The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) is a global programme of scientific collaboration established in 1975. Its focus is research into neglected diseases of the poor, with the goal of improving existing approaches and developing new ways to prevent, diagnose, treat and control these diseases. TDR is sponsored by the following organizations:

- World Bank
- European Union

The full report and more details, resources, and visual aids are available online at: www.who.int/tdr/stewardship/global_report
10 reasons to do research on infectious diseases of poverty: research solutions for Global Health

Research issues and solutions

Real life challenges

Poverty drives infectious disease and affects health outcomes and the outcome of disease control interventions. Disease control programmes often only reach the last mile, where infectious diseases are most prevalent among the poor. These interventions may be costly due to the high burden of infectious diseases, and they do not always have impact and thus may be ineffective. The delivery of disease control interventions is often limited by insufficient funding, poor data, and infrastructure requirements.

Research on infectious diseases of poverty aims to provide solutions to these challenges. It seeks to understand the causal pathways of poor health outcomes, including infectious diseases, and to develop strategies to mitigate these effects. Research on infectious diseases of poverty is critical for global health and economic development, as it can help to reduce health disparities and improve economic productivity.

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Real life challenges

Strategies for infectious disease control that target the social determinants of health.

- Strategies to reduce the adverse impact of economic globalization on infectious diseases.
- Potential and actual impact of climate change and changing infectious disease susceptibility and behavior.
- Interactions between conflict and infectious diseases and how they affect the epidemiology of infectious diseases.
- Changes in the pattern and severity of infectious diseases induced by the transition to agricultural practices and industrialization.
- Role of the environment in relation to disease control programs.
- Approaches to reducing transmission and preventing re-emergence of infectious diseases of poverty.
- Ways to maintain the surveillance of chronic and persistent life-threatening diseases and control infectious diseases.
- Development of comprehensive health surveillance systems that are able to maintain control of emergent and re-emergent diseases.
- Framework to ensure that strategies to reach the hardest-to-reach are effective.
- Ways to incorporate infectious disease control campaigns into broader public health strategies to reflect evidence-based practice.
- Ways to incorporate emerging therapeutic approaches and new delivery mechanisms into evidence-based practice.
- Community-based research to help tailor health messages to specific populations and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the urban poor.
- Development of research frameworks to ensure that evidence is shared between Global Health Initiatives (GHI) and non-GHI-targeted health systems.
- Framework to ensure that tools and strategies are relevant and appropriate for the local context.
- Community dynamics to support the delivery of health information systems and disease control information systems.
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