



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear friends of India Health Fund (IHF),

This quarter at IHF was marked by exciting progress across our innovation portfolio — from announcing new grant under the Climate X Health Lighthouse Fund, to advancing AI and data-driven tools tackling vector-borne diseases and climate-linked vulnerabilities. Field studies for IHF's decentralized TB diagnostic solution reached completion, while new partnerships, including one with Blockchain for Impact, took shape, expanding our collaborative ecosystem.

Throughout, our team kept the conversation and knowledge exchange going at leading global and regional platforms — from Google Health AI Workshop to the AMR Research Conference. The quarter also witnessed the publication of our Annual Update 2024-2025, as well as the launch of the call for innovations as part of the UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge.

We welcome you to read on for these updates and more from India Health Fund.

With gratitude,  
The India Health Fund Team

## Moving the Needle

New and Notable from our Innovations Portfolio

### IHF and partners announce the five grantees of the Climate x Health Lighthouse Fund



Earlier this year, IHF launched the Climate x Health Lighthouse Fund's first call for proposals to support scalable solutions strengthening climate resilience and public health across Asia — in partnership with AVPN, Bayer Foundation and Prudence Foundation. The first cohort of five grantees was unveiled in September at the AVPN Global Conference 2025 in Hong Kong, marking a key milestone in accelerating innovation at the Climate-Health nexus.

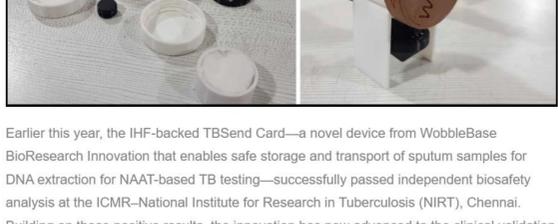
- ✓ William J Clinton Foundation: Strengthening dengue control with a Risk Intelligence Platform & community engagement
- ✓ Chintan (Environmental Research & Action Group): AI-powered heat mapping & low-cost cooling solutions to protect vulnerable communities
- ✓ CivicDataLab Pvt. Ltd.: Building a Climate & Health Data Collaborative for targeted, evidence-based interventions
- ✓ SORA AI-assisted larval source management to reduce malaria by targeting mosquito breeding sites
- ✓ KUMPUL Impact (KUMPUL): Equipping frontline health workers to drive timely, evidence-based climate & health responses

### Moskeet goes places – new deployments and funding unlocked



Supported by IHF, Moskeet is an AI-powered tool for vector-borne disease surveillance that quantifies disease prevalence through wing beat frequencies. Pilots were recently launched at five sites in Bhubaneswar in collaboration with ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, and at 10 sites in Hyderabad with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Lessons from the pilots will guide future deployments. Also this quarter, TraktiNow secured the USISTEF Grant and the India AI Challenge Grant to integrate climate data and develop a comprehensive dashboard. Finally, TraktiNow bagged a commercial order for 40 devices, of which 40 to be deployed in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with a drone-based fumigation firm to improve targeted vector control.

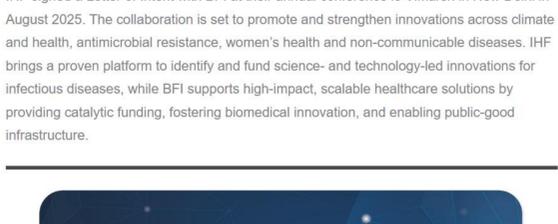
### AI tool to tackle climate-driven health risks progresses in the development phase



IHF has been supporting Khushi Baby to develop and deploy a Climate and Health Vulnerability Index (CHVI)—an AI-powered decision support tool that combines 10 years of village-level public health data with climate stressor indicators, delivering real-time, granular insights. The tool is designed to strengthen data-based decision support at the block and district levels and help health administrators respond swiftly and proactively to climate-related health threats.

This quarter, CHVI achieved key milestones, including building a predictive framework to generate composite vulnerability scores for heat, vector-borne diseases, and air pollution; integrating multi-source datasets, including climate data and census data; developing models for vector-borne diseases, identifying clear lag patterns (2–12 weeks) between climatic triggers (temperature, humidity) and dengue incidence, which will form the basis for predictive alerts; fostering partnership with Mahila Housing Trust to operationalize CHVI heat risk at the community level, and collaboration with UNICEF for training frontline health workers; designing a CHVI dashboard with actionable prompts for state and district officials; and refining CHVI features through usability sessions with Rajasthan health authorities.

### Affordable, decentralized TB test completes field feasibility studies



This quarter, IHF-backed innovation from Huwel Lifesciences – Quantiplex® MTB FAST completed field feasibility studies at 10 Central TB Division-approved sites on 3000 samples (300/site). The test promises accurate TB diagnosis within 40 minutes, with simplified workflows and high throughput capacity of 900 tests per day, enabling district-level facilities to diagnose more effectively and respond more swiftly. Data collation and analysis is currently underway by the Central TB Division team.

### TBSend Card moves to clinical validation at ICMR-NIRT, Chennai



Earlier this year, the IHF-backed TBSend Card—a novel device from WobbleBase BioResearch Innovation that enables safe storage and transport of sputum samples for DNA extraction for NAAT-based TB testing—successfully passed independent biosafety analysis at the ICMR–National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai. Building on these positive results, the innovation has now advanced to the clinical validation stage at ICMR–NIRT, where it will be evaluated on 400 samples over the next 15 months.

## Stronger Together – Partnerships Update

### Advancing healthcare innovations with Blockchain for Impact (BFI)



IHF signed a Letter of Intent with BFI at its annual conference i3 Vimarsh in New Delhi in August 2025. The collaboration is set to promote and strengthen innovations across climate and health, antimicrobial resistance, women's health and non-communicable diseases. IHF brings a proven platform to identify and fund science- and technology-led innovations for infectious diseases, while BFI supports high-impact, scalable healthcare solutions by providing catalytic funding, fostering biomedical innovation, and enabling public-good infrastructure.

## Events Round-up from the Quarter



**Google Health AI Workshop 2025, Singapore [July 2025]** by Google.org, Google Research, DeepMind, Google for Health, and Google Cloud, where IHF's Gurvinder Bawa Parmar (Director – Strategy, Partnerships & Finance) and Raghavendra Rao (Director – Portfolio) participated. The group explored AI's potential in disease screening, public health, and drug discovery, towards advancing health outcomes responsibly and equitably.



**1st edition of INSPIRE 2025 by Fernandez Foundation, Hyderabad [August 2025]**, where Raghavendra Rao was a guest speaker. Ideas were exchanged between researchers and experts across diverse fields, including obstetrics, neonatology, nutrition, genetics, and public health, all committed to advancing maternal and child health through science, innovation, and partnerships.

**2nd edition of JP Morgan Chase's Tech for Social Good Conference, Bengaluru [August 2025]**, where Gurvinder Bawa Parmar joined innovators, non-profits and funders in discussing how technology can be leveraged in participatory solutions co-created with communities to enhance social good.

**AMR Research Conference hosted by the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bengaluru [August 2025]**, where IHF's Saurabh Mamtani (Senior Associate – Portfolio) joined a panel discussing how innovations, including those in diagnostics and surveillance, can help tackle AMR in India and the Global South, and the hurdles innovators face while on this journey.

**Virtual workshop on advancing research and innovation to accelerate momentum towards ending TB in the WHO South-East Asia Region [August 2025]**, which was attended by IHF's Portfolio team. The session brought together Member States, partners, civil society, innovators, and technical agencies to discuss the persistent burden of TB and the urgent need for donation, including the importance of diagnostics, vaccine development, digital tools, and community engagement.



**AVPN Global Conference, Hong Kong [September 2025]**, where Madhav Joshi (CEO) was a speaker at the fireside chat on bridging the gap between philanthropic capital and climate and health solutions and on Archita Chaudhury (Senior Manager – Portfolio) was a panellist at the Investing in Impact session, discussing how to unlock innovative financing for Asia's infectious diseases.

**Centre for Chronic Disease Control's (CCDC) Scientific Research Symposium, New Delhi [September 2025]**, where Raghavendra Rao joined 80 speakers and 300 experts from across the world exploring diverse themes, including clinical trials, cohort studies, health systems research, digital health, and capacity building.

## Blogs and Publications

### Annual Update



This quarter witnessed the publication of IHF's Annual update 2024-2025 that reflected on the milestones of the past year and the journey that lies ahead for the organization. Over the years, we have learned that the changing dynamics of public health require us to be agile and adaptable to evolving challenges. Keeping pace, we continue to work on the most pressing problems in public health – old and new – with a key focus on Climate & Health adaptation; Tuberculosis & Lung Health; and Antimicrobial Resistance.

[Read Annual Update](#)

### Blogs



In a world already warming beyond the 1.5°C threshold, building the adaptive capacity to address the growing challenges at the intersection of climate and health will need shared foresight, inclusive governance, trusted relationships and collective action. In this IHF blog, Akanimo Andrew Akpan, PhD and Colleen Magner from Reos Partners drew on approaches such as Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP), multi-stakeholder collaboration, and systems leadership, to outline practical steps to address the challenges at the climate-health nexus.

[Read on: Beyond 1.5°C: Why collaboration is our best climate-health adaptation strategy - Indian Health Fund](#)



Fungi, that are often overlooked in public health and environmental discourse, are quietly adapting to a warming world, making them formidable adversaries for global health and food security. Our blog from Dr. Pilar Junier, Professor Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland delves into this "silent" crisis — exploring how shifting ecosystems are fuelling fungal evolution, why it demands urgent attention, and how global efforts are stepping up to respond.

[Read on: The Silent Surge: How Climate Change is Fueling a Fungal Threat to Health - Indian Health Fund](#)

### Equipping the Med Armory in Tata Trusts Horizons



In August 2025, IHF's emerging contributions in the fight against antimicrobial resistance were spotlighted in the Tata Trusts' Horizons magazine.

[Read Now](#)

### The Rise of Femtech in Emerging Markets



IHF was quoted in UNICEF's latest op-ed on femtech as part of the ongoing collaboration between the organizations. CEO Madhav Joshi said: "India Health Fund was established to bring catalytic funding for science-led innovation and enabling partnerships together to accelerate the lab to patient journey of transformative solutions which have the potential to improve the lives of the most underserved. Our collaboration with the UNICEF Venture Fund is a step towards supporting innovation that not only advances women's health but also helps build a more resilient and equitable future for all".

[Read Now](#)

## Call for Innovations



In September 2025, IHF announced the UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge in collaboration with UNICEF and the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership. The challenge is open to early and growth-stage tech startups in emerging economies developing solutions that protect children from climate-induced health risks and AI+ data tools powering climate and community resilience.

Application Deadline: 21st October 2025

[Apply Now](#)



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