

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr John Reeder
Director TDR

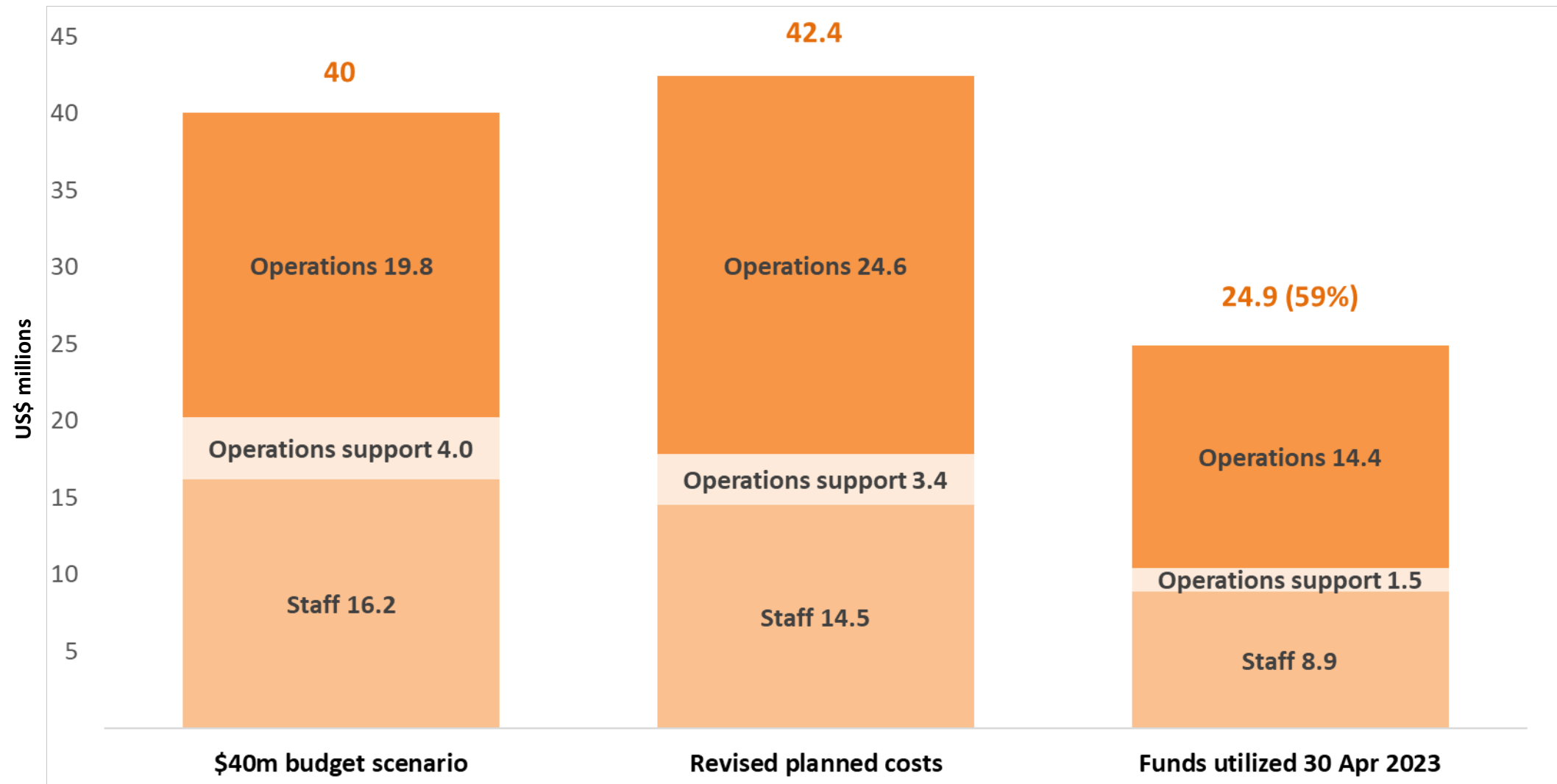
46th Session of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board



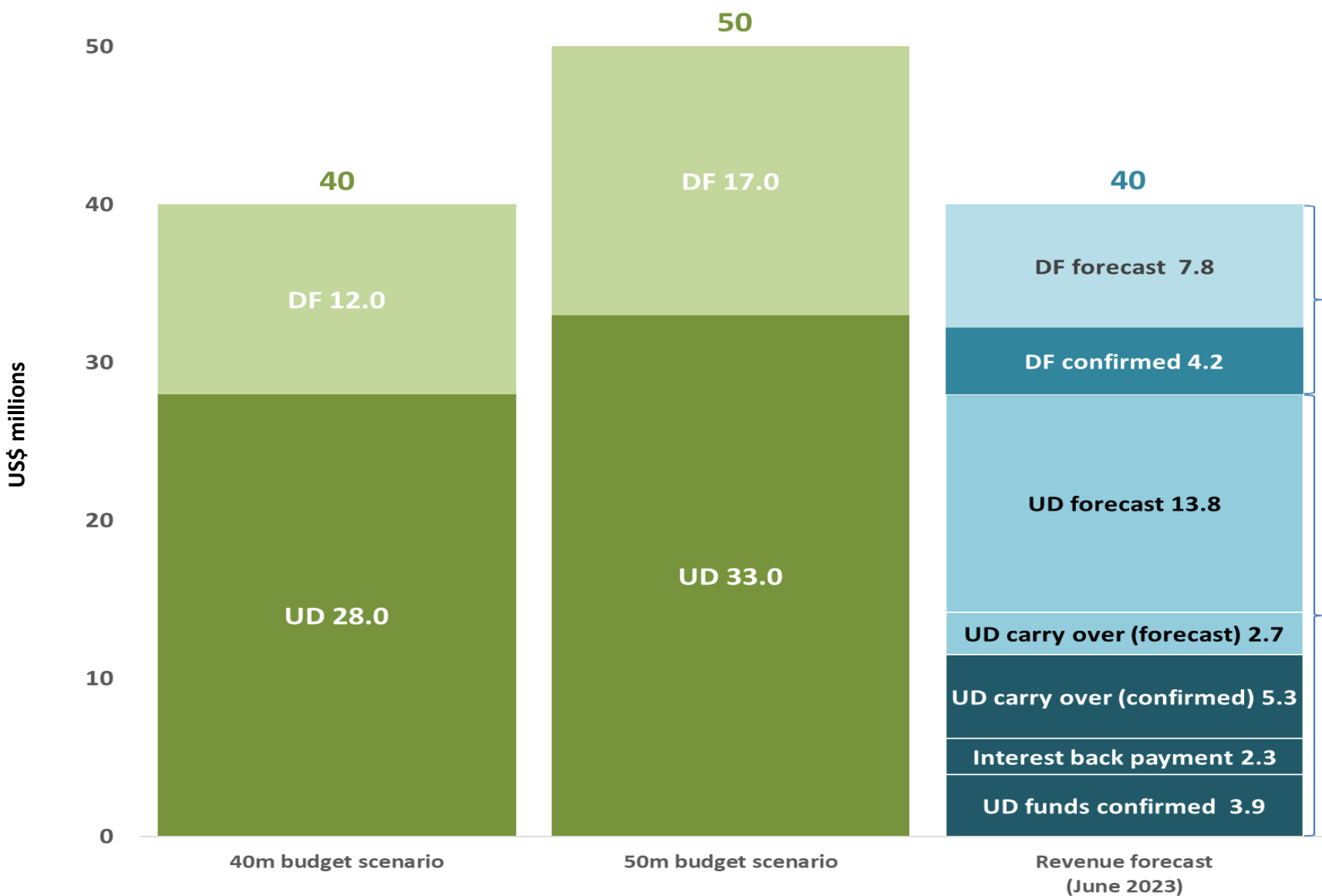
14–15 June 2023

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

2022–2023 Financial overview



2024–2025 Approved budget scenarios and revenue forecast



UD: undesignated funds
DF: designated funds

IMP key achievements: 2022–2023



- **Operational research on AMR** demonstrates impact on policy and practice and contributes to a critical mass of frontline investigators.
- Transdisciplinary teams operationalize a **One Health approach** to research on vector-borne diseases in the context of climate change in Africa.
- Investigators in LMIC demonstrate the critical need for **gender-based analysis** and intersectionality in infectious diseases research.
- Lessons from the Indian subcontinent confirm critical role of implementation research in **VL elimination**, relevant to other foci.

IMP key achievements: 2022–2023



- Assessment of **arboviral disease surveillance** capacity in the 47 countries of the WHO African Region identifies opportunities for intervention.
- An innovative self-diagnosis and treatment kit for falciparum malaria integrated into the national programme in Suriname is further adapted and validated for vivax malaria among a **hard-to-reach population**.
- A **multisectoral approach** (MSA) to control vector-borne diseases is implemented in several African, American and South-East Asian countries; government-approved MSA committees established in Mali and Nigeria.

Scaling up the One Health approach to tackle vector-borne diseases in the context of climate change

- Following the development of a framework for operationalizing a One Health approach in African countries, four pilot studies were completed last year.
- TDR, WHO/NTD and WHO/AFRO's Climate, Health and Environment team are now supporting four research teams that are scaling up the implementation of the One Health approach.
- The selected projects will contribute to:
 - WHO's 2021–2030 road map for NTDs.
 - AFRO's 2019–2029 strategic action plan to scale up health and environment interventions in Africa.
 - AFRO's 2022–2032 regional strategy for the management of environmental determinants of human health.



Applying lessons from TDR-supported research on visceral leishmaniasis

- TDR is collaborating with WHO and other partners to initiate VL elimination efforts in Eastern Africa.
- This includes applying lessons learned from TDR-supported research on VL elimination in Bangladesh and Nepal.
- New report highlights key research contributions that led to impact in diagnosis, treatment, surveillance and vector control.
- Draft strategic plan developed for the elimination programme in Eastern Africa.
- Stakeholder consultation included active participation from researchers in Bangladesh, India and Nepal.



Tackling antimicrobial resistance in Asia, Africa and the Americas

■ High publication outputs and research impact

- 74 AMR research projects completed by 2022, 36 reached manuscript stage in 2022; 36 evidence briefs.
- 71% had impact on policy and/or practice one year after completion.
- 86% of trainees applied SORT IT skills to AMR practice and 56% to the COVID-19 response (transferrable skills).

■ Capacity building in implementation research

- 225 individuals trained (health workers, decision-makers and WHO staff).
- 64% of trainees completed new research, 25% became mentors (capacity built) .

■ Research communication and dissemination

- A module on effective research communication now part of SORT IT.
- Publication processes expedited to 10–12 weeks (new mechanism) and lightening videos integrated into journal websites.

■ Global collaborations to tackle AMR

- The AMR network expanded to involve 69 implementing partners in 30 countries - 80% from the global south.



Research for implementation: Priorities for 2024–2025

Strengthening health system resilience through:

- Mitigating impact of health system emergencies such as COVID-19 on TB, malaria and VL
- Country preparedness for disease outbreaks
- Multisectoral approaches
- 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, malaria and NTD 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 East Africa; moxidectin for onchocerciasis

RCS Key achievements 2022–2023



Network of TDR supported Regional Training Centres

- MOOC available in six languages with 5000 participants
- MOOC grants

Network of universities supporting TDR's Postgraduate Training Scheme

- All universities in the 2nd Phase of the Scheme are operational.
- University of Bamako selected as the second French speaking university. More than 1013 applications received for the first call, 9 women and 10 men from 15 countries selected.

Clinical Research Leadership programme

- Clinical Research Leadership scheme approved by Gates Foundation (2022–2028).
- Selection of 20 fellows across 14 training partner organizations is currently under way.

RCS Key achievements 2022–2023



Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) project

- Interactive IR core competency self-assessment tool incorporated into the online TDR IR Toolkit.
- Three countries incorporated IR into their disease control programmes for developing national neglected tropical disease control plans: Bhutan; Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Two countries supported the IR demonstration projects and mentorship guidance plan: Ghana and Malawi.

Strengthening OR capacity in Global Fund-supported programmes

- SORT IT training resources translated into French.
- Two SORT IT courses initiated in Guinea and Kenya.

Impact of the Postgraduate Training Scheme

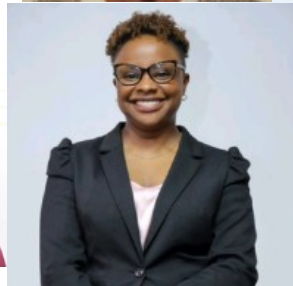
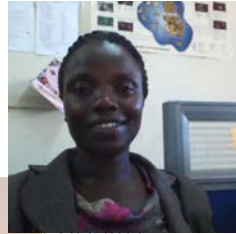
- During his postgraduate training at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in 2016, Tilak Chandra Nath conducted an IR project to understand the barriers and gaps on utilization and coverage of a mass drug administration programme against soil-transmitted helminth infection in Bangladesh.
- At the Ministry of Health in Bangladesh, Tilak is currently using his knowledge to advance a **‘One Health’** approach to eliminating those diseases.



19 CRDF fellows contributed to RTS,S malaria vaccine development



Dr Clara Agutu



“ I am proud to have been part of the development of RTS,S. This experience has lessons for all vaccine developers.

Professor Mahamadou Ali Thera,
Professor of Parasitology-Mycology
at the Malaria Research and Training
Center, University of Sciences,
Techniques and Technologies of
Bamako, Mali

Access and Delivery Partnership

Objective: To help countries strengthen policies, human capacities, systems and regulations to improve health care delivery.

Research capacity strengthening activities:

Online TDR Implementation Research (IR) Toolkit, with interactive **IR core competencies self-assessment tool** building on the **sixteen IR core competencies**, developed and validated with TDR partners

One Health IR Toolkit module (in progress)



THE ACCESS AND
DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP

TDR IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH TOOLKIT (Second edition)

This toolkit is designed to help you conduct an implementation research (IR) project through a standard process so that you have high quality results that are reliable. Before you get started, we recommend you read the "How to use this Toolkit" section. It is also advisable to take the TDR Massive Open Online Course on IR for a foundation knowledge of IR.

NEW
You can now rate your own IR competency using a new Self-assessment tool



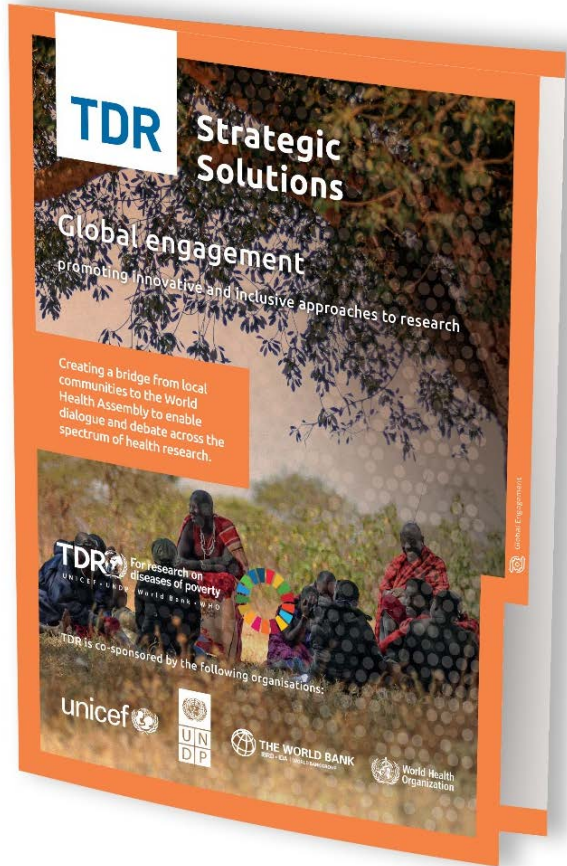
COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH AND MENTORSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN MALAWI



Research capacity strengthening: Priorities for 2024–2025

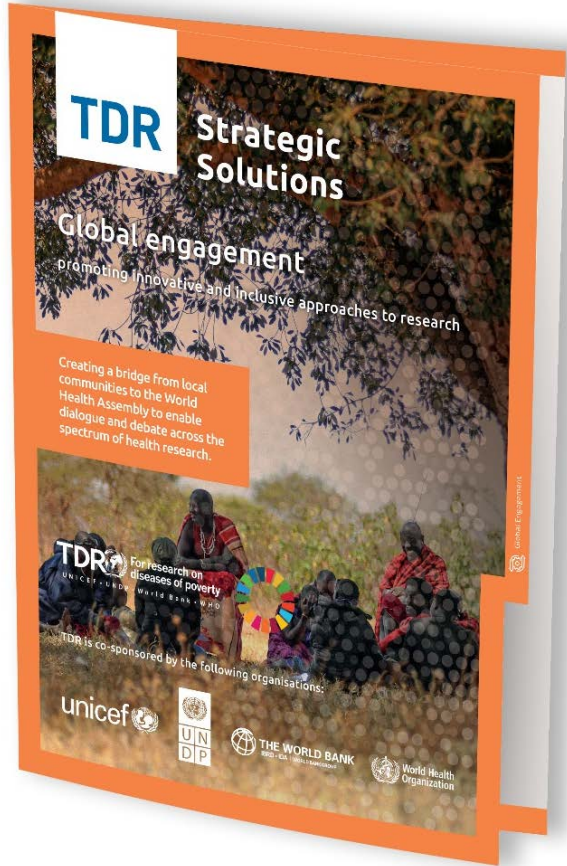
- Maintaining efforts for supporting the development/implementation of online training courses, including Master on IR with a focus on One health, emergency preparedness, AMR and disease elimination.
- Pilot IR Leadership programme.
- Develop and translate advanced MOOC on IR for both researchers and implementers.
- Promote the network of IR training institutions in French-speaking West Africa.
- Expand ADP IR with a focus on integrated projects as a pathway towards a One Health approach.
- Consolidate operational research (SORT IT) in Global Fund grants.
- Promote the Clinical Research Leadership (CRL) programme.

Global engagement key achievements 2022–2023



- TDR playing a critical role in global research policy discourse as key partner in initiatives such as WHO resolution on clinical trials and produced background reports.
- ESSENCE launched a new good practice document for funders on equitable practices.
- SIHI produced a BMJ supplement on social innovation impact in countries.
- Piloted publication of Public engagement and crowdfunding in health research: a practical guide.
- TDR Global launched an institutional mentorship guide for LMICs (HERMES) to support the next generation of scientists.
- Completed 10 community engagement projects to research good practices in engaging communities in research and innovation.

Global engagement key achievements 2022–2023

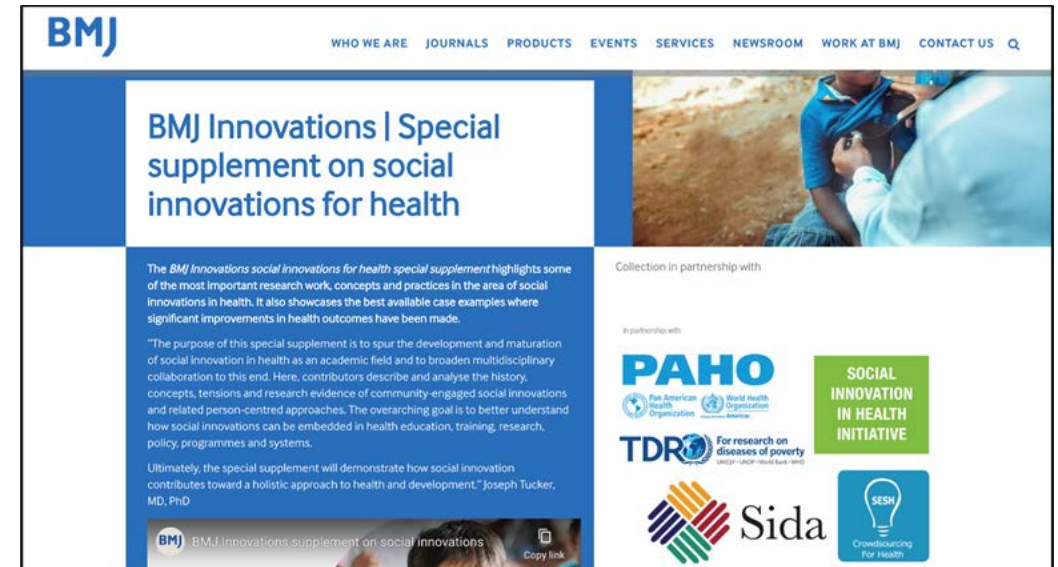


- Promotion of Open Science, collaborated with WHO on new WHO policy and guidance document on sharing research data.
- Impact grants for regional priorities continued as part of partnership with WHO regional offices, several calls under way.
- Continued to strengthen TDR's leadership in integration of sex and gender into health research, a new module on gender and intersectionality in IR introduced to MOOC and the IR toolkit.
- Finally, TDR re-engaging at various global fora, by participating and bringing TDR grantees to conferences, e.g. HSG Symposium on health systems research, ASTMH conference, GHN conference and global malaria/TB meetings.

Fostering research in social innovation in health

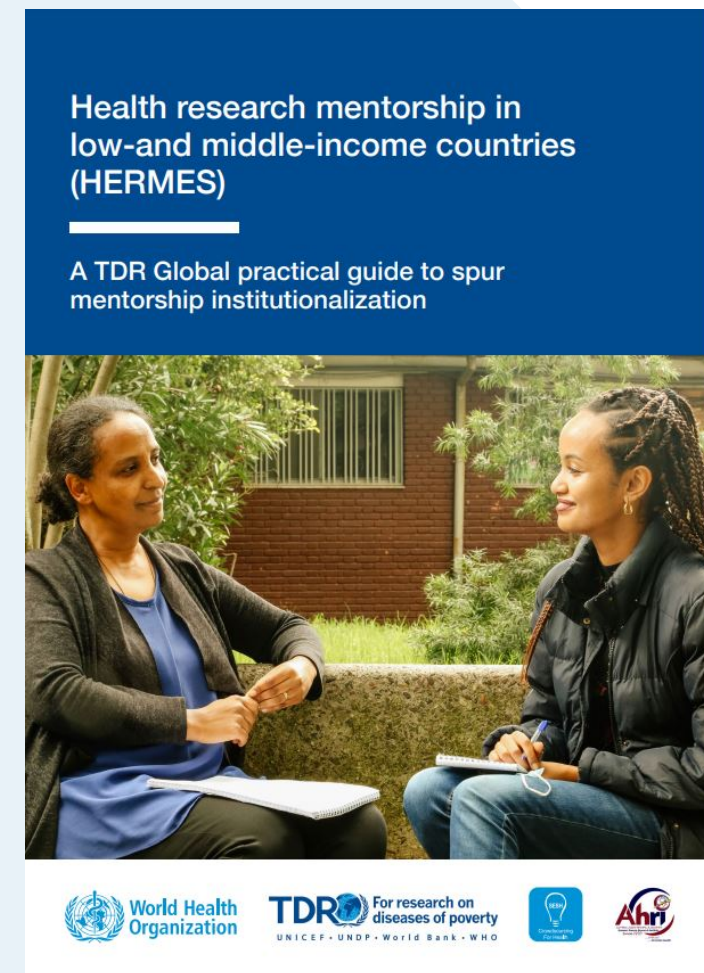
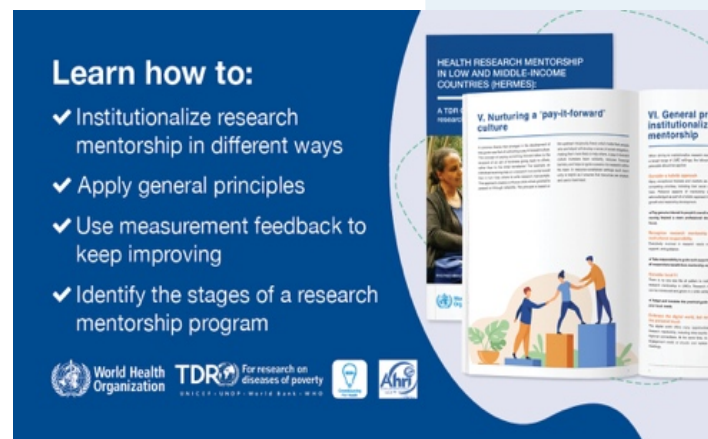
BMJ Innovations Special Supplement on social innovation in health

- **Supported by TDR, PAHO, BMJ and SIHI China**, the supplement highlights some of the most important research work, concepts and practices in the area of social innovations in health.
- **It includes 22 articles from the work of SIHI network** and showcases the best available case examples where significant improvements in health outcomes have been made.



TDR Global: Building mentorship capacity in countries – Institutional mentorship guide

- AHRI and SESH nodes played pivotal role
- Contributed to by all TDR Global regional nodes
- Evidence based: scoping reviews, crowdsourcing contest, Delphi consultations
- Global call 2023: *Focus on equity in mentorship*



Community engagement good practices call: initial country-level outcomes

- **Ethiopia:** Development of a national guideline on community engagement in the research process is under way. The two national research institutes and two universities committed to revise their policy and integrate community engagement into their research guidelines, as well as to build the capacity of researchers and research managers.
- **Guatemala:** Development of a guide to promote best practices in community participation for vector-borne and congenital Chagas disease prevention and control finalized. Approval of the Ministry of Health pending.
- **Philippines:** Research findings on enablers and barriers of community engagement and gender inclusivity in research contributed to the revision of a chapter in the Draft National Ethical Guidelines (2022 National Guidelines for Research Involving Human Participants).



Promoting gender responsive interventions for infectious diseases

- NEW IR MOOC and IR Toolkit module to apply an intersectional gender lens in implementation research launched in 2022.
- Working with HRP to review existing training and capacity building materials for creation of an online repository of resources.
- Social Innovation and intersectional gender research projects to combat infectious diseases running in 10 countries.



Global engagement: Priorities for 2024–2025

- TDR to continue to play a critical role in global research policy discourse as key partners in initiatives such as WHO 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.
- Build on research priority setting exercises done at WHO to use in TDR's new strategy implementation.
- Continue to strengthen TDR's leadership in integration of sex and gender into health research (including work of WHO and other research entities).

HR Changes

Farewell to:

Dr Pascal Launois

Scientist, Research Capacity Strengthening and
Acting Unit Head of RCS since September 2021.

Welcome to:

Dr Anna Thorson

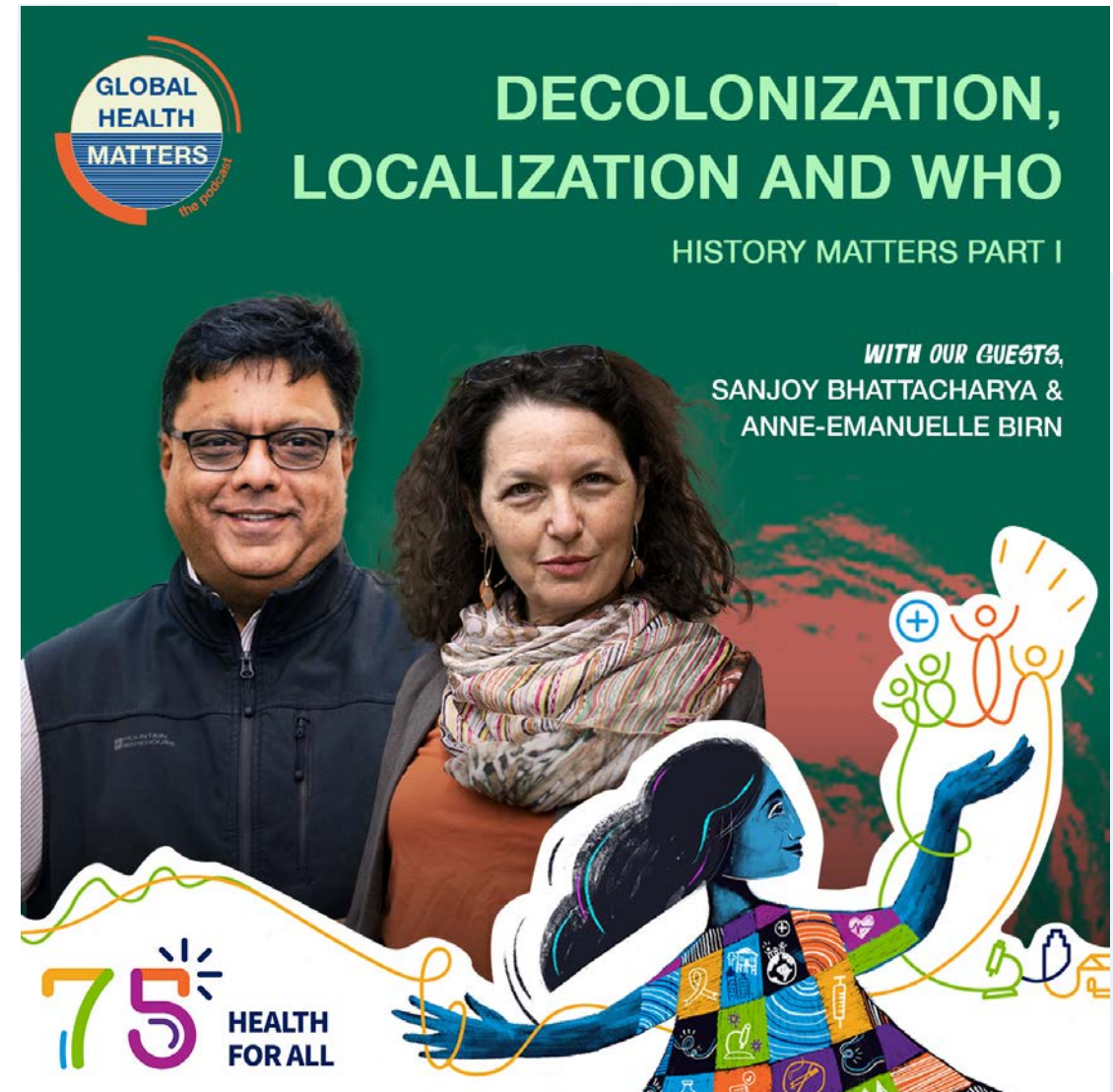
New Unit Head, Research Capacity Strengthening

- Anna was the Head of the Research Leadership and Capacity Strengthening Unit in HRP/SRH, where she has worked since 2014, initially supporting Ebola outbreak research in Sierra Leone.



TDR podcast: *Global Health Matters*

- Explores how innovative and inspiring research contributes to achieving health for all.
- In Seasons 1 and 2, 52 guests featured from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the United States in 22 episodes.
- 40 000+ downloads from 199 countries and territories.
- Season 3 now started with another 10 regular episodes and four "in conversation with" episodes engaging key thought leaders in global health.



TDR Strategy 2024-2029

Building local research
solutions to improve
global health



Summary

- Strong operational achievements in 2023.
- Good progress towards results targets.
- Good project implementation rate.
- Operational budget 2023 revised above US\$ 40 million base, but caution shown.
- Concerns about 2024–2025 funding levels following reduction in funding of a major donor: contingency plan developed as a precaution. Optimistic that it won't be needed.
- Clear and achievable workplan for 2024–2025.
- Strategy development completed on schedule.