

Disease Elimination and Eradication Course

Course overview

In 2024, the Global Institute for Disease Elimination (GLIDE) is hosting the Disease Elimination and Eradication Course in collaboration with the Carter Center, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, and the University of Global Health Equity.

The Disease Elimination and Eradication Course is a hybrid course. Part I is an online session that will include a series asynchronous (self-paced) and synchronous (live, moderated) modules that will introduce key concepts and provide a strong basis for understanding and preparation for Part II, the face-to-face portion. During the intensive, 9-day in person course, students will work in teams alongside other public health practitioners, primarily from the African continent and the Middle East region, who are actively working on addressing issues revolving around disease elimination and eradication.

Participants will hear from and engage with subject-matter experts on past and continued efforts to eliminate and eradicate diseases including lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, malaria, and polio, and guinea worm, that continue to be endemic in their geographies.

Participants will be introduced to four thinking models: systems thinking, evaluative thinking, design thinking and strategic thinking. The aim of introducing these models is to highlight the importance of tackling complex challenges such as disease elimination and eradication in innovative ways. At the conclusion of the course, teams will present their proposed strategies to a panel of expert judges. The winning team or teams may be given the opportunity to further develop their proposal for implementation.

By the end of this course, students will have a strong understanding of the core principles of infectious disease elimination and eradication, and will be able to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of programs targeting disease elimination and eradication. Additionally, the course will provide an opportunity for students to learn and apply systems thinking, design thinking, strategic thinking and evaluative thinking to develop innovative strategies to achieve disease elimination and eradication which can then be applied to other global health challenges.

Course description

Throughout the course, participants will delve into the fundamental principles of disease elimination and eradication. Collaboratively and in country teams, participants will develop strategies tailored to specific country contexts.

Course participants will examine the core principles of disease elimination and eradication and work together in country teams to develop strategies. Students will analyze case

studies to better understand lessons learned, challenges faced, and effective interventions needed to achieve disease. Through online and in person lessons, the course will provide participants with an introduction to ethical issues in disease elimination and eradication, political, social, behavioral, and environmental factors, health system strengthening, the integration of disease elimination and eradication programs with existing health systems, and communication and advocacy approaches. The course will introduce different thinking models including systems, design, strategic & evaluative, to help students in their development of interventions to reduce and eventually eliminate disease in a given geography.