

2014 – KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH THAT LEADS TO IMPROVING HEALTH AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE

Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) elimination in the Indian Subcontinent is on track with the help of numerous projects conducted with the countries' researchers and control programmes. One study showed that disease incidence can be reduced by 65% through community-based bednet impregnation; another found that training of more than 1000 community workers (ASHAs) resulted in a 5-fold increase in identifying and referring cases. Liposomal amphotericin was adopted as a first-line treatment in Bangladesh due to the evidence of its efficiency from a TDR and WHO-supported study.

Research to improve dengue and Chagas disease prevention through environmental and community approaches has identified new methods. A special issue of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* and three video productions have helped transfer the results into policy and change.

Dengue detection and surveillance in 10 countries has been improved due to several projects. This includes dengue contingency plans and alarm signals for dengue outbreaks.

Evidence for policy has been generated from 6 systematic reviews on schistosomiasis treatment, malaria treatment and diagnostics, plus an additional review of how the strength of a recommendation in WHO guidelines (GRADE) affects the uptake of the recommendation in national guidelines.

Moxidectin for onchocerciasis elimination: Modeling from the data from the Phase 2 study data resulted in moxidectin being included in the list of 'alternative treatment strategies' to accelerate elimination of onchocerciasis in Africa where feasible. Data available to WHO has been licensed to an Australian not-for-profit organisation (Medicines Development Limited, MDL) which intends to register moxidectin for onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis and scabies.

Childhood fever management in remote settings is being improved due to research and advocacy. A major symposium on Integrated Community Case Management (iCCM), organized by UNICEF, brought researchers and policy-makers together. The studies were also reviewed and summarized in a special issue of the *Journal Global Health* on "Current scientific evidence and future directions for Integrated Community Case Management in Africa".

A guidance framework was published for testing genetically-modified mosquitoes for malaria and dengue control. Commissioned by TDR and the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), the published framework proposes ethical, legal and efficacy standards for safety testing comparable to trials of other new public health tools.



Children in a small Nepal village where research was conducted on detecting and treating visceral leishmaniasis. WHO/TDR

A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING RESEARCH CAPACITY WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST



Expanded training for researchers in low- and middle-income countries

- 22 postgraduate training grants (9 MSc and 13 PhD)
- 9 postdoctoral training grants
- 26 grants through the second round of the IMPACT grant scheme with a specific focus on strengthening capacity in implementation research (IR).

The Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT-IT) is growing

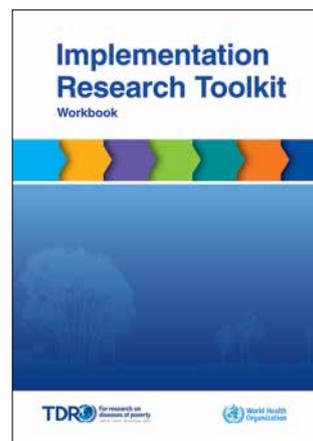
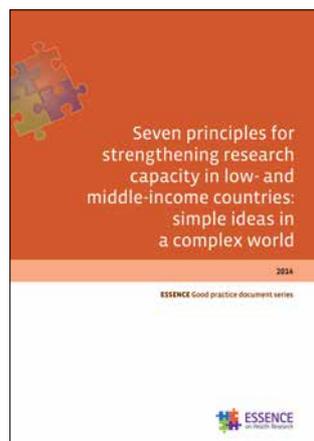
Public health programmes in low- and middle-income countries, working with WHO, identify their challenges or bottlenecks on specific issues and identify staff to be trained to use their country's own data to conduct research that can lead to local health system improvements. Participants have worked on topics such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, maternal and child health, HIV and non-communicable diseases. Thirteen courses were held in 2014 in Central Asia and Latin America.

An increasing TDR regional presence

The small grants scheme has been renewed in collaboration with WHO regional offices, and the number of Regional Training Centres (RTCs) supported by TDR to conduct and disseminate training courses relevant to the TDR strategy is growing. The fifth RTC (for the African Region) was selected in Accra, Ghana in 2014, and preparations were made for the selection of the sixth RTC (for the Eastern Mediterranean Region) in 2015.



IR Training Workshop, Dhaka, Bangladesh. WHO/TDR



New training materials and approaches

To help equip researchers to undertake implementation research, including the publication of the Implementation Research toolkit.

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