

# REPORT OF THE 44th MEETING OF THE TDR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC44)

Professor Charles Mgone  
Chair, STAC


45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Joint Coordinating Board



STAC44  
participants

15–16 June 2022

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



The forty-fourth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee took place virtually on 16–17 March 2022.

The meeting was chaired on the first day by Professor Stephen Bertel Squire, standing in for Chair STAC.

# Welcome address

- Welcomed 3 new members

- **Professor Mirkuzie Kerie**, Senior Research Adviser, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- **Dr Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap**, Head, Department of Entomology, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Professor Leanne Robinson**, Program Director, Health Security, Senior Principal Research Fellow, Group Leader, Vector-Borne Diseases and Tropical Public Health, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Australia
- **Dr Marta Tufet Bayona**, Head of Policy, Gavi, Geneva, Switzerland

- Elected Rapporteur of STAC44

- **Dr Emelda Okiro**, Head, Population Health Unit, KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Collaborative Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

# Directors' Report

## Key TDR achievements of 2021:

- STAC observed that TDR Performance Framework was aligned with TDR's Strategy 2018-2023.
- There are 26 Programme-level KPIs that help to monitor and evaluate results against the planned targets as reflected in the 2021 Results Report.
- As of 31 December 2021, 18 of the 23 expected results in TDR's portfolio were on track, four had minor delays and only had a major delay due to travel restrictions on TDR grantees imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# STAC's observations and recommendations on the Director's report

## Endorsed the Director's report and...

- Congratulated TDR on the remarkable achievements and for being on track in most deliverables through the difficult past year despite challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Recommended that TDR should reach out to additional funders regarding gender identity-related policies (e.g. FCDO, NIHR, UKRI).
- TDR to be more explicit on how it tracks impact on policy; identifying of factors that enable policy change; and how it can contribute to enhanced use of evidence in countries.

# Preliminary Financial Report 2021–2022 and Outlook 2022–2023



- The two programme budgets and workplan scenarios for the biennium 2021-2021 as approved by JCB that included a lower scenario of USD 40 and a higher scenario of USD 50 million were reviewed.
  - *The scenarios that mitigate funding uncertainties once again proved to successful since they allowed planned costs to be revised and adjusted leading to reallocating funds saved on staff costs and operations support*
- The two 2022/2023 budget outlooks that have also been approves by the JCB were reviewed and agreed.

# Risk Management Report



- The status of programme-level risks and a brief summary of the 2021 Risk Management Report were presented and discussed.
- Previously there were 10 active significant risks, but in 2020, following mitigation progress made on risk on Information and Project Management Systems, this was closed in 2021 leaving 9 risks.
- A new risk and mitigation measures were proposed concerning the expected gap due to the scheduled retirement of a large number of senior managers and key personnel.

# STAC Decisions and Recommendations

## Decisions:

### STAC endorsed:

- Preliminary financial report 2020–2021 and Outlook 2022–2023
- 2021 Results Report
- 2021 Risk Management Report

## ***Recommendation:***

- *Achievements should best be visually presented in the TDR results chain to show how they fit into and help measure TDR's progress in all three strategic priority areas to show the intersection between the different areas toward the overall aims of TDR.*



# STAC Decisions and Recommendations

## 7th TDR External Review and 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

- Update on the review process and timelines were presented
- It was agreed that STAC will be engaged for suggestions and ideas to draft the new Strategy between October and December 2022

### ***Recommendation:***

- *STAC recommended that TDR should connect its work to strategic impact pathways, including evidence generation allowing it to track progress; identify gaps; and prioritize areas of need. It should also identify cross-cutting themes and relate them to the pathway.*

# Update on Scientific Working Groups

## Updates from SWG Chairs were presented and discussed

- Proposed membership of both Scientific Working Groups (IMP and RCS) to 31 March 2023 was presented.
- From 2022 change in the tenure of SWG membership was proposed to start on 1 April to 31 March instead of following the calendar year.

## ***STAC Decisions:***

- *Agreed on the membership of the SWGs as presented*
- *Noted the proposed change of SWG membership terms from calendar year to 1 April to 31 March, beginning in 2022*
- *Agreed that STAC45 will take place in Geneva on 15-16 March 2023 including a briefing on TDR for new members on 14 March.*