WHAT IS TDR?

Established in 1975 and hosted by the World Health Organization.

Catalyst, facilitator and advisor in the global health research debate.
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TDR?

OUR VISION
The power of research and innovation will improve the health and well-being of those burdened by infectious diseases of poverty.

OUR MISSION
To foster an effective global research effort on infectious diseases of poverty and promote the translation of innovation to health impact in disease endemic countries.
WHAT WE’VE DONE

More than 10,000 research projects

More than US$ 1 billion invested

TRAINED

Thousands of researchers in developing countries and played a pivotal role in the growth of several significant research institutions in Africa, Asia and South America.

PIONEERED

The role of communities and community health workers in delivering health interventions – now a critical system in many low-income countries.

PARTNERED WITH COUNTRIES

On five major elimination campaigns for neglected diseases—leprosy, onchocerciasis (river blindness), Chagas disease and lymphatic filariasis globally, and visceral leishmaniasis on the Indian subcontinent.

CO-DEVELOPED

12 new drugs for tropical parasitic diseases like malaria, leprosy, leishmaniasis and sleeping sickness – more than half of the new drugs developed globally for these diseases since 1975.

PROVIDED EVIDENCE

On a range of care strategies, new medications and diagnostics. For example, TDR helped establish the effectiveness of artemesinin-combination therapies and insecticide-treated bednets to control malaria, and community-led approaches to ivermectin distribution for river blindness.
MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF RESEARCH MAKING AN IMPACT

MEDICINES, DIAGNOSTICS AND VECTOR CONTROL

- Multi-drug therapy for leprosy
- Mefloquin and Mefloquine plus sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine for malaria
- Ivermectin for onchocerciasis
- Leishmaniasis direct agglutination diagnostic test
- Insecticide-impregnated tsetse fly traps for sleeping sickness

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

- Community-led approach to onchocerciasis annual mass treatment
- Home management of malaria by community healthcare workers
- New social research methodologies

ACCESS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

- Guidelines for considerations of gender and ethics in social science
- Integrated approach to diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia management at the community level
- New tools and approaches to improve implementation of needed treatments and diagnostics
FROM THE ONLY ONE TO ONE OF MANY

[Image of various logos and organizations]
TDR REPOSITIONING IN HEALTH RESEARCH

- **Knowledge Management**
  - Discovery/Development
  - Evidence for What Works
  - Integration into Health Service

- **Capacity Building**
  - Research-driven
  - Systems-driven
TDR REPOSITIONING IN HEALTH RESEARCH
HEALTH WAS PROMINENT IN THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)
HEALTH APPEARS TO BE LESS PROMINENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SEES HEALTH IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE SDGs
THE NTD MAP IS CHANGING

MOVING FROM “TROPICAL DISEASES” IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES TO
THE NTD MAP IS CHANGING

TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG POOR POPULATIONS (THESE ARE OFTEN WITHIN MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES)
HOW WE IMPROVE HEALTH

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH SUPPORT

RESEARCH CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

DESIGN AND EFFICIENTLY IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THOSE BURDENED BY INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY
RESEARCH SUPPORT

about 100 PROJECTS in more than 50 COUNTRIES

VECTORS, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY RESEARCH

INTERVENTION AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH
BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN DRYLAND SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGES AND HEALTH BY:

- Identifying the most vulnerable to social, environmental and climate change
- Developing tools and strategies for adaptation to climate change in Africa.

THE WORK - 5 PROJECTS, 4 DISEASES AND 4 SUB SAHARAN COUNTRIES:

- Systematic review: Adaptation and risk management strategies for climate change effects on VBDs
- Developing tools and strategies for adaptation to climate change in Africa.
- Building research capacity, facilitated by WHO country and headquarters partners
- Sharing knowledge: VBD-environment.org website for online forum and data consultation
ELIMINATING VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS

COMMITMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF BANGLADESH, INDIA AND NEPAL TO ELIMINATE VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS

A MULTI-PRONGED APPROACHED WITH PARTNERS THAT IDENTIFIES SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE ELIMINATION

- **CASE MANAGEMENT:**
  - New ways to reach into communities to find and manage potential VL cases

- **PREVENTING INFECTIONS:**
  - Identifying local solutions for controlling the sandflies

- **THERAPY:**
  - Finding simpler, effective and safe treatments

**IMPACT**
Nepal has met the target.
Only a few areas remain above the target in Bangladesh.
IMPROVING TB CONTROL THROUGH A REGIONAL APPROACH

THE WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL NETWORK FOR TB (WARN-TB)

- Supports the development of national TB research agendas
- Strengthens research capacities of national TB programme officers
- Improves implementation and operation of multi-country and regional programmes

16 NATIONAL TB PROGRAMMES OF THE WEST AFRICAN REGION PLUS NGOs, UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, ARABIC
HELPING COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR AND MANAGE DENGUE OUTBREAKS

1. INDICATORS FOR TRIGGERING RESPONSE?
2. ALARM SIGNALS FOR DENGUE OUTBREAKS?
3. PASSIVE AND ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE: WHAT IS AFFORDABLE?
4. EPIDEMIC RESPONSE: A STRUCTURED APPROACH
ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR HEALTH

SOCIAL INNOVATION:
- Engages communities in grassroots actions to develop solutions
- Creates businesses that provide social benefits, like setting up primary health posts in rural areas in Rwanda run by nurses, or teaching teachers in Malawi how to recognize symptoms of malaria in their students

24 CASE STUDIES IN 19 COUNTRIES
STARTING WITH LESSONS LEARNT

The Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) is a collaboration with the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Cape Town, the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford University, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

“A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SIHI RESEARCH IS TO FIND OUT HOW TO MAKE INNOVATIONS MORE PRODUCTIVE AND HOW TO LINK INNOVATION AND SCALING EXPLICITLY.”

Christian Seelos, Stanford University
STRENGTHENING RESEARCH CAPACITY

3

GENERATIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS

many directing disease control and research efforts
SUPPORTING 6 REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

- Coordinating training courses across multiple countries
- Forming a network that includes satellite centres
- Fostering learning and collaboration within their respective regions and also among each other
- Developing a massive open online course (MOOC) on implementation research and a basic course on the principles of this type of research
SEVEN UNIVERSITIES PARTICIPATING IN TDR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME

- **Increasing the numbers of scientists** in low- and middle-income countries trained in implementation research and supporting the development of this field of study.

- **Increasing the capacity of universities** in these countries to provide this curriculum, manage training grant schemes and mentor students.

- **Expanding the reach** of this type of education and training in a systematic process.
Structured Operational Research & Training Initiative

In Partnership with:

Supporting Countries To:
- Conduct operational research using their own health data to improve delivery and outcomes
- 421 participants from 82 countries

Hands-on Training for National Control Programmes and Clinicians:
- Three 1-week training modules over one year
- Ongoing mentorship by operational research experts
- Work is published in peer reviewed journals
- Recommendations taken up by national authorities
PROMOTING WOMEN IN SCIENCE

TDR ASKED WOMEN SCIENTISTS HOW THEY WOULD SOLVE CAREER BARRIERS:

- 9 pilots funded in Africa
- A range of mentorship and training across the continent
- New awareness built and supports created in research and health organizations

ONE STORY

Dr Aster Tsegaye, Associate professor of immunology in the college of health science, Addis Ababa University

- After pilot, appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology to serve as chair of the Ethiopian Society of Women in Science and Technology
- Her research proposal workshop for women in her country resulted in a competitive grant of US$ 220,000
- Special application process established in ministry to allow early-career women scientists to submit proposals for grant funding.
- Several other proposals now under development.
BEING A UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION GIVES US A UNIQUE PLATFORM TO ENGAGE GLOBALLY, AND ACT LOCALLY

- Build platforms for sharing data (safety of drugs used during pregnancy, clinical trial data)
- Guide organizations in setting up global systems, like an R&D fund
- Create an international database of people and resources that can be used for networking and building collaborations
- Provide a forum for research prioritisation and facilitate agreement on harmonised research methodologies
INITIATING DATA SHARING

Strengthen evidence-base
- Recommendations/guidelines lead to better health
- Designs future research

Overcome limitations of aggregated-data meta-analysis
- Develops, tests and applies standardised analysis
- Provides 'trustworthy' environment where data can be confidently shared

Support WHO policy and donors' and publishers' conditions
- Brings stakeholders together
- Strengthens data management capacity
IN ONE PLACE, RESEARCHERS AT ALL LEVELS WORKING ON DISEASES OF POVERTY

- Launching in November
- A public database of people from around the globe who have received TDR grants or other funding, been experts on our committees or involved in partnerships
- Tracking the impact of support, mapping expertise, enhancing collaborations
MANY CHANGES IN THE WORLD SINCE TDRS BEGINNING MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, BUT THE CORE VALUES REMAIN STRONGER AND MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER

- A focus on improving the health of the most neglected people through research
- A commitment to working side by side with those living in diseases affected areas to build sustainable capacity
- Ensuring high quality evidence is used to identify barriers and produce solutions for better health