

My success story with TDR started when my first application as a Principal Investigator (PI) for a schistosomiasis-related project was approved for funding soon after receiving my PhD in 2014. As the first grant received, this was an outstanding turning point in my early career as a researcher from Yemen, one of the least-developed countries. Since then, I received RDT funding for implementation research on malaria, onchocerciasis and dengue as diseases of top priority to the health of marginalized and underserved communities in my country. I published my findings in peer-reviewed, ISI-indexed journals with open accessibility. My hope is to realize that the impact of such project findings be translated into strategies and policies for the control and elimination of infectious diseases of poverty by the relevant programmes in my country. Therefore, I am always eager to share my findings with those engaged in prevention and control of such diseases. TDR-supported activities contributed to promoting my capacities in areas related to research design, methodology appraisal, statistical analysis, project management, monitoring and evaluation, preparation of technical and financial reports and publication of manuscripts in international journals. On the other hand, I am always keen to employ the gained knowledge and skills to the benefit of my team as well as my undergraduate and postgraduate students. A major stride was achieved in 2017 after being selected as a PI for drafting a TDR-funded commissioned review on the consequences of people displacement on vector-borne disease (VBD) transmission in collaboration with co-investigators from developing and developed countries, pushing me from local to global engagement in health issues. This collaboration yielded my first participation in a TDR-organized workshop entitled *“Developing Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Prevent and Control VBDs”* held in Geneva in July 2017. Later, I was invited as a speaker in Geneva Health Forum to present the outcome of this review in the session of

*“Global Health Security – Towards Multi-Sectoral Collaborations to Confront the Increasing Threat of VBDs”* organized by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in April 2018. Such participation helped to better satisfy my ambition as an early-career researcher from a war-torn country overwhelmed with infectious diseases of poverty to be involved in global activities. It also helped to foster my academic insights and professional expertise in global health through effective communications with international experts from different disciplines of infectious diseases. Publishing the outstanding findings of TDR-funded projects made a great difference to my academic career by helping me get promoted to the rank of an associate professor in my department at Sana'a University. Moreover, it is no exaggeration to say that the experience I gained through TDR support was key to my nomination as a member of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD) in 2019 and re-appointment in 2020. Apart from improving my professional life, TDR support has been indispensable for strengthening my capacities in the development and implementation of research projects for alleviating the suffering of people in my country.