

CURRENT WORK

Join our efforts to improve the lives of millions and reduce the impact of infectious diseases

Building national research capacity

No research without capacity building, no capacity building without research. This is the TDR approach. Customized mentorship and networks, workshops, PhD and Master's degrees, fellowships in product development, a growing number of regional training centres, plus research support are some of the elements in place to strengthen capacity throughout low- and middle-income countries. TDR is also working to increase the numbers of women who stay in health research.

Eliminating malaria, visceral leishmaniasis and onchocerciasis

Elimination is now in view for these three diseases. A range of research on diagnosis, new drug treatments and their implementation are providing critical support to finishing this important goal in Bangladesh, India and Nepal for visceral leishmaniasis. Countries are benefitting from improved surveillance and tools to kill the malaria mosquitoes, as well as the development of an alternative drug for onchocerciasis.

Reducing the numbers of children who die

Fever is one of the most frequent symptoms of childhood disease. But what causes it and how best can it be treated? TDR is working with the World Health Organization and UNICEF to build a body of knowledge on how trained community volunteers in remote, low-resource settings can properly diagnose and treat fever-related illnesses like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria.

Helping vulnerable populations survive climate change

Tropical countries are more vulnerable to climate change that affects water supplies, the diversity of plants and wildlife, and the number of parasites that attack both people and valuable cattle. This new area of work is looking at how to help communities become more resilient and develop solutions to deal with the changes that are happening.



Masaai community setting in Tanzania. WHO/TDR



Baby in Tanzania with severe malaria. WHO/TDR

Joining the fight on Ebola and other emerging diseases

The West African outbreak has required a worldwide response. TDR is contributing in numerous ways – ethical review of new treatments and vaccines, the identification and testing of potential drug treatments, support to contact tracing, surveillance and raising awareness on the issues facing Ebola survivors.

Improving dengue detection and surveillance

Work to improve alarm signals for outbreaks and developing cost-effective responses is bringing together WHO, national governments and many other partners to work in countries fighting this growing epidemic.

Strengthening community approaches to manage multiple diseases

Many people in tropical countries live in remote areas far from health centres. TDR provided early evidence on how community health workers can diagnose and treat diseases and continues to build on this area of research.

Slowing the transmission of dengue and Chagas disease

Research is showing how when communities work together to learn how to reduce dengue mosquito breeding, and keep their homes free from the Chagas bugs, transmission can go down, communities are strengthened and the environment can be improved.

Protecting people's safety

A pregnancy drugs safety database to look out for the safety of mothers and their unborn children is being developed. Training is underway on safety monitoring systems on pharmaceutical products. A framework that provides the highest level of science for addressing the ethical, legal, social and regulatory issues on genetically modified mosquitoes provides guidance for numerous countries and their citizens.

Strengthening health policies with research evidence

A range of systematic reviews of research on malaria, schistosomiasis and dengue are providing countries with the analysis they need to make critical health policy decisions and revisions.



TDR senior research manager Piero Olliaro with one of the Ebola clinical trial teams at a Médecins Sans Frontières clinic. WHO/TDR



In Colombia, initial research that showed that community members could develop environmental approaches to reducing dengue transmission is now going into national scale-up. Here women sew window screens and men install the frames. WHO/TDR

TDR thanks our contributors – our co-sponsors, governments, foundations, and other agencies who fund and support this important work.

Find out more: www.who.int/tdr