TDR JOINT COORDINATING BOARD 44th Session Provisional agenda item 5.

TDR/JCB44/21.8 14 May 2021

TDR risk management report 2020

Agenda item: 5.

Action / Information: JCB is invited to review and endorse the report

Purpose: This document presents an updated management

report for risk. It outlines how risk management is

developed and followed up at the programme

level.

Introduction

In 2012 TDR institutionalized the process of risk management across the Programme. Since then risks have been mitigated, plans have been monitored several times a year and a progress report is presented to TDR's governing bodies annually. New risks are identified and reviewed as necessary. In 2014 the World Health Organization (WHO) introduced risk management across the Organization. TDR's risk management activities have therefore also been embedded and reported in the Organization's system and TDR is part of WHO's risk registry, where risks and actions are constantly monitored. TDR's risk management system was audited by WHO external auditors in 2018, and their improvement recommendations have been implemented.

TDR risk management brings together the culture, processes and tools required to effectively identify and manage potential adverse situations, as well as opportunities, in order to strengthen the Programme's efficiency and competitive position.

Embedding effective risk management as a programme-wide system enables TDR to systematically identify, prioritize, analyse and treat significant risks related to its corporate work. This will help to:

- anticipate future events: enhance planning to reduce unwanted surprises, turning risks into opportunities;
- facilitate prioritization and inform decision-making, ensuring proper attention is given to highrisk / vulnerable areas; and
- identify cost-efficient value-adding measures to address the root cause of significant risks, thus reducing failures, delays and budget overruns.

Risk management is implemented at programme, project and grant levels. Some elements have been key in introducing risk management practices in TDR. These include: (i) development of a culture of risk management across the Programme; (ii) training of staff in risk management; and (iii) implementation of all risk management steps, ensuring a continuous process that is sustained.

Progress overview

At the beginning of 2020, there were nine active TDR significant risks. Risks are monitored as part of the internal TDR progress review process, in alignment with the TDR Performance Assessment Framework. Discussions occur within relevant teams, scientific working groups, at management and staff meetings, as well as with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the Standing Committee and the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB). In March 2020, STAC recommended adding a new risk (Risk 19) related to global health emergency events and, as a result, a mitigation plan was developed, approved by the JCB in June 2020, and is currently being implemented.

In 2020, important progress was made on Risk 8 mitigation, which allows for the risk's closure. Together with WHO Information Management and Technology Department, the vendor selected through a competitive bidding process, and an IT consultant, we have developed and implemented eTDR, a novel information system for portfolio and project management which, at the same time, is an online solution for calls for proposals and grant management. eTDR provides traceability of all TDR projects across their lifetime, ensures transparency on where the funds are being spent, and

significantly improves efficiency in TDR's planning, monitoring and reporting by centralizing all of these into a single tool.

Progress on risk mitigation has been reported as follows:

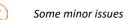
Nine significant risks were closed between 2013 and 2020 (see Annex 1).

Ten significant risks are actively being mitigated, of which we propose Risk 8 to be closed:

Risk 1	Portfolio alignment with strategy and proposed direction	\bigcirc
Risk 2	Income level	\bigcirc
Risk 8	Information and project management systems	\odot
Risk 9	Communication of TDR's unique value and contribution	\odot
Risk 10	Research results translation to policy and practice	\odot
Risk 12	Impact of WHO transformation on WHO Special Programmes	\bigcirc
Risk 16	Impact of WHO staff mobility policy on TDR operations	
Risk 17	TDR 2018–2023 strategy implementation	\odot
Risk 18	TDR's visibility within collaborations and partnerships	\odot
Risk 19	Anticipating global health emergency events	\bigcirc











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Progress on risk mitigation and related actions

Table 1 below lists all key actions identified to mitigate TDR's significant risks, including an update on their status. In addition, it includes a risk trend (stable, increased or decreased) to signal the direction the risk level moved compared to the previous report.

Table 1: Progress status on TDR significant risks mitigation

Risk title	and re	lated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend	
Risk 1	risk t	R's portfolio is not kept aligned with its strategy, there is a hat TDR will not be able to meet its commitments, ting in a loss of credibility with stakeholders.	\odot	Decreased	
	Strategy passed through JCB and launched as scheduled. The structure was approved by JCB and discussed with staff and WHO Human Resources Department; TDR structure was completed in 2019, together with the rollout of WHO's new structure. Portfolio alignment is being monitored by SWGs and STAC. 2020–2021 TDR Programme Budget and Workplan was developed and it was approved by JCB in 2019.				
	1.1	wner: John Reeder Launch TDR 2012–2017 strategy.	Completed		
	1.2	Implement TDR reorganization.	Completed		
	1.3	Develop TDR budget and workplans for 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 with clear prioritization.	Completed		
	1.4	Operationalize the strategy (implementation and monitoring of the TDR workplan, financial recovery plan, R&D transition plan, management plan and risk management plans).	On track		
	1.5	Organize regular review of progress of TDR activities looking at technical and financial aspects (portfolio reviews, fortnightly unit heads' meetings, monthly staff meetings).	On track		
	1.6	Develop a ONE TDR culture (retreats, working groups, staff meetings, staff development, etc.).	On track		
	1.7	Launch 2018–2023 strategy	Completed		
	1.8	Align TDR's structure with 2018–2023 strategy	Completed		
	1.9	Develop and get STAC & JCB endorsement on the 2018–2019 Programme Budget and Workplan	Completed		
	1.10	Develop and get STAC & JCB endorsement of the 2020–2021 Programme Budget and Workplan	Completed		









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Risk title	and re	elated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend		
Risk 2	polic or ad level	nor contributions decrease as a result of changes in donor ies / priorities, or WHO changing their fundraising model, liverse exchange rates, there is a risk that TDR's income is not sustained, resulting in an inability to deliver on ned activities.	\odot	Increased		
	their conse 2021 2022 that v risk n large fallou furth from	risk increased in late April 2021, following a decision by a major T core contribution for the Fiscal Year 2021–2022, due to budget of ervative forecasting and strong financial management in TDR, the workplan implementation. The risk of continuing cuts by this ma –2023 biennium led to the development of a contingency plan (a will be implemented if other sources of funds are not identified by may come from possible negative exchange rates due to Brexit (U st contributor to TDR), from possible currency devaluation (Euro, at of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have held discussions with pote ter increasing our fundraising efforts. The fact that half of TDR's u only two major donors compounds the risk in case of losing one powner: Garry Aslanyan	uts. As a result re will be no im jor contributor dditional action y January 2022 K FCDO being the US dollar) and ential donors ar ndesignated bu	of npact on . in the nitem 2.9) . Additional ne second from the nd are		
	2.1	Contact new donors in order to broaden the donor base and have more donors become major contributors.	On track			
	2.2	Make particular efforts to retain contribution levels of TDR's main donors (including regular visits to key donors).	On track			
	2.3	Improve communication and reporting on outcomes and deliverables, demonstrate value for money, relevance and ability to perform.	On track			
	2.4	Develop and implement sustainable fundraising strategy and practices.	Completed			
	2.5	Establish and/or strengthen connections with fundraising networks.	On track			
	2.6	Monitor closely income forecast (considering exchange rate, BREXIT, other uncertainties).	On track			
	2.7 Develop contingency plans for 2018–2019 budget and workplan and gather increased support from undesignated funds donors		Completed			
	2.8 Use conservative estimates when forecasting income for 2020–2021 and 2022–2023 On track					
	2.9					











Risk title	and re	elated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend	
Risk 8	proje informon	ere is no improvement in WHO's IT systems in terms of ect management, there is a risk of poor control of TDR rmation, resulting in delays, poor analysis and impacting litoring and reporting of TDR activities POSED FOR CLOSURE	\odot	Eliminated	
	System requirements for eTDR, the new project and grant management system, were developed in consultation with TDR staff and WHO's IT department. A call for interest was launched and six firms responded with applications. The selection and negotiation took place in 2019. Contracting was postponed to early 2020, in answer to a formal WHO IMT request. In the meantime, temporary solutions are being used. The cost of eTDR may end up being significantly higher than previously estimated by WHO, which will require narrowing its scope and a phased approach to functional requirements deployment.				
	8.1	Build a solid case to request permission from WHO management to link CONNECT to the next version of WHO management system in 2013.	Completed		
	8.2	Go, no go decision from WHO to move forward.	Completed		
	8.3	Identify alternative options to TIMS and CONNECT in order to manage TDR information and grants management system.	Completed		
	8.4	TDR developing a new IT system for portfolio and project management, to address the requirements that are not met by WHO systems (eTDR)	Completed		
Risk 9	uniq that	PR is not able to clearly articulate and communicate its ue value and contribution to global health there is a risk it becomes less attractive to funders and partners, and as a lt will not be able to provide a meaningful contribution.	<u>:</u>	Stable	
	TDR's	munication plan is being implemented. Annual reports are being parts and to some plan is being within a year. TDR Global was developed to an resources supported by TDR in countries over the year and to sowner: Makiko Kitamura	capitalize on th	ne wealth of	
	9.1	Update communications policies and ensure that all staff are aware of them and have access to them.	Completed		
	9.2	Identify M&E framework elements and tangible outputs and outcomes for annual/biennial report.	Completed		
	9.3	Investigate the impact of expanded news stories and videos to increase time on website.	Completed		
	9.4	Identify a vendor to work with to develop a baseline TDR perception audit and the process for ongoing monitoring of this.	Completed		







Fully mitigated and closed out

Risk title	and re	lated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
	9.5	Analyse the findings from the TDR stakeholder survey.	Completed	
	9.6	Develop an updated TDR communications plan based on the stakeholder survey and analysis.	Completed	
	9.7	Analyse the necessary tasks needed coming out of the TDR stakeholder survey and assign responsibility across TDR.	Completed	
	9.8	Initiate a new round of communication training to staff following reorganization.	Completed	
	9.9	Implement the TDR communications plan.	Completed	
	9.10	Develop the TDR Global to track grantees careers, map expertise and foster collaborations.	Completed	
	9.11	Monitor communication effectiveness and implement novel measures to improve reach-out and impact.	On track	
Risk 10	policy know and to and p	R is not able to engage communities, researchers and y-makers into innovative approaches in research and yledge management, there is risk of a lack of appropriate imely translation of research evidence to inform policy practice, resulting in reduced health impact and loss of bility.		Stable
	this w	mentation of the 2018–2019 workplan is taking into consideration in the continued into 2020–2021. TDR new structure includes a Runner: John Reeder	•	•
	10.1	Ensure that all TDR projects have a strategy to enhance uptake of research outputs.	Completed	
	10.2	Identify further activities to enhance research translation.	On track	
	10.3	Creation of a Research Policy Manager position in TDR's new structure.	Completed	







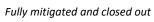
Some minor issues

Risk title	and re	lated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
Risk 12	of W	HO transformation leads to a change in the funding model HO or affects TDR's independence, this may put pressure phors to shift their contributions from TDR to WHO, which negatively impact TDR's finances.	\odot	Stable
	progra oppoi The ex- resou alone budge specia create as we	the new WHO transformation initiative, there is a risk that TDR, I ammes and partnerships, may suffer from a change in WHO's furtunities for us to work more closely with other programmes on jexternal audit of TDR in 2018 resulted in a recommendation to tall recembilization to oversee our interest in funding our operation to redesign the fundraising process. WHO has placed TDR along et line dedicated to special programmes, outside WHO's base but status. Director TDR was also appointed, with JCB agreement, and Research for Health department in the Science Division. A clear last a higher profile for TDR, in discussing research agendas are convened.	nding model. The oint thematic part of the lead on The second sec	nis presents platforms. TDR on CRM pecial pledge our ne newly
	_	Discuss on a regular basis with the Assistant Director-General Office, WHO management and TDR Standing Committee.	Completed	
	12.2	Liaise with other Special Programmes and partnerships as relevant.	Completed	
	12.3	Develop a back-up plan for possible financial implications of the change in the calculation of administrative charges.	Completed	
	12.4	Develop a back-up plan for potential impact on TDR income following WHO possibly changing its funding model.	Cancelled	
	12.5	Address the recommendation of the external auditors and keep sending a representative to the CRM meetings until mechanisms are established to gradually harmonize and integrate the resource mobilization activities of TDR in the redesigned corporate resource mobilization process.	Completed	
	12.6	The appointment of Director TDR as Director of Research for Health department will have no impact on TDR's budget and workplan, as the two roles and their funding are kept separate.	On track	
	12.7	Any potential conflicts of interest due to the Director's dual role are resolved as they arise.	On track	
	12.8	The arrangement is evaluated at JCB's 43 rd meeting in June 2020.	Completed	









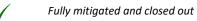


Risk title	and related mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend			
Risk 16	If WHO applies its staff mobility policy indiscriminately to TDR, there is a risk that unique skills and expertise will be lost and replaced with generic qualifications, which will negatively impact on TDR's operations.		Increased			
	All mitigating activities are on track (activities under TDR control). However, these have not yet influenced the risk (outcome not under TDR control). As implementation time is getting closer, the risk status is considered under 'major issues'. The policy was expected to be implemented starting in 2020. Risk owner: Beatrice Halpaap					
	16.1 Liaise with WHO management, follow the development of this policy and, if appropriate, develop scenarios and their implications.	On hold				
Risk 17	If TDR's strategy for 2018–2023 does not leverage on existing TDR successes and the added value of the Programme, there is a risk that the strategy does not appear relevant to the stakeholders and does not serve TDR's mission.	<u>:</u>	Decreased			
	TDR gave careful consideration when reviewing recommendations and stakeholders in creating the 2018–2023 Strategy. Risk owner: John Reeder	d wide consulta	tion with			
	17.1 Effectively learn and benefit from TDR's 6 th External Review.	Completed				
	17.2 Effectively consult with stakeholders when developing the next six year strategy 2018–2023.	Completed				
	17.3 Monitor the operationalization of the strategy	On track				
Risk 18	If TDR lacks visibility within collaborations and partnerships, there is a risk that its strategic interests are not addressed, which may lead to poor implementation of joint projects and poor visibility of TDR's contribution.	\odot	Decreased			
	The partnership criteria have now been clearly included in TDR's strategy. Fulfilment of these criteria has been included in each expected result's strategic plan and is being monitored and reported. This is being used for existing collaborations and partnerships as well as for new opportunities. Work is under way to harmonize the way this is addressed across all work areas. Risk owner: Garry Aslanyan					
	18.1 Effective implementation of TDR partnership criteria with all new and existing collaborations and partnerships.	Completed				
	18.2 Ensure agreed upon plans are developed with partners of all collaborations and partnerships.	On track				









Risk title	and re	lated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
Risk 19	activi be fu	bal health emergencies occur, there is a risk that TDR ties cannot be implemented as planned, and funds cannot ndraised adequately, resulting in poor Programme funding performance.	\odot	Stable
	Global health emergencies were identified as a risk to implementation, affecting not only implementation directly, but also potentially TDR's ability to fundraise successfully during suevents.			
	Risk o	wners: Garry Aslanyan and Beatrice Halpaap		
	19.1	When travel is heavily affected, shift to online meetings for activity coordination and governance meetings when possible.	On track	
	19.2	Accelerate and expand the role of distance learning for TDR training courses.	On track	
	19.3	Adjust activity plans accordingly and communicate early to key stakeholders any impact the event may potentially have on timely delivery of results.	On track	
	19.4	Remain in contact with the Programme's donors through available communications to get an early understanding of the potential impact on TDR funding.	On track	





Annex 1 – Fully closed out risks

Six significant risks identified have been fully addressed and closed out (2013–2016):

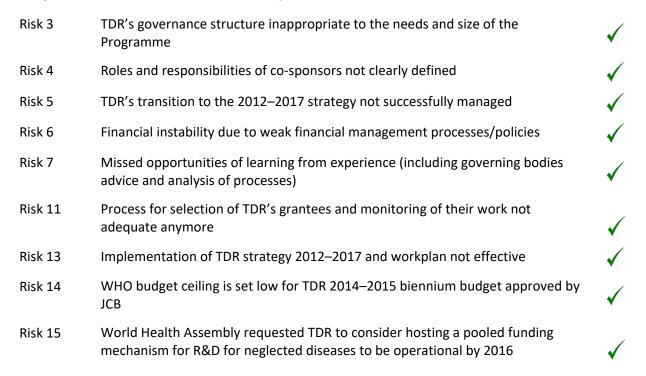


Table 2: Risks fully closed out

Risk title	Risk title and related mitigation actions			Risk trend
Risk 3		's governance structure inappropriate to the needs and of the Programme	✓	Not applicable
	3.1	Implement JCB decisions on TDR governance.	Completed	
	3.2	Amend the MOU, following recommendations of JCB.	Completed	
	3.3	Endorsement of the revised MOU by the TDR Co-sponsors.	Completed	
	3.4	Notify the changes to the WHO Regional Offices and the STAC.	Completed	
	3.5	Develop standard operating procedures for TDR Standing Committee and STAC.	Completed	
	3.6	Review process for the management of the governing bodies and simplify then when possible.	Completed	





Risk title	and re	elated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
Risk 4	Role	s and responsibilities of co-sponsors not clearly defined	√	Not applicable
	4.1	Strengthen TDR's bilateral relations with all of its co-sponsors and further explore operational collaboration.	Completed	
	4.2	Meet and share 2012–2017 strategy with co-sponsors.	Completed	
Risk 5		's transition to the 2012–2017 strategy not successfully aged	✓	Not applicable
	5.1	Effectively implement financial recovery plan.	Completed	
	5.2	Develop and implement the transition plan for existing pharmaceutical product R&D projects.	Completed	
	5.3	Support unmatched staff and carefully manage changes at TDR.	Completed	
Risk 6		ncial instability due to weak financial management esses/policies	✓	Not applicable
	6.1	Optimize the use of WHO's Global Management System (GSM) for TDR financial management.	Completed	
	6.2	Establish realistic and results based budgeting processes and systems with clear prioritization criteria and processes.	Completed	
	6.3	Develop and implement systematic financial monitoring processes and systems (at programme, team and project levels).	Completed	
	6.4	Manage new designated funds in separate awards.	Completed	
	6.5	Develop a new policy for management of designated funds.	Completed	
	6.6	Develop a costing model and policy.	Completed	
	6.7	Develop TDR workplans 2014–2015 and 2016–2017 based on detailed planning of activities, resources and timelines.	Completed	
	6.8	Establish a system to continue maintaining and improving as relevant financial management processes and systems.	Completed	
	6.9	Develop financial working capital to enhance cash management and flexibility in case of unexpected events (e.g. fluctuation in exchange rate).	Completed	









Fully mitigated and closed out

Risk title	and re	lated mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
Risk 7		ed opportunities of learning from experience (including rning bodies advice and analysis of processes)	✓	Not applicable
	7.1	Conduct an extensive review/optimization of all TDR specific administrative processes.	Completed	
	7.2	Optimize/test financial management processes and systems.	Completed	
	7.3	Further enhance and document TDR management processes after the TDR reorganization (including portfolio monitoring and evaluation).	Completed	
	7.4	Establish a system to ensure systematic review of all processes and implementation of agreed improvements.	Completed	
	7.5	Continue presenting systematically to TDR's governing bodies reports on the implementation of their recommendations.	On track	
	7.6	Place status and progress of implementation of recommendations on the TDR shared drive accessible to all staff.	Completed	
Risk 11		ess for selection of TDR's grantees and monitoring of work no longer adequate	✓	Closed out
	being used	s and templates for grant proposal review, for progress reporting revised. In the strategic planning of TDR expected results and plant for external proposals, there is a section on risk management, wroject review.	orojects, and in t	he templates
	11.1	Develop standard operating procedures for portfolio prioritization.	Completed	
	11.2	Review/improve TDR forms for grant applications, progress and final reports.	Completed	
	11.3	Develop standard operating procedures for the operationalization of Scientific Working Group.	Completed	
	11.4	Introduce a requirement to include a risk management component in each proposal/contract to be supported.	Completed	









Major issues

Risk title	and related mitigation actions	Status	Risk trend
Risk 13	TDR strategy and workplan not effectively implemented	✓	Closed out
	This risk can now be closed as the TDR strategy 2012–2017 has been	n successfully imp	olemented.
	13.1 Conduct a workshop for all TDR staff on project management.	Completed	
	13.2 Develop a detailed operational plan with activities, timelines and resources for each TDR project.	Completed	
	13.3 Conduct training sessions in financial management for each team and identify a project management assistant to support team leaders in planning, monitoring and reporting the work of the team.	Completed	
	13.4 Closely monitor implementation at all levels of the Programme and take action as necessary.	Completed	
Risk 14	WHO budget ceiling is set low for TDR 2014–2015 biennium budget approved by JCB	✓	Not applicable
	14.1 Discuss with HTM/ADGO the possibility of increasing TDR's budget ceiling in order to match implementation as relevant.	Completed	
Risk 15	World Health Assembly's request that TDR consider hosting a pooled funding mechanism for R&D for neglected diseases negatively impacts the Programme's operations	✓	Closed out
	This risk should now be closed as the WHA no longer plans to estab JCB's oversight and advice on this helped to maintain the key role the support to the process.		
	15.1 Ensure TDR has a role in the implementation of the Member State selected demonstration projects to ensure learning from this process informs future R&D pooled fund.	Completed	
	15.2 Ensure planning includes TDR governing bodies and other stakeholders, to have a clear understanding of how it fits and complements TDR Strategy.	Completed	
	15.3 Ensure timely communication with TDR core funders in order to continue to provide undesignated funding to TDR while supporting the R&D pooled fund.	Completed	
	15.4 Ensure WHA through WHO continues to be in charge of raising and replenishing funds for the R&D pooled fund.	Completed	





Fully mitigated and closed out