

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Reeder  
Director, TDR

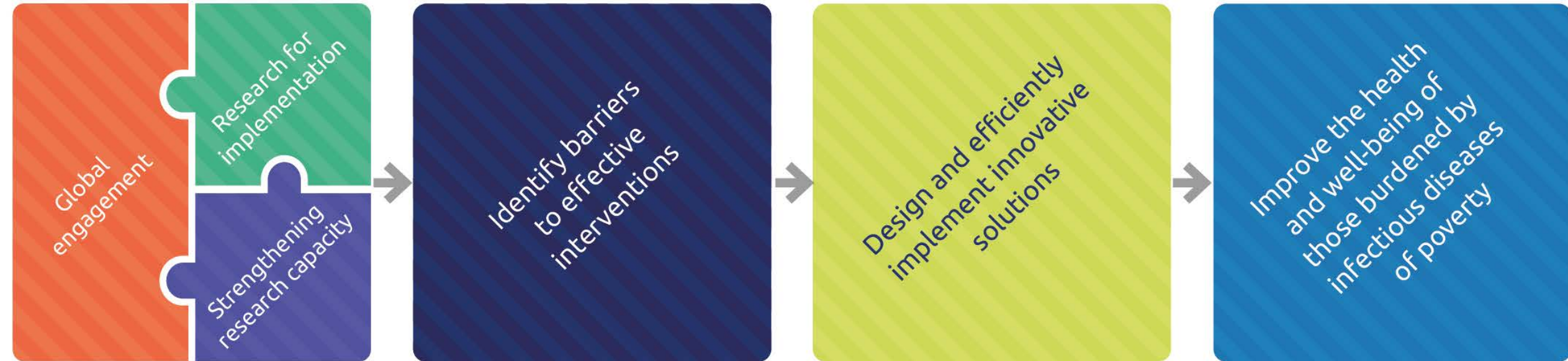
## 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board

15–16 June 2022

UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme  
for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases



# TDR's 2021 key achievements and current priorities



# Research for implementation: Key achievements from 2021

- 11 studies completed on strategies to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on TB control in West and Central Africa
- 4 case study projects selected to test TDR's framework on a multisectoral approach to vector-borne diseases in Latin America, Asia and Africa
- One Health approach for tackling vector-borne diseases is being piloted by 4 research teams in Africa
- 35 operational research studies from countries in Asia and Africa on AMR completed and published
- New SORT IT training module piloted to strengthen researchers' communication skills and enhance uptake of research findings

# Supporting IR to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on TB services

- Supporting national TB programmes in West/Central Africa to conduct research on strategies to mitigate the impact of the pandemic
- 11 studies completed; publications being prepared

For example: in Burkina Faso, **average time between onset of TB symptoms and first health consultation has increased by 73%**, compared with data from 2017–2018.

➤ *Why? And how can treatment wait times be reduced?*





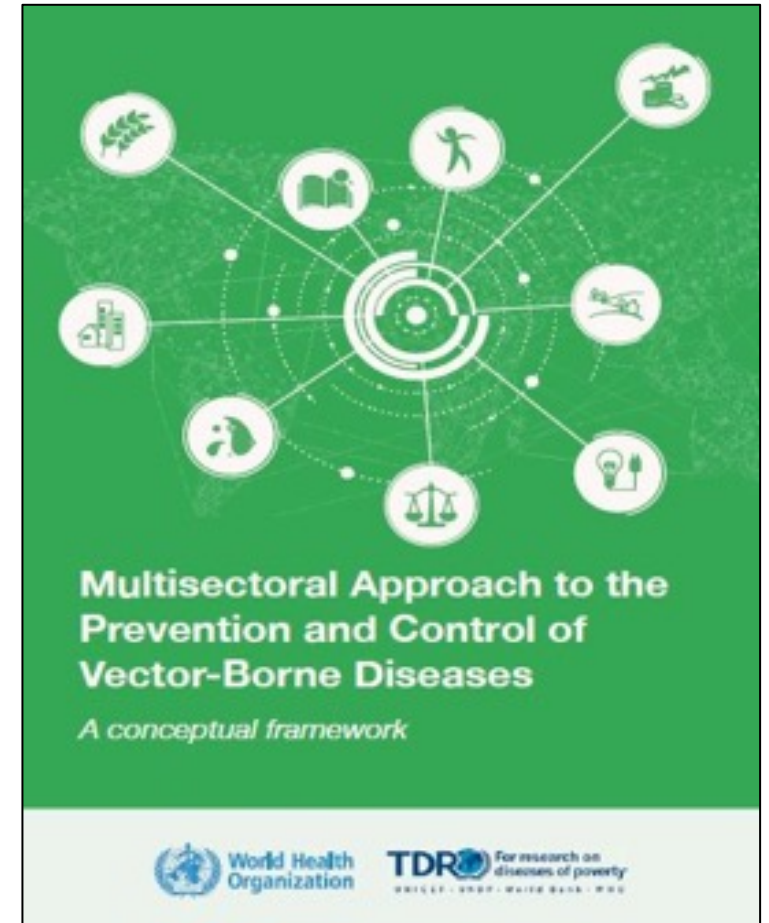
# Supporting IR across sectors: Multisectoral Approach (MSA) to vector-borne diseases

Following 2020 launch of TDR's theoretical framework on MSA to prevent and control VBDs:

- 4 case study projects selected to test the framework
  - 2 on malaria in West Africa and Greater Mekong Subregion
  - 2 on arboviral diseases in Americas and Africa
  - Collaboration between TDR and WHO's Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health team, with support from Sida
- Collaboration also established with WHO Global Malaria Programme to test MSA for tackling malaria, supported by UN Peace and Development Trust Fund

***“We do feel that the multisectoral approach is how we should be conducting more of our work.”***

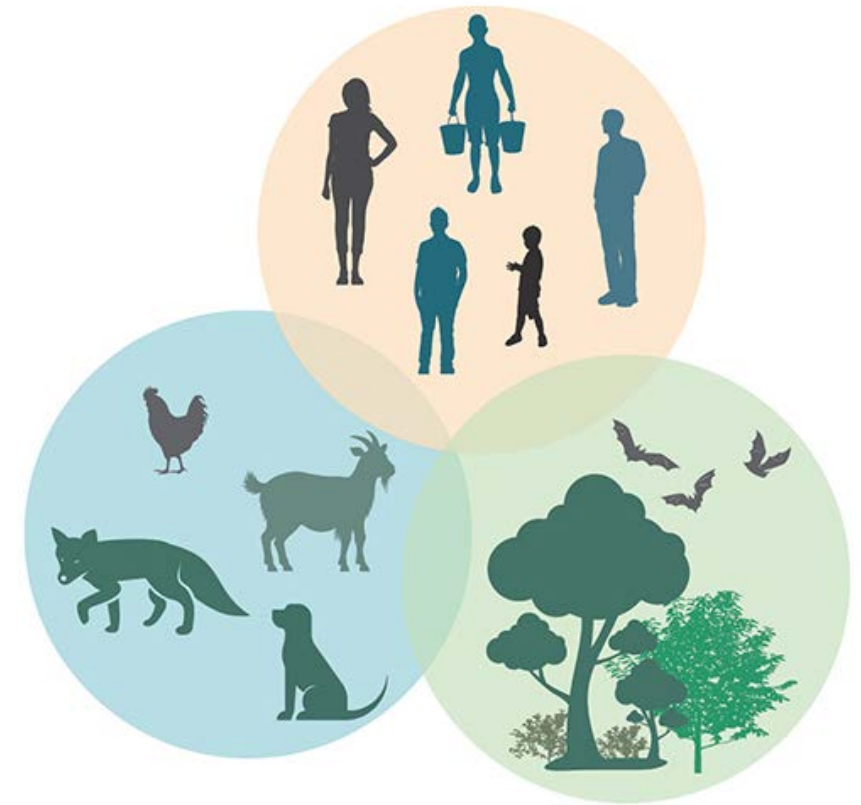
-Bruce Gordon, head of WHO's Water, Sanitation, Hygiene unit



# Supporting IR across sectors: The One Health Approach

**Supporting research using a One Health approach:** a multisectoral approach that recognizes the interconnections between the health of people, animals, plants and their shared environment

- TDR is supporting **research on vector-borne diseases in the context of climate change in Africa** using the One Health approach
- Research projects are investigating implementation of the One Health approach to disease control efforts. For example:
  - Expanding infection prevention and control related to malaria and Rift Valley fever in Baringo County, Kenya
  - Identifying and addressing barriers to community engagement for the prevention and control of malaria and schistosomiasis in Durban, South Africa



# Research for implementation: Priorities for 2022-2023

## **Strengthening health system resilience through:**

- Mitigating impact of COVID-19 on TB, malaria and VL
- Country preparedness for disease outbreaks (EWARS, SORT IT)
- Multisectoral approach, context specific mechanisms
- Operationalizing a One Health approach
- Improved strategies for surveillance and monitoring

## **New tools, toolkits and approaches to support country-led IR:**

- Innovative virtual platforms
- Digital technologies for TB care
- Intersectional gender analysis in research

## **IR to accelerate universal health coverage:**

- Operational research on hard-to-reach populations (malaria, DR-TB, VL...)
- Improved delivery of public health interventions
- Context specific evidence pool generated for local intervention on AMR

## **IR to support disease elimination:**

- Towards VL elimination in E Africa; moxidectin for onchocerciasis

# Research Capacity Strengthening: Key achievements from 2021

## **Postgraduate Training Scheme:**

- With more than 400 master's students trained in IR since 2015, seven universities in LMICs selected for second phase of training programme (2022–2026)
- 46 students from French-speaking countries in West Africa selected to study at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal

## **Updates to flagship training tools:**

- MOOC on IR now available in all six UN languages
- New module on gender and intersectionality developed for IR toolkit

## **Clinical Research and Development Fellowship:**

- 18 fellows selected to be placed at nine training partner organizations

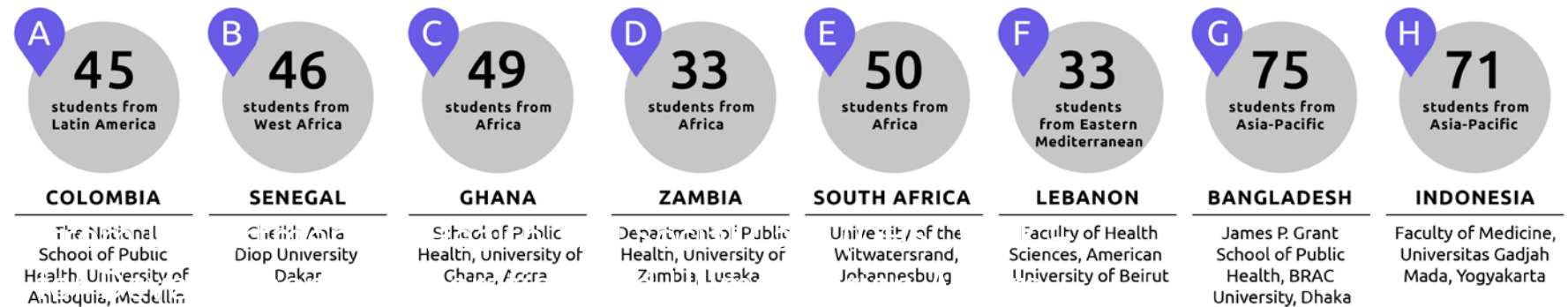


# Network of universities participating in TDR's Postgraduate Training Scheme

- **Increasing the numbers of scientists** in LMICs trained in IR
  - 200 men, 201 women, 1 transgender student
- **Increasing the capacity of universities** in LMICs to provide IR curriculum, manage training grants and mentor students



NUMBERS OF MASTER'S STUDENTS TRAINED AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN THE POSTGRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME



# Impact of the MOOC on country-led research on NTDs

**The Gambian Ministry of Health is conducting IR to explore new approaches to eliminating schistosomiasis**

- TDR's MOOC on IR guiding development and design of this research

***“We thank TDR for offering the free implementation research training, which has been instrumental in guiding our research.”***

Bakary Sanneh, Principal Laboratory Scientist,  
Ministry of Health, the Gambia



# Clinical Research and Development Fellowship alumnus tackling COVID-19 in Bangladesh

## Training partner organization:

Worldwide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN)

## Post-fellowship highlights:

- Currently co-investigator on 3 ongoing COVID-19 studies at icddr,b in Dhaka
- Co-author of a paper on COVID-19 therapeutic trial published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases

*“My career took a big jump following my Clinical Research and Development Fellowship.”*

Mohammad Sharif Hossain






# Promoting equity and an intersectional gender lens in capacity strengthening activities

- Upcoming updated IR Toolkit to incorporate a gender and intersectionality module.
- MOOC module on gender and intersectionality in IR has been developed.
- Building stronger strategic partnership with HRP\* to support research partners globally in their efforts to incorporate sex and gender dimensions in health research.

\* *the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction)*



**IR MOOC** NEW MODULE

DURATION: 3 WEEKS  
ESTIMATED STUDY TIME: 2.5 HOURS/WEEK

**Incorporating an intersectional gender perspective in implementation research**

This **MOOC** aims to provide hands-on training on implementation research. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Design your own implementation research projects with an intersectional gender lens;
- Critically evaluate and use the evidence produced by other implementation research projects; and
- Commission robustly designed implementation research projects that take into account gender dimensions and other intersecting axes of inequality.

BY THE END OF THIS MODULE, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND:

- THE RELEVANCE OF SEX, GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF POVERTY
- AND HAVE THE SKILLS TO APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING TO YOUR IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.

# Research Capacity Strengthening: Priorities for 2022–2023

- Maintain efforts to support the development/implementation of online training courses, including Master on IR
- Pilot a postdoctoral scheme on IR
- Develop an Advanced MOOC on IR
- Launch of IR MOOC module on gender and intersectionality
- Develop a network of IR training institutions/universities in French- speaking countries in West Africa
- Expand ADP (Access and Delivery Partnership) programme to new countries
- Integrate SORT IT in Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grants (new ER)
- Develop Clinical Research Leadership (CRL) programme (with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)



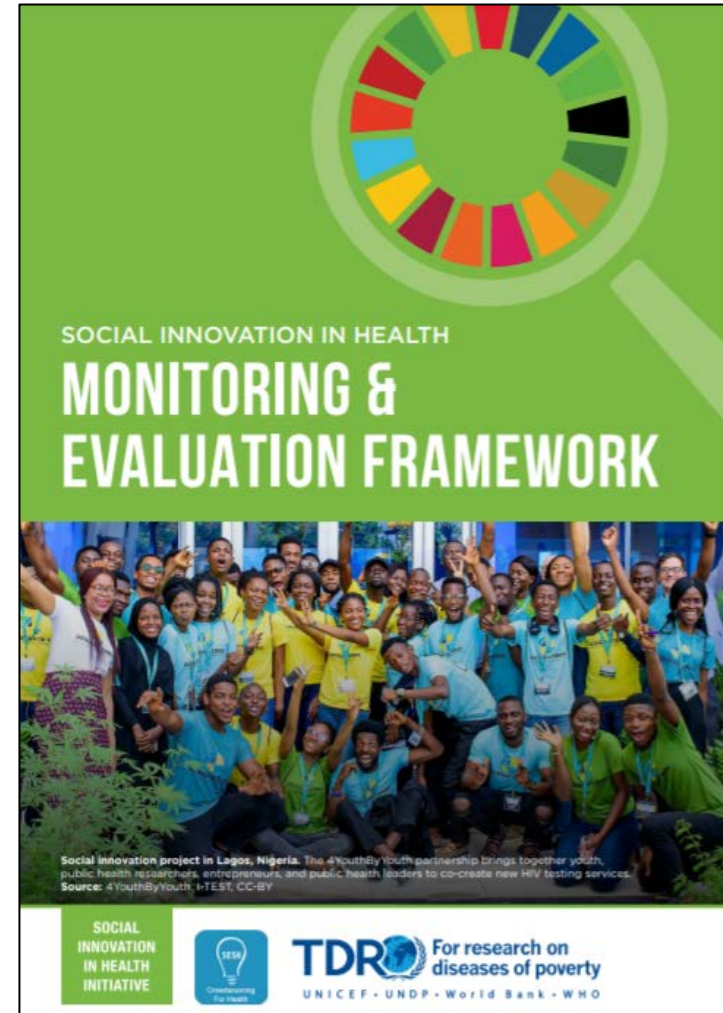
# Global engagement: Key achievements from 2021

- As a member of the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition's data sharing working group, TDR has contributed to the review of COVID-19 data sharing platforms
- 2 new research tools for social innovators published:
  - *Social Innovation in Health Monitoring & Evaluation Framework*
  - Research checklist for social innovation
- Small Grants Scheme with WHO regional offices tackled new topics, e.g. health and migration and implementation of International Health Regulations
- *Women in Science* compendium featuring 15 women global health leaders from TDR Global community launched on International Women's Day
- Practical guide on *Public engagement and crowdfunding in health research* published

# Supporting IR on social innovations in health

## Social Innovation in Health Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

- New research tool published in April 2021 to guide researchers, innovators, community members, decision-makers and other social innovation actors on how to monitor all steps of the social innovation development process and evaluate their effectiveness, sustainability and scalability.



# Promoting and supporting the TDR Global community

- **Women in Science compendium**
  - celebrates 15 inspirational women leaders in global health who are part of the TDR Global community
  - compendium has been translated into Spanish and French – to be promoted again this year
- **Supporting public engagement and crowdfunding in health research**
  - practical guide developed in partnership with SESH and SIHI
  - developed in conjunction with crowdfunding challenge that has resulted in 3 of the 5 finalists meeting their campaign financial targets



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CROWDFUNDING IN HEALTH RESEARCH

A Practical Guide





# Promoting gender responsive interventions for infectious diseases

## Expansion of intersectional gender research projects to combat infectious diseases, including on social innovation:

- Promoting and recognizing the importance of intersectional gender analysis.
- Exploring how vulnerability to disease, exposure, experiences of disease, health-related decision-making, responses to treatment and discrimination and unequal access to health care are experienced differently by different groups.

## Consolidated training courses on gender-based analysis of VBDs and climate change

- Institutionalized in public health programmes of selected African Institutions.
- Upcoming MOOC module to be offered in parallel.



# TDR podcast: *Global Health Matters*

- Explores how innovative and inspiring research contributes to achieving health for all.
- In Season 1, 24 guests featured from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the United States in 10 episodes
- 10 000+ downloads from 153 countries



Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, PhD  @BHedtGauthier · Feb 21

🔥🔥 A mind-opening listen 🔥🔥

Lots of points were new or a challenging re-framing for me. Particularly appreciated the point, paraphrased: "Yes, we are in the tail of colonization, but really we are currently experiencing white supremacy and destructive white systems."



Bertie Squire @BertieSquire · Feb 8

Candid, challenging and charting a way forward. Thank you @CKyobutungi @agnesbinagwaho and @TDRnews @GarryAslanyan





# Global engagement: Priorities for 2022–2023



- TDR to continue to play a critical role in global research policy discourse as key partner in initiatives such as WHO/UK joint work on clinical trials, ESSENCE
- SIHI to continue building network sustainability, expansion in regions and consolidation of existing and new SIHI country hubs
- TDR Global to strengthen mentorship environment in LMICs through development of institutional mentorship guide
- Impact grants for regional priorities to continue as part of partnership with WHO regional offices
- Complete research priority setting exercises (NTDs, HIV, AMR) and continue promotion of Open Science
- Continue to strengthen TDR's leadership in integration of sex and gender into health research (including work of WHO and other research entities)

# Summary of TDR's contributions to the COVID-19 response effort

- **Supporting IR to mitigate the impact of the pandemic** on disease control efforts for TB, malaria, NTDs
- **Supporting postgraduate trainees to conduct IR on COVID-19-related issues** in their countries
- As a member of COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition, contributing to review of **COVID-19 data sharing practices**
- Developed a training course to **strengthen COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring systems** in African countries
- Leading COVAX/ACT workstream on biomanufacture workforce development



## PHARMACOVIGILANCE DES VACCINS ANTI COVID-19

- Langue : Français
- Dates :
  - Formation : du 17 au 21 mai 2021
  - Coaching : du 24 au 28 mai 2021
- Format : en ligne
- Cible : professionnels de la santé : programme d'immunisation, organismes de réglementation, centre nationaux et régionaux de pharmacovigilance, comités de vaccination.



# eTDR – Project and grants management system

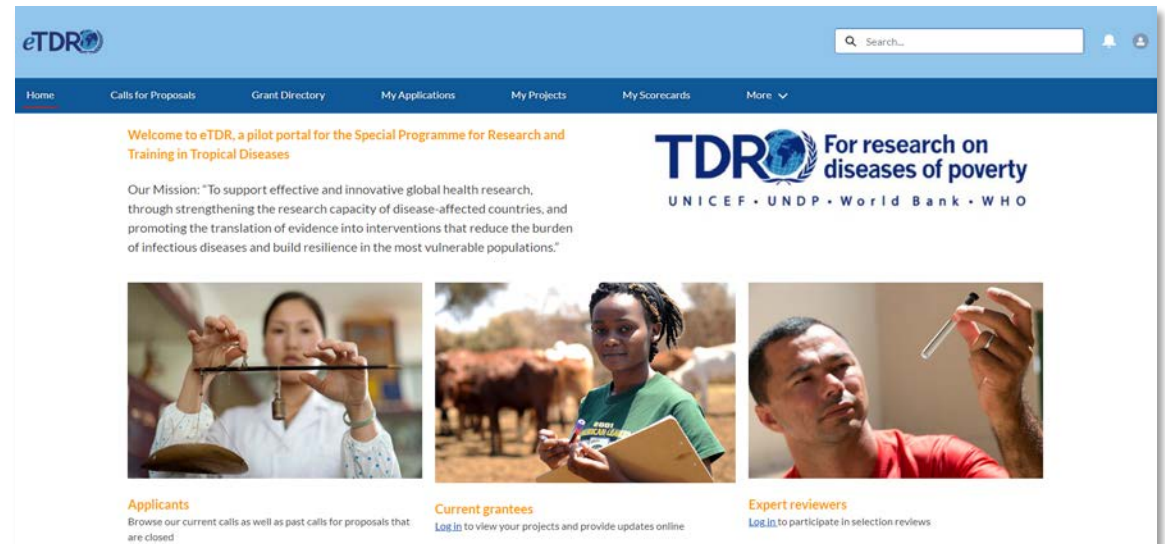
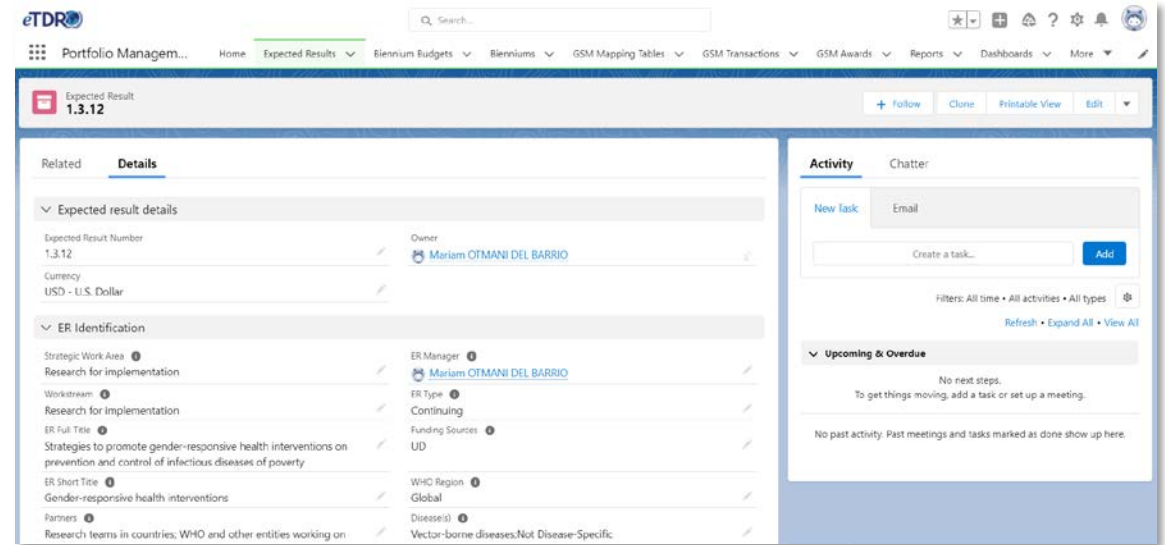
eTDR supports TDR's business processes, and allows for easy data capture and reporting at every stage.

The two primary business processes that this system serves are:

- Portfolio Planning and Management (managing, planning, reporting and evaluation on outcomes, projects and expected results at the highest strategic level)

- Grant / Project Management

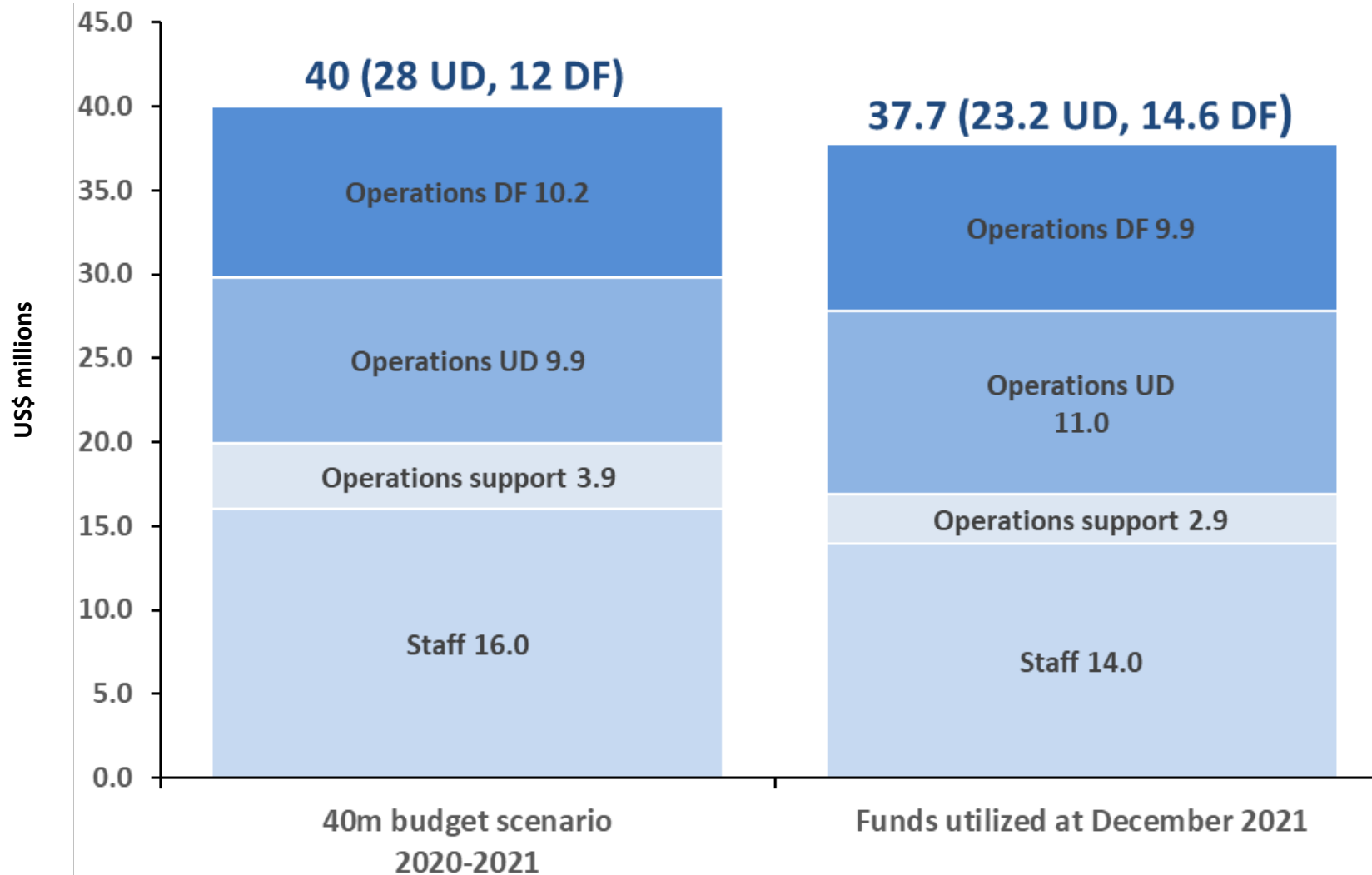
Since October 2020, 10 calls for applications were managed in eTDR (2 joint calls with EMRO, 1 with EURO and 1 with PAHO). Over 430 applications were submitted for review through the eTDR community portal.



# Strategic Development Fund 2020–2021 Implementation

SDF TITLE	FUNDS APPROVED	FUNDS UTILIZED	IMPL. RATE (%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>826,397</b>	<b>673,594</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Research for Implementation</b>	<b>286,250</b>	<b>237,629</b>	<b>83%</b>
Monitoring of resistance to insecticide of the plague vector <i>Xenopsylla cheopis</i> in Madagascar and consequences on vector control	16,250	16,250	100%
Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on TB care and control on TB control in West and Central Africa	100,000	96,379	96%
Evaluation of the impact of Malakits to self-diagnose and self-treat malaria in remote and hard-to-reach populations	90,000	90,000	100%
Transmission of VBDs in extreme poverty conditions / integration of multisectoral, One Health and intersectional gender approaches	80,000	35,000	44%
<b>Research Capacity Strengthening</b>	<b>146,147</b>	<b>110,397</b>	<b>76%</b>
An innovative approach to mapping implementation research suggestions made by participants in the MOOC on IR	5,562	5,562	100%
Application of the scoping review approach to the development of robust implementation research projects	72,500	36,750	51%
MOOC grants for implementation research: a pilot scheme	68,085	68,085	100%
<b>Global Engagement</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>151,699</b>	<b>72%</b>
AHRI jubilee: collaboration with other LMIC institutions and developing an Institutional Mentorship Guide	70,000	57,381	82%
Decentralization of TDR Global coordination through the regional nodes: engaging TDR global alumni	72,000	47,000	65%
World One Health Congress (WOHC2020): Side event on One Health for Vector Borne Diseases and Climate Change	18,000	-	0%
Promoting Implementation Research for decision-making in low and middle-income countries – a TDR-UNICEF partnership	50,000	47,318	95%
<b>One TDR</b>	<b>184,000</b>	<b>173,869</b>	<b>94%</b>
Strategic approach to catalyse country activities to undertake implementation and operational research funded by Global Fund grants.	84,000	69,845	83%
Develop and produce a TDR Podcast series	45,000	49,024	109%
Surveying African and Asian ethics review committees' / boards' response to the COVID-19 pandemic	55,000	55,000	100%

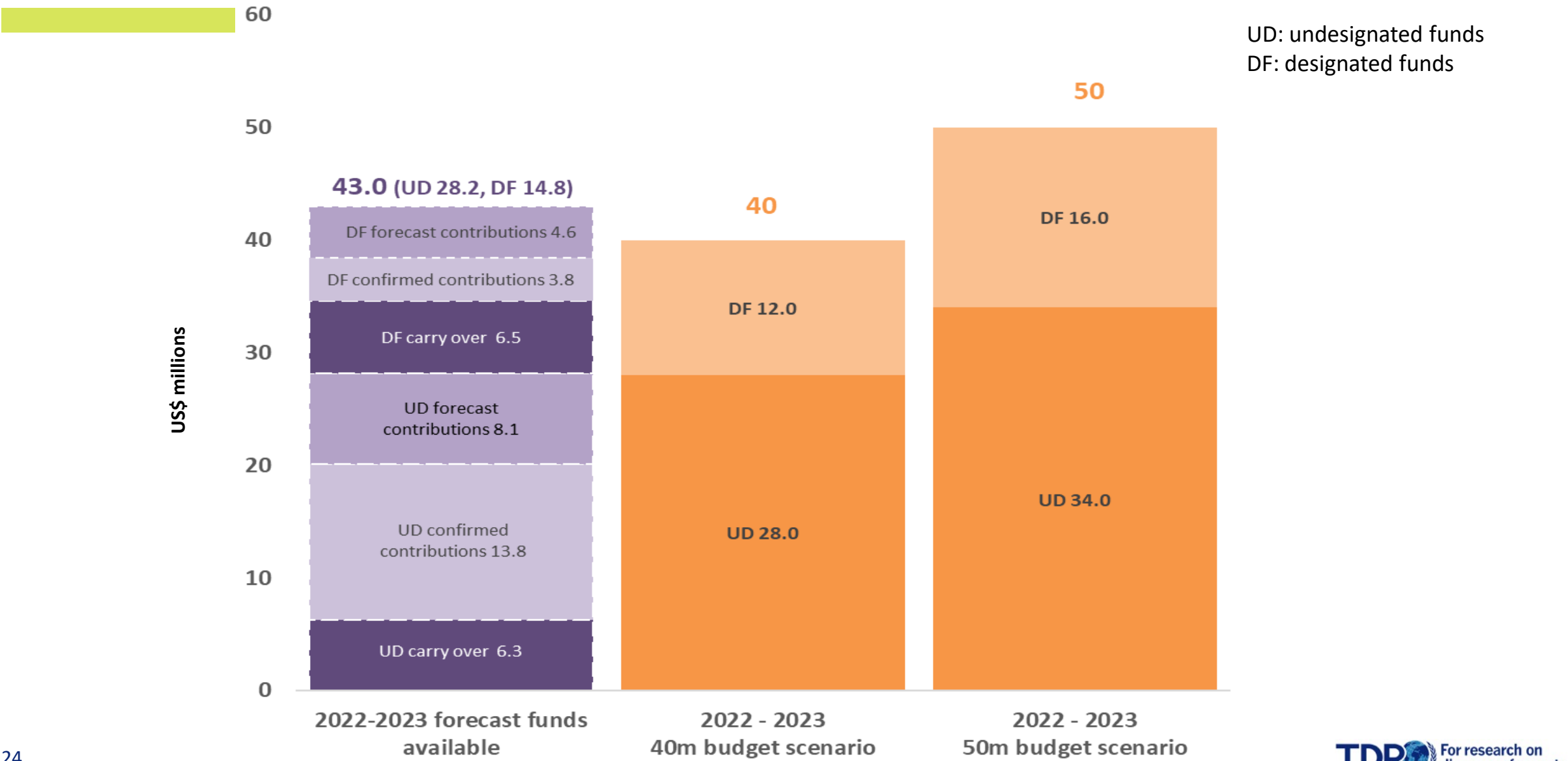
## 2020–2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



UD: undesigned funds  
DF: designated funds



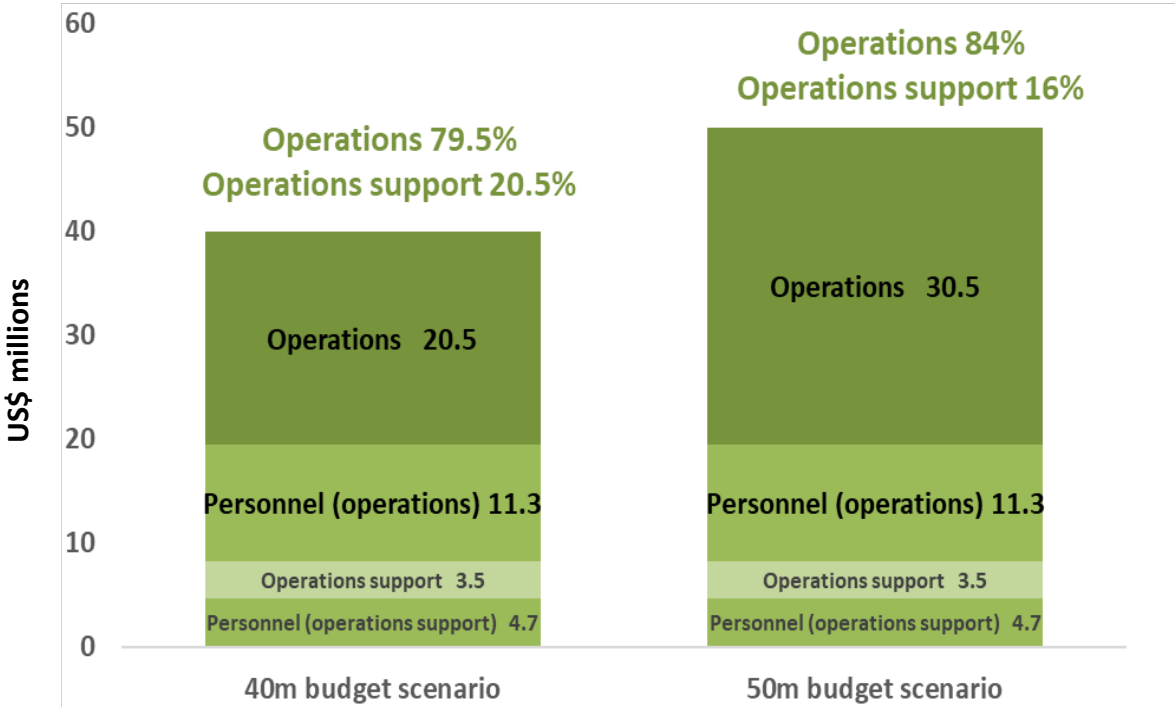
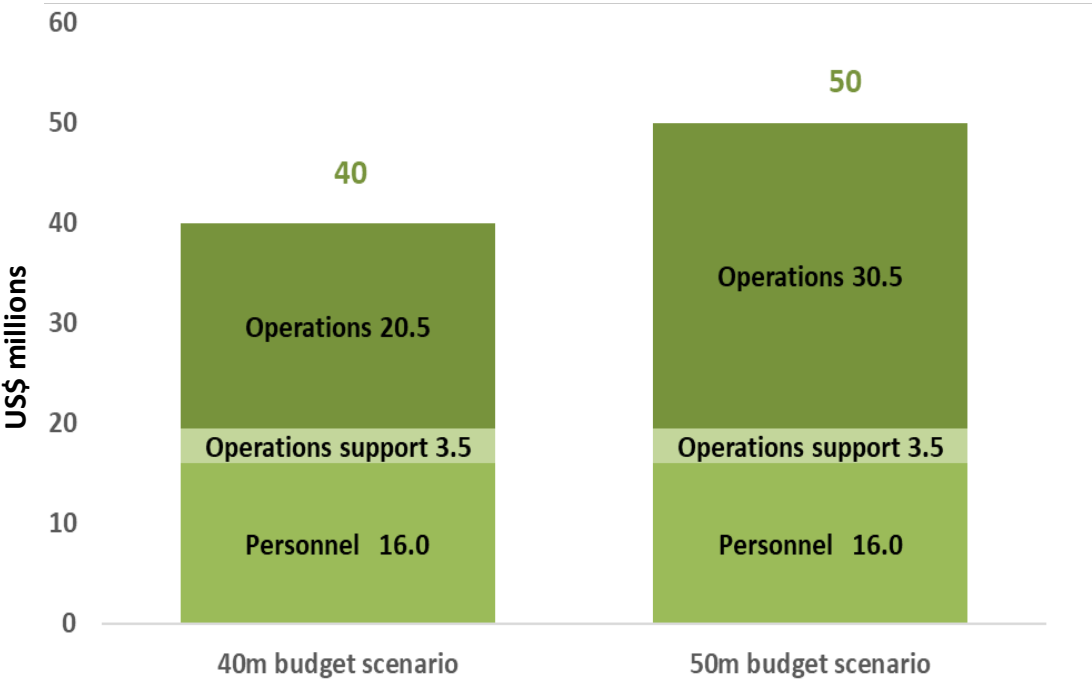
# 2022–2023 FUNDING PROJECTIONS AND APPROVED BUDGET SCENARIOS



# 2024–2025 PROPOSED BUDGET SCENARIOS



UD: undesignated funds  
DF: designated funds



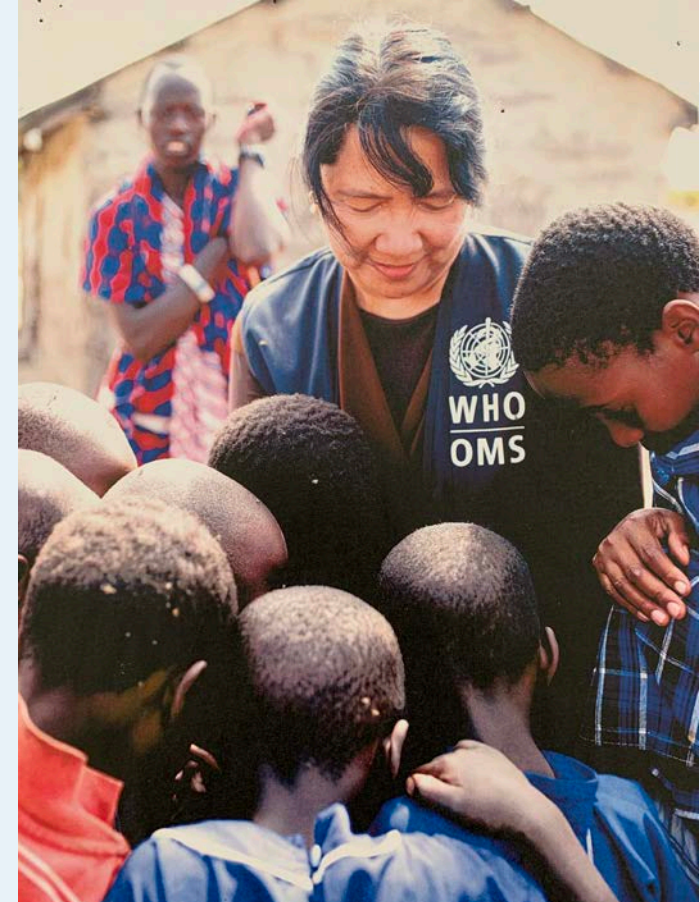
# HR Changes

## Farewell to:

### Dr Bernadette Ramirez

Scientist, Research for Implementation

- 15 years with TDR, having joined the Drug Discovery group at TDR in June 2007 and then moving on to manage the VBD and Climate Change portfolio.
- Leaving TDR on 30 June 2022; returning home to the Philippines for new adventures and pursuits in sustainable farming and volunteer work.



# HR Changes

## **Dr Michael Mihut**

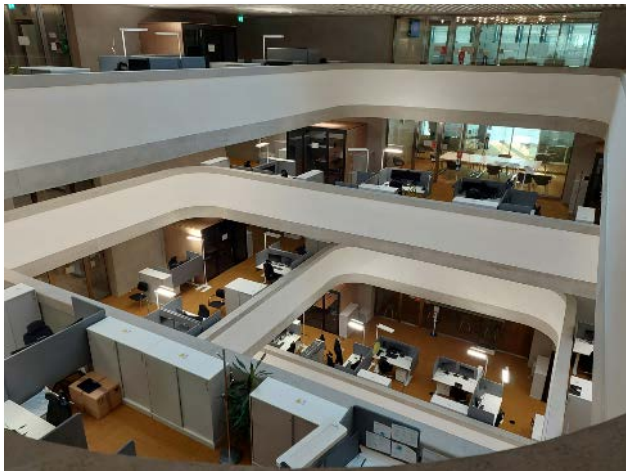
New Unit Head, Programme Innovation and Management

- Medical doctor and MBA, background in clinical research and quality management in pharma/biotech; with TDR since 2009; 10 years as Programme, Monitoring and Evaluation officer; competitively selected to the Unit Head position.





# TDR on the move



# Summary



- Strong operational achievements in 2021
- TDR was able to continue programme of work despite COVID-19 and offered assistance to WHO where appropriate
- Good progress towards results targets
- Good project implementation rate despite challenges
- Clear and achievable workplan for 2022–2023
- Safe to start 2022 with US\$ 40 million budget scenario (no need for contingency plan)
- Moved to new location, alongside other Science Division colleagues