



The Global Snakebite Taskforce

# A Solvable Crisis: The Global Investment Case to End Snakebite Deaths and Disabilities

A Four-Pillar Framework for Strategic Action by Governments, Funders, and Global Health Partners

## Why Snakebite Envenoming (SBE) Demands Investment Now

This is a solvable global health challenge – one where strategic investment yields disproportionate impact.

Snakebite envenoming remains one of the world’s most severe yet solvable global health crises. Despite highly variable reporting, we know that each year, millions are bitten; 400,000 individuals suffer permanent disability; and 138,000 die – mostly in low-income, agricultural communities across Africa, South America South Asia, and South-East Asia. The human, economic, and social burden is immense, yet it is also highly preventable.

Snakebite envenoming accounts for nearly half of the global burden of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), according to analysis of WHO, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). Far from a niche issue, it impacts more people than Rabies, Dengue, Ebola and Yellow Fever combined.

Despite this, investment in snakebite solutions has remained chronically low. Fragmented markets, outdated technologies, and under-resourced health systems perpetuate avoidable deaths and disability. The consequence is a persistent cycle of rural poverty, preventable suffering, and lost productivity.

At the same time, the pathway to impact is clearer than ever. Next generation biologics strengthened regulatory and manufacturing capacity, focused health-system interventions, and coordinated advocacy offer a powerful and achievable route to ending preventable SBE deaths and disabilities.

It is high time we rise to the challenge – and seize the opportunity to take a major leap forward in health equity.

**THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.  
STRIKE OUT SNAKEBITE.**

This short-series presents a coherent, four-pillar framework for strategic action – a practical roadmap for governments, multilateral development banks, philanthropies, venture investors, and global health partners seeking to deliver measurable impact at speed and scale.

## The Four Pillars of Impact



**PILLAR A**

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT:  
Reinventing Antivenom Through  
Next Generation Science**

Transforming antivenom discovery, development, and diagnostics by investing in venomics, recombinant antibodies, small molecule inhibitors, improvement of serum-based antivenoms, and Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)-centred R&D ecosystems.



**PILLAR B**

**ACCESS & REGULATION:  
From Lottery to Lifeline**

Ensuring consistent availability of safe, affordable, quality-assured antivenoms through effective regulation, predictable procurement, and sustainable regional manufacturing.



**PILLAR C**

**PUBLIC HEALTH:  
Closing the Care Gap**

Reducing deaths through improved surveillance, prevention, clinical training, referral systems, and supportive care aligned with national health-system strengthening agendas, underpinned by culturally appropriate community engagement.



**PILLAR D**

**ADVOCACY:  
Turning Neglect into Priority**

Building the political will, governance structures, financing coalitions, and partnerships needed to align action across all pillars and accelerate progress at national and regional levels.

## What Coordinated Investment Achieves

- **Fewer deaths and disabilities**, with measurable reductions across high-burden countries.
- **Reliable antivenom markets which include serum-based antivenom and next generation therapies**, replacing inconsistent supply with scalable, quality-assured products.
- **Stronger scientific and manufacturing capacity** in Low- and Middle-Income regions, advancing health sovereignty and preparedness.
- **Climate-resilient and science ready communities**, as human-snake conflict rises with land-use and environmental change.
- **Resilient health systems**, able to manage acute envenoming, deliver supportive care, and prevent long-term disability.
- **Political commitment and financing**, driven by unified advocacy, national action plans, and regional initiatives.

## How to Use This Series

These four briefs are designed to be:

- **Stand-alone** documents that provide investors and decision-makers with a complete pillar overview.
- **Concise**, visually driven, and accessible.
- **Evidence-based**, with clear impact pathways and realistic scenarios.
- **Action-oriented**, with specific roles for governments, agencies, regulators, industry, social enterprise, multilateral development banks, and philanthropic partners.
- **Aligned** with technical standards and global guidance from institutions such as the World Health Organization.

Each pillar can be read independently, but together they provide a **comprehensive, interlocking impact narrative**.

The series is the action-focused successor to the Global Snakebite Taskforce's prior reports: *A Time to Bite Back: Catalyzing a Global Response to Snakebite Envenoming and Antivenom, Advocacy and Action: Turning the Tide on Snakebite Neglected*. Launched at the World Health Assembly 2025 (WHA) in Geneva and United Nations General Assembly 2025 (UNGA), New York, respectively.

All materials are accessible at: [www.snakebitetaskforce.org](http://www.snakebitetaskforce.org)



## About the Global Snakebite Taskforce (GST)

The **Global Snakebite Taskforce** is an independent, multi-sectoral coalition advancing global action to prevent avoidable snakebite deaths and disability. The GST convenes researchers, clinicians, manufacturers, civil society, regional bodies, and international agencies to strengthen coordination, align investment, and support countries to implement effective solutions across R&D, access, public health systems, and advocacy. The GST is convened with the support of the Wellcome Trust, is co-chaired by Elhadj As Sy and the Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health Kenya and its secretariat is provided by Bright Red Thread.

For more information on the Global Snakebite Taskforce go to:  
[www.linkedin.com/company/strike-out-snakebite-sos/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/strike-out-snakebite-sos/)

