regionally—polio, malaria, onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis—but is examining other diseases where we can add value.



*Faircap Clean Water, produces*

**A SMALL WATER FILTER FOR LESS THAN \$5 USD**

*that removes bacteria and sediment to provide clean drinking water*



### GLIDE'S 3 AREAS OF IMPACT

- 1) *Championing awareness and engagement*
- 2) *Advancing elimination strategy development*
- 3) *Innovating delivery systems and tools*

**MIT** | **SOLVE**



# CONVENING & RECOGNITION

While the Reaching the Last Mile portfolio is proud to partner with some of the leading organizations and thinkers in global health, we also recognize that to make the greatest impact, we need to widen our community beyond our traditional sector and help ensure global health is a shared concern for the whole of society. As a convener, we help accelerate critical conversations and ensure we are making space for new and important voices. We also foster a sense of community through programs that recognize our health heroes and incubate new technologies and innovations.

## Reaching the Last Mile (RLM) Forum

The Reaching the Last Mile (RLM) Forum convenes global health leaders in Abu Dhabi biennially to share insights and best practices on how to map out, eliminate and eradicate infectious diseases.

Most recently held in November of 2019 with the theme, “Accelerating the Pace,” the RLM Forum convened high-level guests from across government, private sector, philanthropy and academia for a one-day event

to discuss how to reach the last mile of diseases elimination faster through increased funding and worldwide collaboration.



**\$2.6B USD  
PLEGGED**

*during the Forum as  
part of the Global Polio  
Eradication Initiative*

On the eve of the Forum, we held three roundtables that convened international stakeholders and local experts. The groups discussed topics that intersect with disease elimination and are critical to enabling progress towards global health goals. These topics included: Financing for Health, which focused particularly



Events surrounding the Forum included:

**Three Roundtables** with international stakeholders and local experts including:

- Financing for Health
- Health and Climate
- Health and Disabilities

**The initial Kigali Summit working group meeting** to discuss preparations for the Summit (delayed due to COVID-19). This meeting was one of the first held between the malaria and NTD communities.

**The Roll Back Malaria Board Meeting**, hosted by RLM, was held just before the Forum.

**A program managers’ meeting** following the Forum in Amman, Jordan in February, 2020.

on the 2030 NTD roadmap; Health and Climate, which reviewed the latest evidence of the impact of climate change on global health challenges; and Health and Disabilities which produced a draft roadmap for elevating “The Missing Billion” in global health discussions and inclusive policies for the 1 billion people worldwide with disabilities.



**DECLARATION SIGNED**

*between His Holiness Pope Francis and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to impact global health programs for the world's most vulnerable populations*

On the sidelines of the RLM Forum, His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, signed a collaborative declaration on global health at His Highness the Crown Prince’s Majlis. The declaration identifies joint initiatives that galvanize the global community and impact health programs for the world’s most vulnerable populations. It comes after the historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Abu Dhabi in 2019, the first by a leader of the Roman Catholic Church to the Arabian Peninsula. The longstanding collaboration is focused on strengthening international efforts and cross-border cooperation.

**More than 300 global leaders attended, including 10 health ministers as well as:**

**DR. TEDROS GHEBREYESUS**  
*Director General of the WHO*

**RT. HON. HELEN CLARK**  
*Former Prime Minister of New Zealand*

**DR. SETH BERKLEY**  
*CEO of Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance*

**BILL GATES**  
*Co-Founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

**DR. ROBERT R. REDFIELD**  
*Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

**PETER SANDS**  
*Executive Director, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria*



**Above:** Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director General of the WHO, addresses the Reaching the Last Mile Forum

## REACH Awards

The biennial Recognizing Excellence Around Champions of Health (REACH) Awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment in the field of disease elimination. From boots-on-the-ground innovators to local community health workers, the REACH Awards celebrate critical contributions from those on the front lines of disease elimination.

In addition, the REACH Awards also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. William H. Foege, a renowned American epidemiologist and physician who dedicated his career to disease elimination.



View highlights from the forum and hear from REACH Award-winners on the [RLM YouTube channel](#)

“For one billion people around the world **the main source of care are frontline health workers**, who are driven to help others despite facing sometimes insurmountable obstacles. Today we recognize these individuals for the perseverance, effort and innovation that is helping to ensure every person has the opportunity to live a healthy, dignified life.”

—His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

“Life has been difficult after what I went through, but **I will not allow what happened to deter me** from the work I am doing.”

—REACH Award-winner Rahane Lawal

“We have the opportunity to **rewrite history and prevent suffering before it happens**. This award is more than a recognition of past work; it is also an acknowledgment of the global genius cluster that is working together towards a brighter future for all.”

—Lifetime Achievement Award winner Dr. William H. Foege



With 15 finalists across four categories, our 2019 REACH Winners included:

### Dr. Richard Kojan

*Game-changing Innovator Award*

Congolese physician Dr. Kojan created a portable bio-secure emergency care unit called the CUBE to allow for close monitoring of Ebola patients in remote, low-resource areas.

### Olivia Ngou

*Rising Champion Award*

Olivia is a passionate advocate to end malaria in her home country of Cameroon and beyond. She engages with a wide range of stakeholders, from students to Parliamentarians, and galvanizes them to take action.

### Rahane Lawal

*Unsung Hero Award*

Rahane is a polio worker in Nigeria who has shown exceptional bravery and dedication in keeping her community safe from polio, leading incredible efforts to eradicate the disease.

### Dr. William H. Foege

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

Dr. Foege is credited with developing the strategy that led to the eradication of smallpox. He has served as director of the CDC, executive director of The Carter Center, and senior medical advisor for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



# EDITORIAL SPOTLIGHT

With each issue, we will be providing you with a behind-the-scenes look at the people and strategies driving our work.

# FAIRCAP CLEAN WATER

In each issue, we will feature an in-depth conversation that helps illuminate the work being done behind the scenes. To kick things off, we spoke with 2019 MIT Solve Prize-winner Mauricio Cordova, founder of Faircap Clean Water.



## What problem does Faircap solve?

There are 800 million people in the world without safe clean drinking water. Faircap is a small social company that designs and develops low cost and easy to use technological solutions for point of use water treatment, especially during humanitarian emergencies and in developing countries. Our first product is a small water purifier that fits into a soda plastic bottle so that people can grab water from different natural sources like wells, streams and lakes removing disease-causing bacteria and sediment, making turbid water transparent and safer to drink. Because

of its small size, it's ideal for refugee migrations or people who are on the move. Right now our production cost is less than \$5 USD and we aim to produce it for even less when we start manufacturing in larger volumes. We are also developing a family filter kit to provide clean drinking water for an entire family for a year, that will also adapt to existing containers like jerrycans and buckets.

## Where did you get the idea for Faircap?

The idea was born as a combination of different experiences. While I grew up in Peru in the 1990s there

was a large cholera outbreak, 10,000 people died in a matter of weeks, so growing up I knew the importance of clean water. Six years ago I started learning more about the potential of the maker movement in solving important and large-scale world problems. Prototyping, maker spaces and open technologies like 3D printing allowed anyone, not just designers and engineers, to come up with new solutions. In 2014 I was greatly inspired by a visit to Stanford's d.school's Extreme Affordability course and by attending the Maker Faire near San Francisco, where teams came up with interesting technologies using Arduino and rapid prototyping machines. A few months after, while visiting a reforestation project in the Peruvian Amazon, I was shocked how in one of the most pristine places on earth you couldn't drink the water from natural springs because it was contaminated by illegal gold mining and sewage runoffs from small villages. When finding out the global statistics related to the lack of drinking water I realized that even after decades and even after water was declared a human right, there were still billions of people without a safe and continuous supply of water. Since then I decided to research solutions and work collaboratively on a small device that could fit into PET plastic bottles that could one day help save lives during a humanitarian emergency.

### **What have you been able to do with the prize money awarded from the CPC?**

The CPC prize has allowed us to plan ahead for 2020, especially as we adapt to the current pandemic. We will be able to manufacture a virus removing water filter for jerrycans and buckets for less than \$20 USD, which today is even more relevant to improve hygiene and prevent diseases. The single most important measure to prevent COVID-19 contagion is through social distancing and by washing your hands, however there are hundreds of millions of

people in developing countries without a clean water supply. We already have a few designs and prototypes that we tested last year in Mozambique, Lebanon and Syria with the support from the Humanitarian Innovation Fund and Oxfam, and now thru the CPC prize we have the funds needed to manufacture the filters on a large scale after validating the final design with our partners. Another idea that we are prototyping is to make a small, bottle size, low cost (less than \$20 USD) electrolysis device to convert water and regular table salt that you can find even in the most remote places into a sodium hypochlorite solution, which could allow someone in a remote village to produce small doses of this powerful disinfectant to be used for disinfecting water, vegetables and even as a surface cleaning agent to prevent disease.

### **What are your plans for the future of Faircap?**

Our future plans for Faircap are to focus on R&D as well as product development to improve our current products and come up with new solutions. We do this collaboratively working with designers and engineers from around the world and with university researchers in Barcelona, TU Berlin and lately with the support from MIT Solve and MIT's D.lab students. We want to continue partnering with NGOs, foundations and governments to distribute our products as well as finding commercial distributors in developing countries to make the project self sustainable. Since the start of the project we believe in collaboration and partnerships. This issue is too large to be solved by one company or one organizations, so we would like to invite anyone who might want to join us and support our vision of making clean water available to everyone in an affordable way. After all, providing clean drinking water is a basic human right that we still need to strive for.

# RAMADAN REACH CAMPAIGN

This Ramadan, the Reach Campaign launched the Ramadan Challenge to activate the community during the season of giving and save 1 million people from onchocerciasis.

The month-long Ramadan campaign reflected the Holy Month’s spirit of giving and was designed to allow the community to partake in the charitable program while also navigating social restrictions and safety measures in place to combat COVID-19. The campaign, conducted primarily on social media, focused on education and advocacy while encouraging the local community to donate online or via text message and to show their support on social media.

Along with support from launch sponsors, the Ramadan Challenge was further enabled through two new media partners—TikTok and Abu Dhabi Media (ADM). These partners allowed the Campaign to reach new audiences, through innovative technology and storytelling.

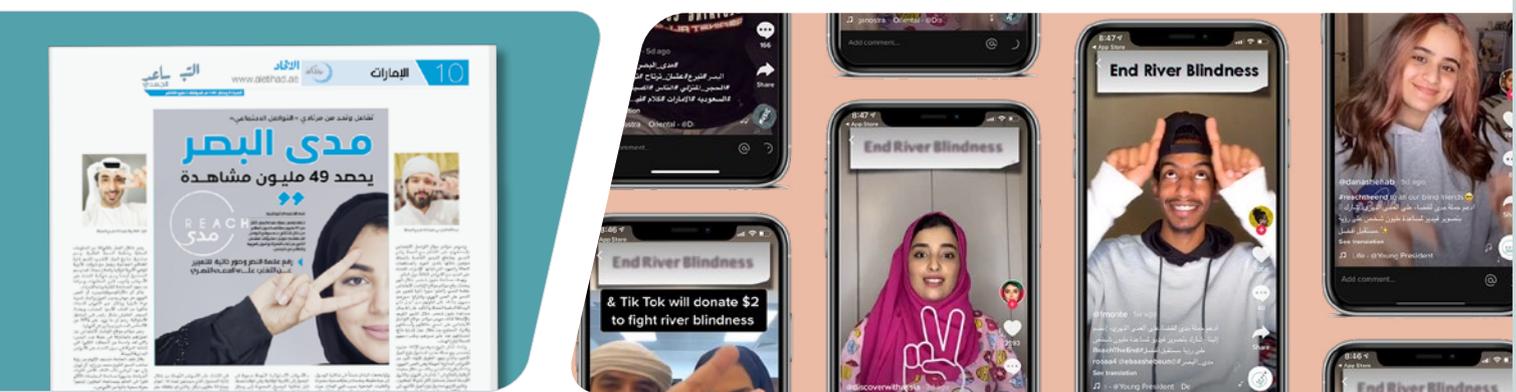
Through the partnership with ADM, we leveraged their wide-reaching platforms to drive awareness for the campaign. During Ramadan, ADM distributed the campaign across its many platforms, including ADTV, radio, and Abu Dhabi Media digital platforms through [adtv.ae](http://adtv.ae), *Al Itihad*, and social media

profiles. Additionally, a roster of Abu Dhabi Media public figures came together to create a digital video outlining and supporting the challenge, and continued communication across their personal accounts, taking part in the challenge and educating the community about onchocerciasis.

We were excited to partner with TikTok for the first time as part of the Ramadan Challenge. TikTok’s platform was an important element in helping to reach a wider and younger audience. Through this innovative partnership, TikTok drove users to the campaign by introducing a new AR feature to the region. Users were able to access three unique TikTok AR Challenges, which created further awareness of the Ramadan Challenge. TikTok donated \$2 USD for every video uploaded to their platform as part of the challenge, raising more than \$75,000 USD.

Through the Reach Ramadan Campaign, 2.8M AED (\$760,000 USD) was raised in the fight against onchocerciasis.

**2.8M AED (\$760,000 USD)**  
*raised in the fight against onchocerciasis.*



## REACHING *the* LAST MILE

**Left:** Editorial coverage of the Ramadan campaign appears in Abu Dhabi Media’s *Al Itihad* | **Right:** For every video filmed with #ReachTheEnd TikTok donated \$2 USD to fight onchocerciasis, raising more than \$75,000 USD | **Next page:** Kesach Fantu, in Sankura, Ethiopia was a strong and active woman until she contracted lymphatic filariasis (Credit: Andrew Heikkila)



# REACHING *the* LAST MILE

For more information about our programs  
and to show your support please visit us at:

 **REACHINGTHELASTMILE.COM**

   **@RLMGLOBALHEALTH**