

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on a pivotal period marked by both urgent challenges and transformative opportunity across the public health landscape – particularly at the critical nexus of climate and health.

Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather are reshaping the spread of vector-borne and infectious diseases—deepening risks for communities already on the margins.

Emerging evidence has made it clear that climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern—it is a defining public health issue and with COP30 now concluded, we could see an urgent need to mount a health-centred response to the climate crisis.

At India Health Fund, we remain committed to establishing a science-led approach where innovations like strong real-time surveillance tools and effective diagnostics help address the growing spread of climate-sensitive infectious diseases.

Looking ahead, we also take this opportunity to bring a new version of our newsletter, called as the **Catalyst** – our longstanding goal of generating a catalytic effect on India’s progress towards addressing pressing public health challenges.

This edition of *Catalyst* highlights our key strides this quarter—new climate x health projects, progress across our innovation portfolio, strategic partnerships, our climate x health highlight and thought leadership shaping the national discourse.

With warm regards,
India Health Fund team

Feature Story: New Project

Transforming Urban Dengue Response using Data-Driven and Predictive Intelligence Surveillance Systems

Shifting climatic patterns are accelerating dengue outbreaks. Addressing this growing public health threat, this quarter, **India Health Fund** announced its support to the **William J Clinton Foundation** to enable an AI-led, tech-driven, predictive and decentralized public health response that will transform reactive and fragmented surveillance systems to be more proactive, predictive, data-driven, and embedded in community. Piloting in partnership with Bengaluru’s municipal corporation - Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), our support will help embed an AI-driven risk intelligence system at the ward level empowering government ownership and proactive outbreak detection. This partnership is rooted in IHF’s broader mission to support innovative, integrated solutions that address the growing health impacts of climate change, particularly the rising threat of vector-borne diseases like dengue.

[Read more](#)

Innovation Spotlight!

What’s new in our Portfolio

TraktiNow begins large-scale deployment of Moskeet devices: Mosquito-borne diseases pose a major global health threat, and traditional surveillance is slow and manual. IHF supported TraktiNow to develop Moskeet, the world’s first smart AI-enabled mosquito trap that autonomously identifies and measures mosquito species in real time, this in turn helps vector control departments to take proactive action. Field validation is ongoing at five sites in Bhubaneswar in collaboration with ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, and at ten sites in Hyderabad with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. This quarter, TraktiNow will begin large-scale deployment of Moskeet devices which will be integrated with drones to enable targeted fumigation as part of the Andhra Pradesh Government’s Smart Vector Control and Management initiative.

[Read more](#)

Ameliorate’s ASSURED completes multi-centric validation: Vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria, and chikungunya often show similar early symptoms, leading to misdiagnosis, missed diagnosis and delayed linkage to treatment. To address these challenges, Ameliorate developed ASSURED: simple, affordable, real-time multiplex RDT detects Malaria (with species differentiation), Dengue and Chikungunya simultaneously. IHF supported its multi-centric validation, which is now complete, with the test showing near 100% accuracy. The team recently completed the CDSCO manufacturing audit and is currently awaiting CDSCO manufacturing license approval before large-scale manufacturing and deployment will begin.

[Read more](#)

Swaasa completes multisite validation studies: Active case finding (ACF) is vital for early TB detection in a high-risk populations. The current methods for ACF are subjective and inaccuracy as a result of which majority of symptomatic TB cases go undiagnosed. Salcit Technologies developed Swaasa®, non-invasive AI-based mobile application for the screening of pulmonary TB. IHF supported the Salcit team for a technical multi-site validation study of Swaasa®’s AI algorithm at AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, AIIMS Gorakhpur, JIPMER (n=6000). Swaasa has completed multisite validation study and is in discussions with the ICMR-TB Division to plan for further studies. Preliminary data analysis has demonstrated promising results ~80% sensitivity and ~65% specificity.

[Read more](#)

Quantiplus® MTB FAST completes field feasibility studies: TB diagnostic delays and under-detection persist, especially among rural and underserved. Current molecular solutions are closed systems and often present with cost challenges, scalability, accessibility along with infrastructure and supply chain dependencies. To address this, Huwel Lifesciences developed the Quantiplus® MTB Fast Detection Kit—an open-system RT-PCR compatible kit that delivers accurate MTB diagnosis results in 40 minutes at under INR 200. With IHF’s support, field feasibility studies across 10 Central TB Division–approved sites were completed this quarter, generating real-world evidence and validating the platform in real world field settings.

[Read more](#)

TBSend Card set for clinical validation: With limited accredited TB testing labs in India, sputum samples often travel long distances, before molecular testing can take place. This delay leads to contamination during transit, increase costs and logistical complexities due to cold chain requirements to maintain sample quality. To address this, Wobble Base Bioresearch developed the TBSend Card, enabling safe, easy storage and transport of sputum. IHF supported the project under two phases- phase one for biosafety assessment and phase two for clinical validation. TBSend Card has passed independent biosafety testing at ICMR-NIRT, Chennai, and its clinical validation will start this month.

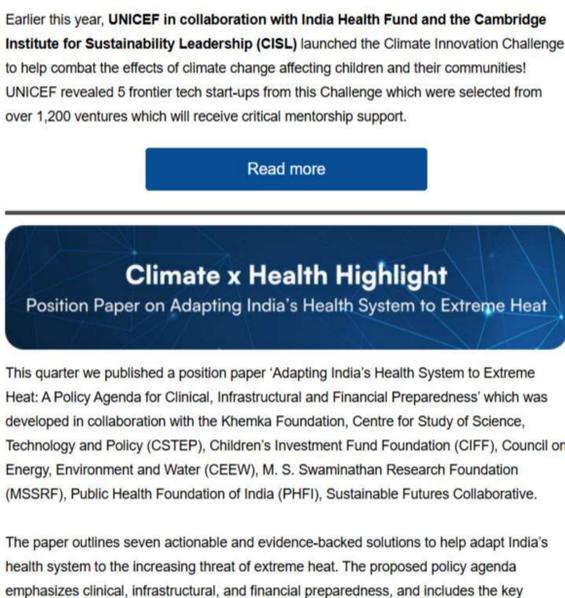
[Read more](#)

Calls for Expression of Interest!

This quarter, IHF launched two calls for expression of interest...all at the intersection of addressing health impact of climate change!

Hackathon: Translating Science for Responsible Innovation

India Health Fund along with NIMS University, Ashoka University and Swissnex in India invited Expressions of Interest (Eoi) to participate in a hackathon on ‘Translating Science for Responsible Innovation’. The Eoi looked for innovative solutions on the themes of AMR, One Health and Climate & Health and presented an opportunity to turn research into real-world impact. The deadline to apply was 27th November 2025 and the selected teams will receive incubation support, mentorship and pathways to funding and scale-up, helping move innovations into tangible products, processes or policies for societal benefits. Keep watching this space for more updates.



Translating Science into Responsible Innovation
AMR, One Health, Climate Science & Health Impact

Applications Open: 22 Oct 2025
Deadline to Apply: 30 Nov 2025

About the Hackathon
We are looking for bold, interdisciplinary ideas on the themes of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), One Health, and Climate Change & Health. This is a launchpad for systemic change through research-driven innovations by providing:

- Intensive collaboration, mentoring, and prototyping support
- Incubation, mentorship, and potential pathways to funding and scale-up

Parameters

- Relevance and clarity of the problem statement
- Scientific soundness and innovation potential
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Feasibility and scalability of the proposed solution
- Potential impact on health, equity, and sustainability

Team Composition
Inviting multidisciplinary teams comprising at least:

- Health Sciences** (medicine, public health, veterinary, or environmental health)
- Engineering** (Computer Science, data science, AI/ML)
- Social Sciences** (economics, sociology, anthropology, governance, law)
- Community Members** (user of intervention), if relevant

Domains of Innovation
Teams may propose solutions in one or more of the following categories:

- Technological Innovation
- Policy Innovation
- Social Innovation
- Integrative Innovation

Two-Phase Submission

Phase 1		
Stage One	Stage Two	
22 Oct 2025	30 Nov 2025	1 st Week of Feb 2026
Call for Expression of Interest	Last date to submit	Hack/Workathon
Phase 2		
Stage Three	Stage Four	
Mar - Apr 2026	1 st Week of May 2026	
Detailed Proposal with continuous mentorship support	Final pitch & evaluation	

For More Details
Contact: directorpublichealth@nimsuniversity.org

Technology Landscaping for Larval Source Management (LSM)

In November, we also invited Eoi for the Technology Landscaping of existing and emerging Larval Source Management (LSM) technologies in India. This Eoi was designed to support us in building a comprehensive technology landscape to guide future engagement in technology-enabled LSM for vector-borne disease control in India and yes, we’ve received a huge response to this call. Stay tuned for more interesting updates on LSM Tech Landscape!

[Read more](#)

Powering Progress: New Partnership

India Health Fund (IHF) and the **Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS)** have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on advancing science-led, technology-driven solutions to major communicable and non-communicable health challenges. The partnership brings together IHF’s catalytic innovation platform and TIGS’s world class research expertise to support development of technologies that can fast track India’s trajectory towards alleviation of its public health challenges.



NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

TIGS Tata Institute for Genetics and Society

STRONGER TOGETHER

INDIA HEALTH FUND A TATA TRUSTS INITIATIVE

[Read more](#)

Earlier this year, **UNICEF in collaboration with India Health Fund and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)** launched the Climate Innovation Challenge to help combat the effects of climate change affecting children and their communities! UNICEF revealed 5 frontier tech start-ups from this Challenge which were selected from over 1,200 ventures which will receive critical mentorship support.

[Read more](#)

Climate x Health Highlight

Position Paper on Adapting India’s Health System to Extreme Heat

This quarter we published a position paper ‘Adapting India’s Health System to Extreme Heat: A Policy Agenda for Clinical, Infrastructural and Financial Preparedness’ which was developed in collaboration with the Khemka Foundation, Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), Sustainable Futures Collaborative.

The paper outlines seven actionable and evidence-backed solutions to help adapt India’s health system to the increasing threat of extreme heat. The proposed policy agenda emphasizes clinical, infrastructural, and financial preparedness, and includes the key recommendations on safeguarding health against extreme heat.



Adapting India’s Health System to Extreme Heat: A Policy Agenda for Clinical, Infrastructural and Financial Preparedness

Contributors:

Dr. Indu K. Murthy (Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)); Dr. Hemang Shah (Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)); Shalu Agrawal and Dr. Vishwas Chitale (Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)); Dr. Satchi Balsari (Harvard Medical School); Kartikeya Bhatia (Harvard University, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute); Madhav Joshi and Dr. Priyamvada Chugh (India Health Fund); Dr. Soumya Swaminathan and Priyadarshini Rajamani (M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)); Dr. K. Srinath Reddy and Dr. Rajshankar Ghosh (Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)); Dr. Bhargav Krishna (Sustainable Futures Collaborative); Aaran Patel, Aarushi Shah, and Dr. Nitya Mohan Khemka (The Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation).

The hidden health crisis of heat

Extreme heat isn’t just uncomfortable, it’s deadly. Heat-related mortality among older adults increased by ~68% in the last two decades. Heat stress poses a significant public health risk, contributing to increased incidence of cardiovascular¹, renal² and respiratory conditions, mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression³, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and a rise in violence⁴. Yet, many of these heat-linked impacts, and in extreme cases, deaths slip under the radar, misdiagnosed as heart failure, and the true case numbers never surface. The number of people facing the adversity of extreme heat is growing exponentially. For those over 65 years,

[Read more](#)

Blogs

This quarter at IHF, we published two blogs

The Silent Surge – Climate Change & Fungal Threats

Dr. Pilar Junier, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland explores how rising temperatures are fuelling a new wave of fungal risks.



#NewBlog

The Silent Surge: How Climate Change is Fueling a Fungal Threat to Health

A blog by

Dr. Pilar Junier
Associate Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

[Read more](#)

Climate Change & the Rising Burden of Waterborne Diseases

Dr. Anupama D S, Associate Professor, NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance, NIMS University and Prof. Sanjay Pattanshetty, Director at NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance, Rajasthan, India unpack how shifting climate patterns are intensifying waterborne disease risks.



#NewBlog

Climate Change and the Rising Burden of Waterborne Diseases

Authors

Dr. Anupama D S
Associate Professor at NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance at NIMS University, Rajasthan, Jaipur, India

Prof. Dr Sanjay Pattanshetty
Director of NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance at NIMS University, Rajasthan, Jaipur, India

[Read more](#)

Stakeholder Engagement Initiatives

13th National Conference on Social Innovation organized by Pune International Centre where IHF was part of the Impact Investor’s Panel Discussion. Focusing on sustainable livelihoods, rural innovation, and social entrepreneurship, the session spotlighted a powerful shift taking place in India’s investment landscape.

IHF joined the **WRCB-IIT Bombay AMR Roundtable** hosted by the Wadhvani Research Centre for Bioengineering (WRCB) IIT Bombay to discuss India’s antimicrobial resistance AMR challenges and opportunities.

IHF was part of the **One Health Collaborative Roundtable** at the International Knowledge Millenium Conference (IKMC) 2025 in Hyderabad that emphasized the urgent need for interoperable data systems, government-led policy frameworks to enable innovation & ecosystem monitoring, and grassroots initiatives such as One Health villages and nutritional security.

IHF attended the **RDI Fund Outreach Event** organised by the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, a Special Purpose Fund, and Independent Business Unit under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

As we look ahead, we are deepening our focus on emerging priorities in climate and health, including heat stress, air pollution & lung health and climate-sensitive infectious diseases. We will continue to support innovation that addresses the unmet health-related needs of communities, build impactful partnerships, and advance solutions that strengthen public health across India.