

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

47th session of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board

John Reeder
Director, TDR

12-13 June 2024

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

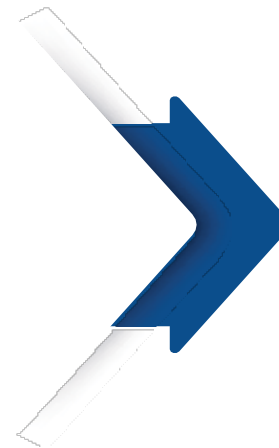


TDR Strategy 2024-2029

New strategy outlines TDR's support for country-led implementation research to improve the health and well-being of people burdened by infectious diseases of poverty.



The impact pathway



Stronger
research
capacity



Evidence to
improve impact
of health
interventions



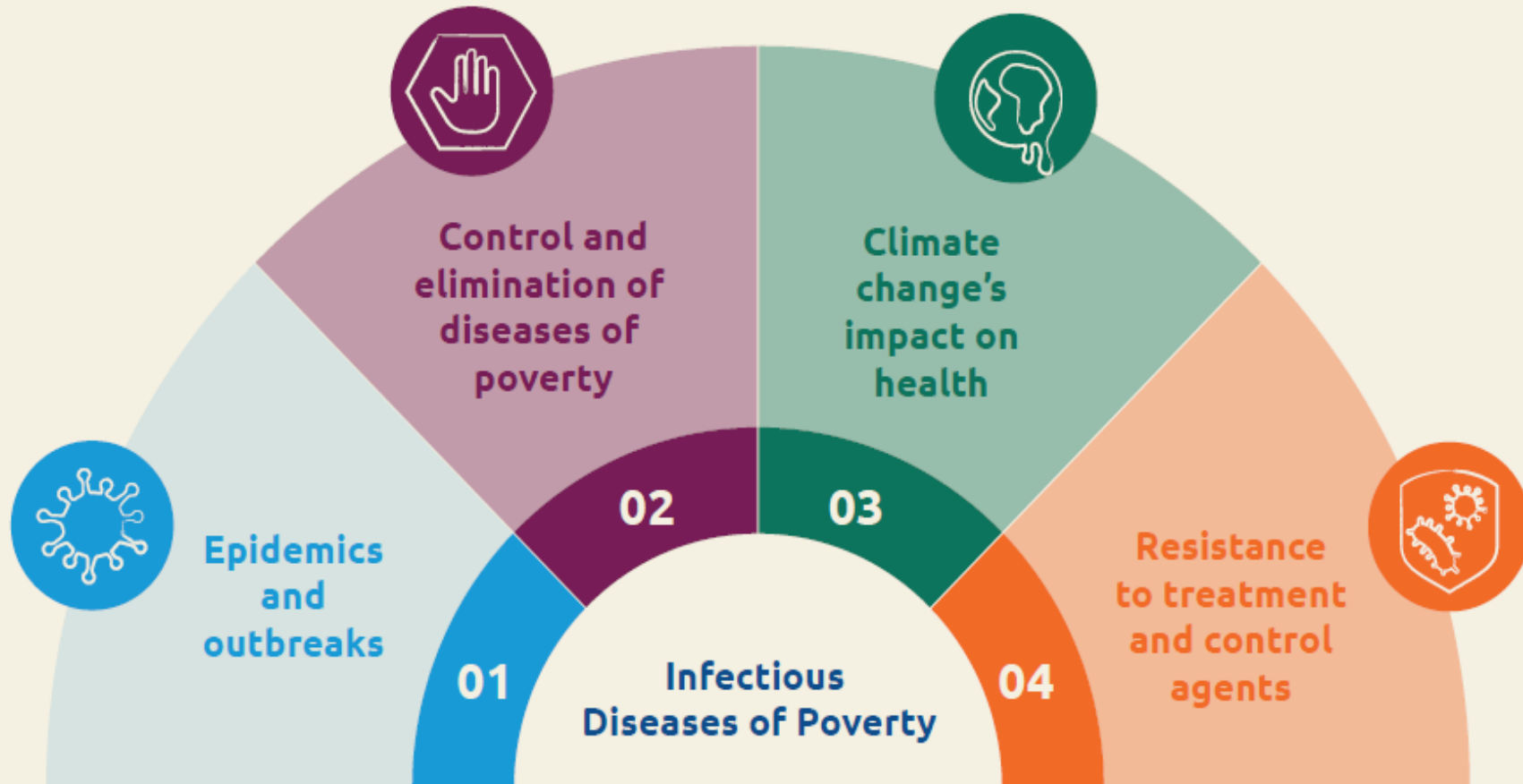
Implementation of
interventions that
reduce the burden
of infectious
diseases of poverty



Our Theory of Change



Making an impact: Supporting country-led research for global health challenges

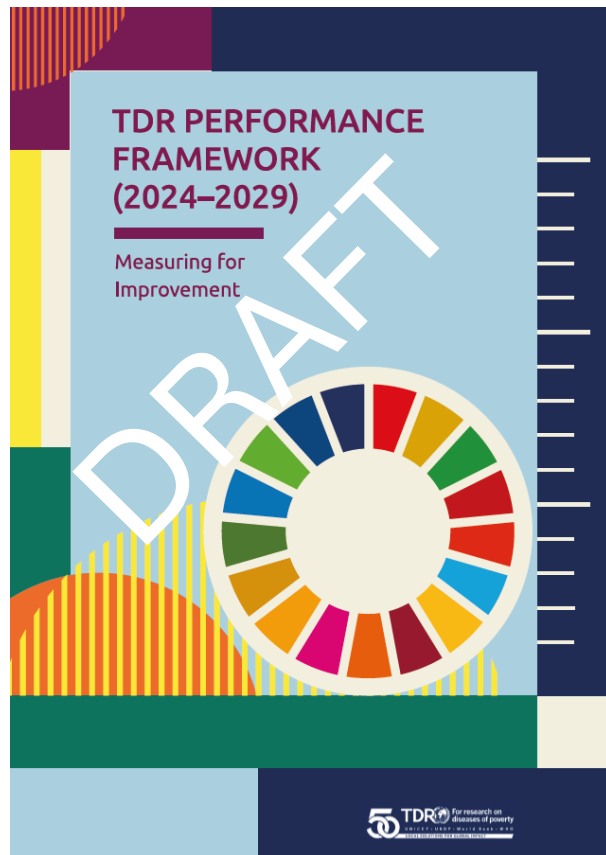


One Health

Human Health + Animal Health + Environment



Updating the Performance Framework



- Fundamentals unchanged, but aligned with the 2024-2029 strategy: added indicators for the major global health challenges
- Continues to measure what we do (technical achievements) and how we work (core values, managerial performance)
- Serves for accountability and continuous improvement
- Integrates recommendations from the Seventh External Review of the Programme: having ranges for targets, clarifying wording
- Adds annual/biennial milestones for indicator targets
- JCB feedback, recommendations and endorsement sought

IMP key achievements: 2023



In October 2023, WHO announced that **Bangladesh is the first country in the world to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis as a public health problem.**

TDR was one of the leading partners who supported research over more than two decades on new diagnostic tools and treatments and their implementation, which helped accelerate this monumental achievement.



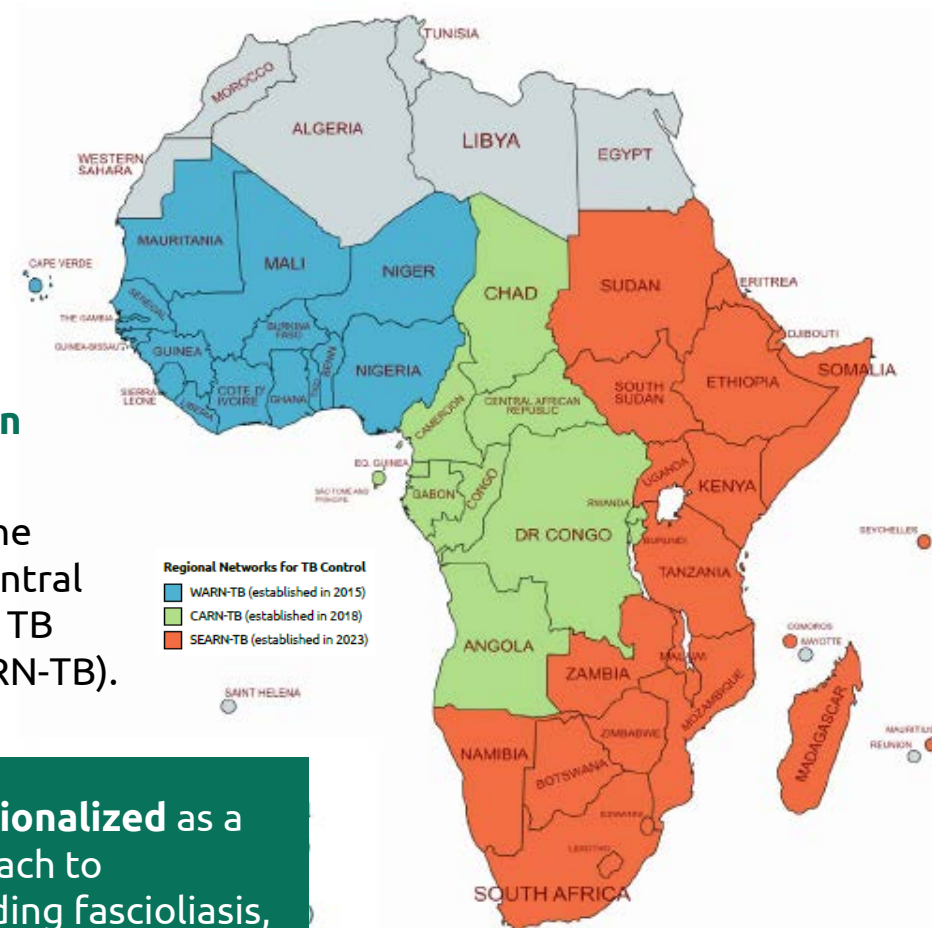
- A new regional network of **national TB programmes** in Southern and Eastern Africa (SEARN-TB) was launched, targeting:

24 countries in the region

- This new network builds on the successes of the West and Central African Regional Network for TB control (known as WARN/CARN-TB).

A One Health approach is operationalized as a transdisciplinary ecosystem approach to addressing various diseases (including fascioliasis, schistosomiasis, vector-borne diseases) in the context of climate change through:

8 projects in Africa



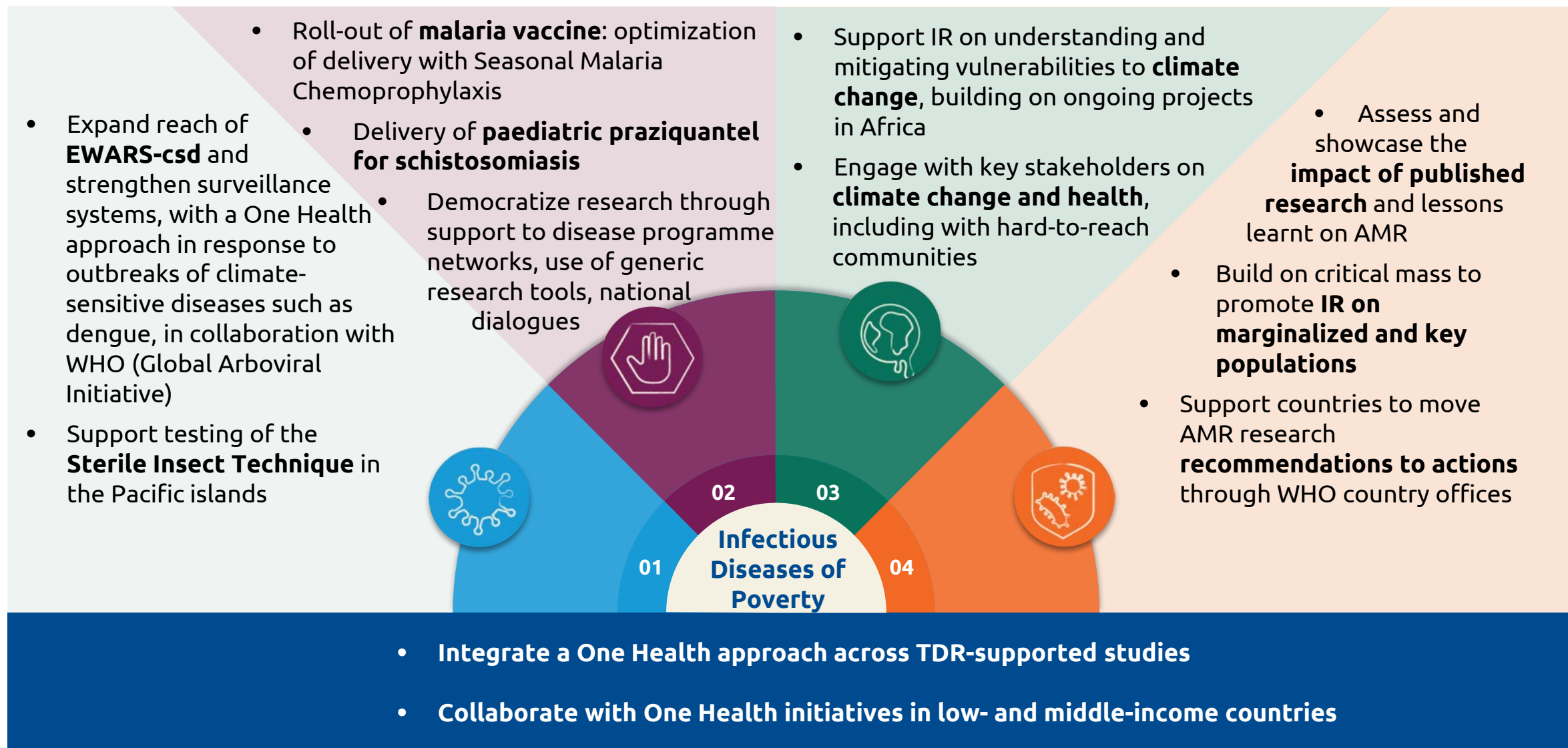
TDR supports Cameroon to eliminate yellow fever epidemics

TDR participated in an investigation to understand the resurgence of yellow fever in Cameroon, respond early to outbreaks and work towards eliminating epidemics by 2026.



This root cause analysis will inform efforts to strengthen the routine immunization programme and ensure vaccination with a high coverage rate.

IMP priorities for 2024-2025



RCS key achievements: 2023



8 universities in low- and middle-income countries affiliated with TDR's research capacity strengthening programmes **have co-developed a curriculum on implementation research** for integration within Master of Public Health programmes.



486 students have obtained **Master of Public Health degrees** through TDR's postgraduate training scheme, focused on implementation research.

**TOTAL
WORLDWIDE
SINCE 2015**

- TDR-supported regional training centres managed **8 sessions of the TDR Massive Open Online on implementation research**, delivered in English, French, Russian and Spanish, to more than:

4300 registered participants

- They also conducted **40 in-person scientific courses** for:

1257 students; 64% were women



Foundations of implementation research: a lecture series for global health impact

New standardized curriculum co-developed by eight universities in low- and middle-income countries affiliated with TDR's research capacity strengthening programmes. 15 self-paced online lectures cover topics such as:

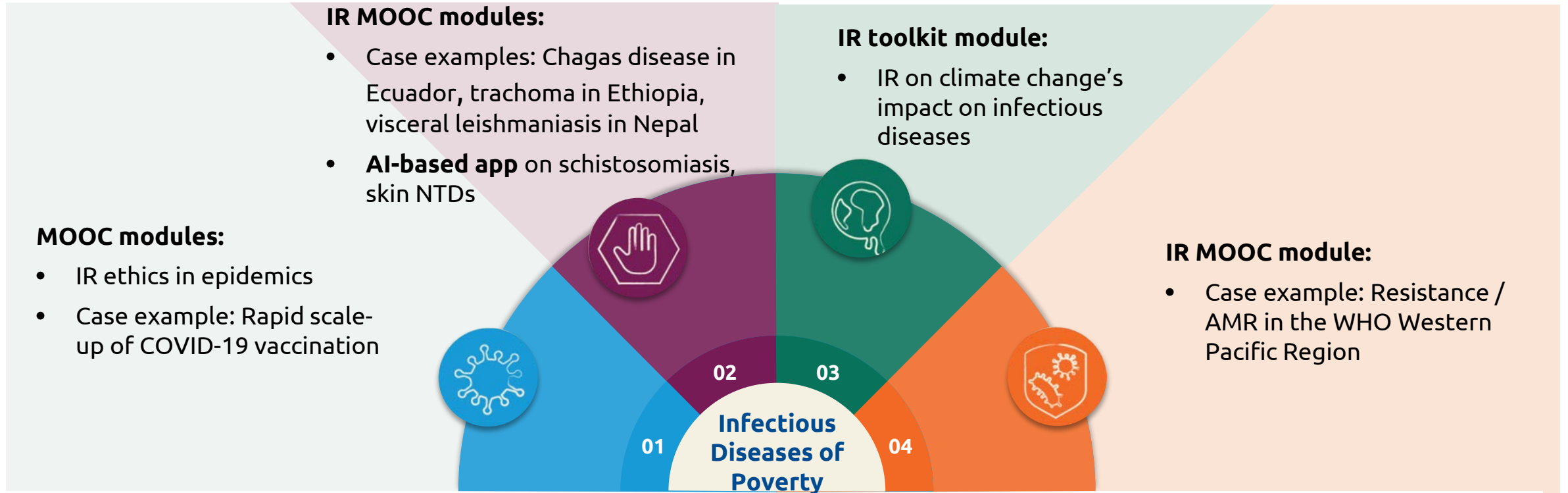
- addressing barriers to implementation
- measurement of IR outcomes
- research for scaling up interventions and
- translating results from IR into policy and action.



Accessible at irfoundations.org

RCS priorities for 2024-2025

Promote and support dissemination of new research training materials:



- **Developing IR leadership:** comprehensive, strategic programme for piloting.
- **Postgraduate training scheme:** to equip researchers and implementers with knowledge and skills to approach four global health challenges from One Health perspective.
- **IR toolkit and MOOC:** new One Health modules in English and French.

Global engagement key achievements: 2023



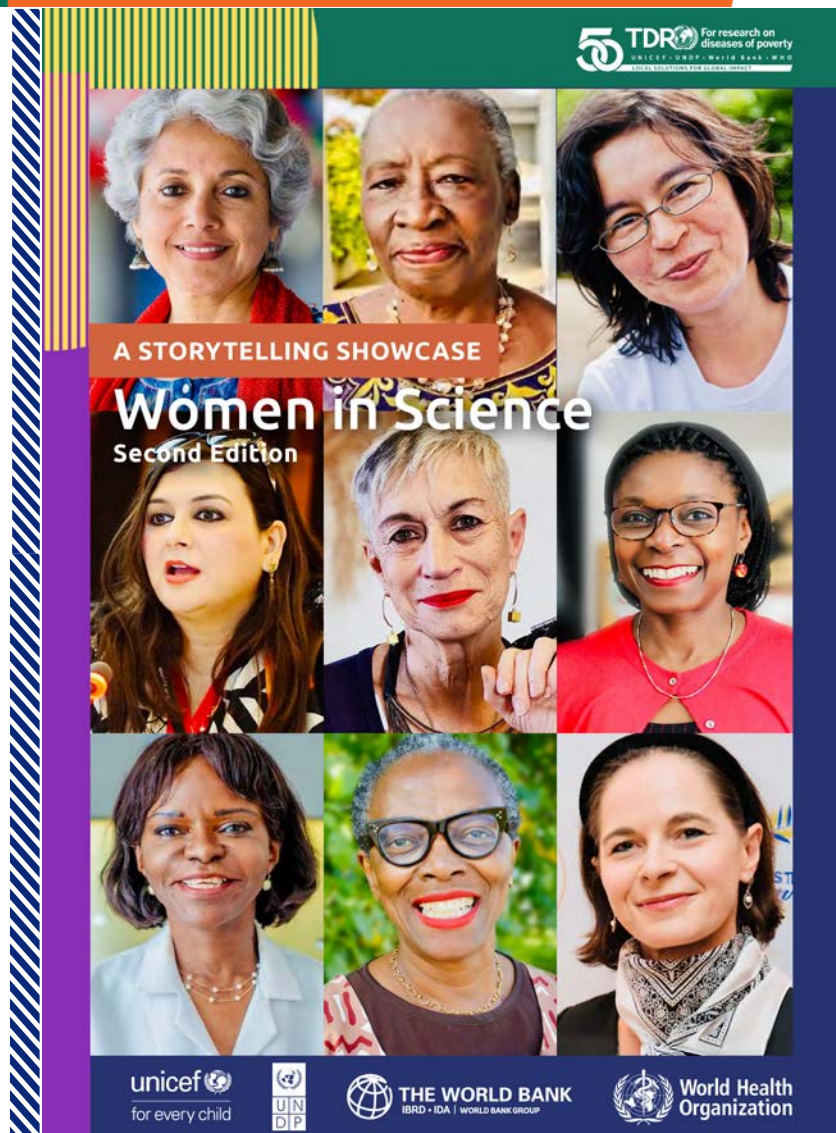
27 implementation research projects were awarded Impact Grants in collaboration with WHO regional offices.

TDR provided technical assistance to WHO-led priority-setting exercises, including those pertaining to **One Health, antimicrobial resistance in human health, health and migration** and a **research roadmap for NTDs**.



Through a collaboration with HRP, a **virtual repository of resources** has been launched to support efforts to incorporate sex and gender in health research.

TDR Global: Women in Science compendium (Second Edition)



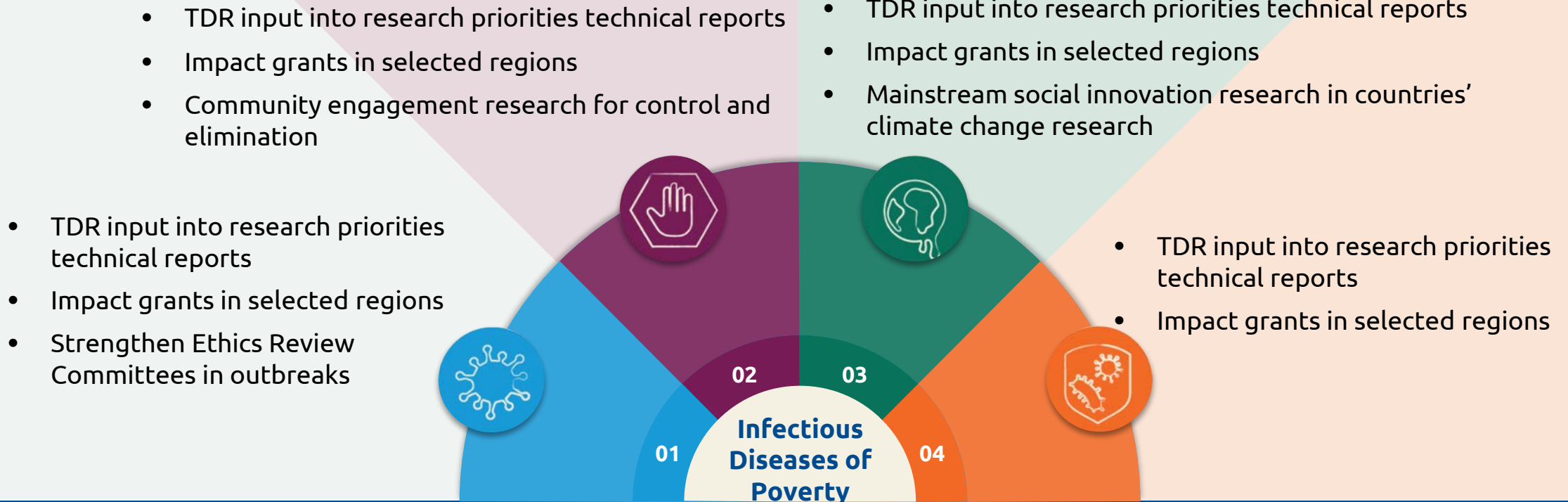
Updated compendium, to be published this year, includes 4 additional profiles:

- **Professor Yasmine Belkaid:** *President, Institut Pasteur*
- **Professor Juntra Laothavorn:** *Professor Emeritus, Mahidol University, Thailand*
- **Professor Rose Leke:** *Professor of Immunology and Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the Université de Yaoundé, Cameroon*
- **Dr Francine Ntoumi:** *Founder, President and Executive Director of the Congolese Foundation for Medical Research, Republic of Congo*



Global Engagement priorities for 2024-2025

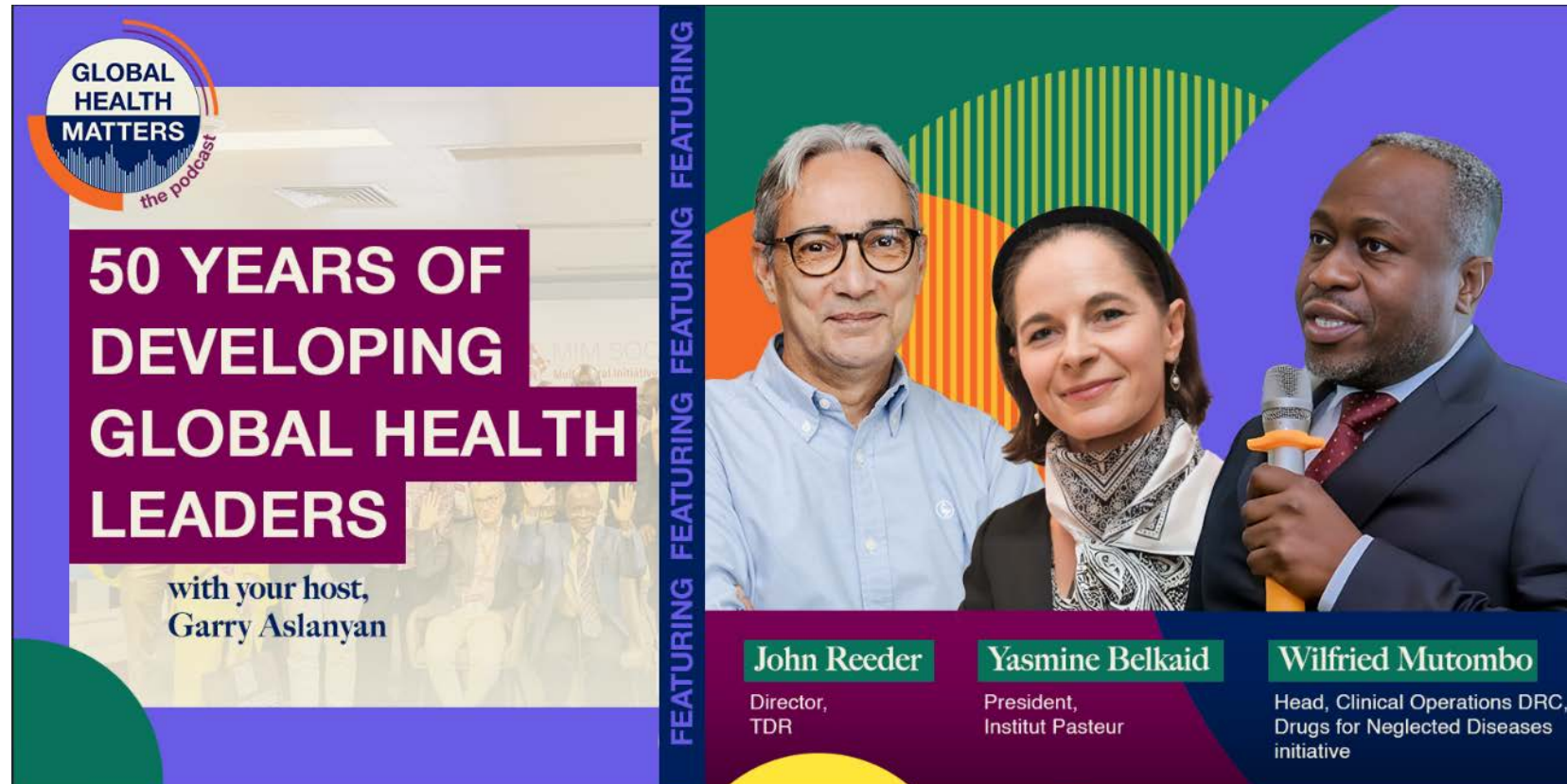
Engage globally and with cross-cutting issues to address:



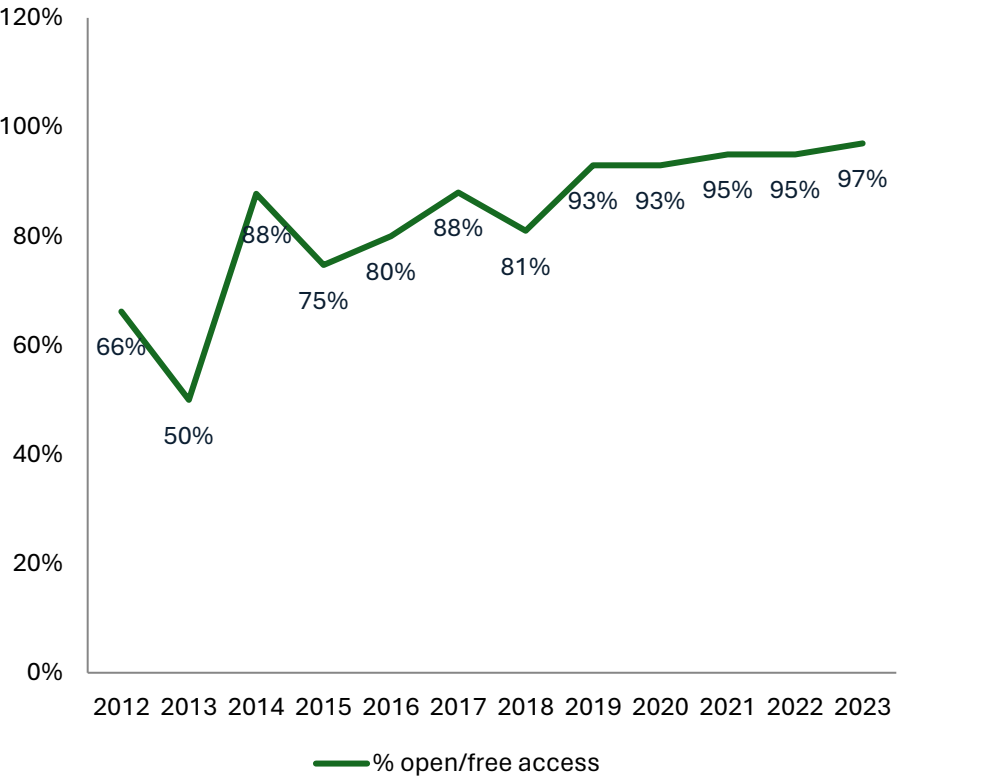
- Communicating research findings for impact, including MOOC training.
- Revise and implement the TDR Global strategy.
- Integration of SIHI and gender/intersectionality.
- Support for research management in LMICs under the leadership of ESSENCE initiative.
- Develop a TDR led ethics guidance for ERCs to incorporate an intersectional gender approach in their review processes.

Global Health Matters podcast

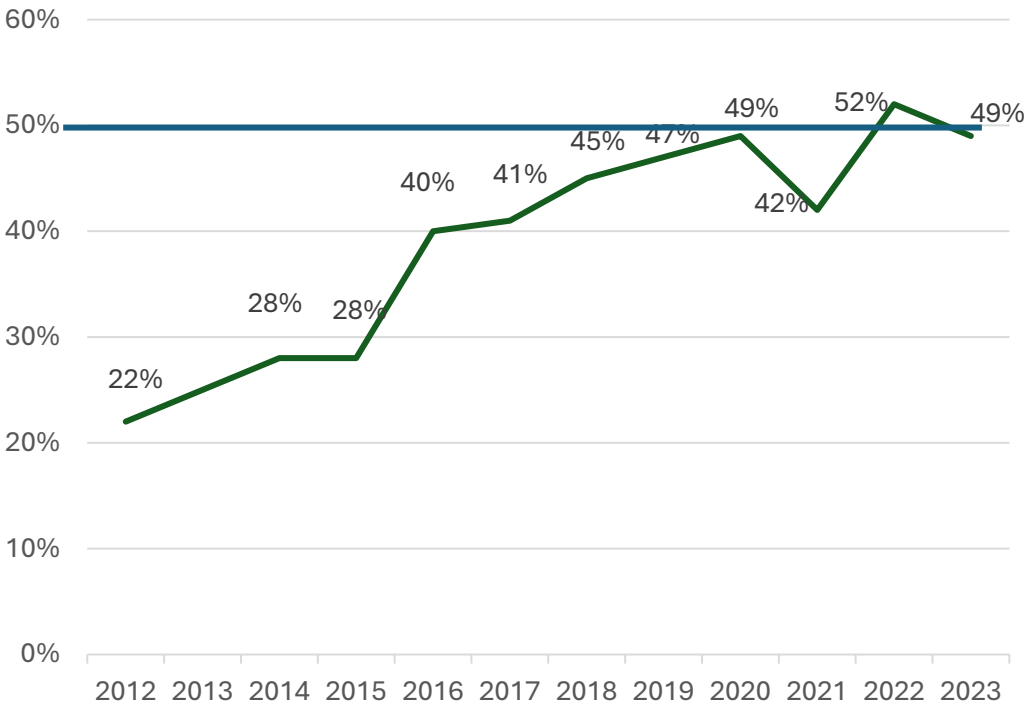
A total of 30 episodes have been produced over the last three years. The podcast has been downloaded more than 60,000 times by listeners in 204 countries, with a growing audience in low- and middle-income countries.



Positive trends in core values: Key Performance Indicators

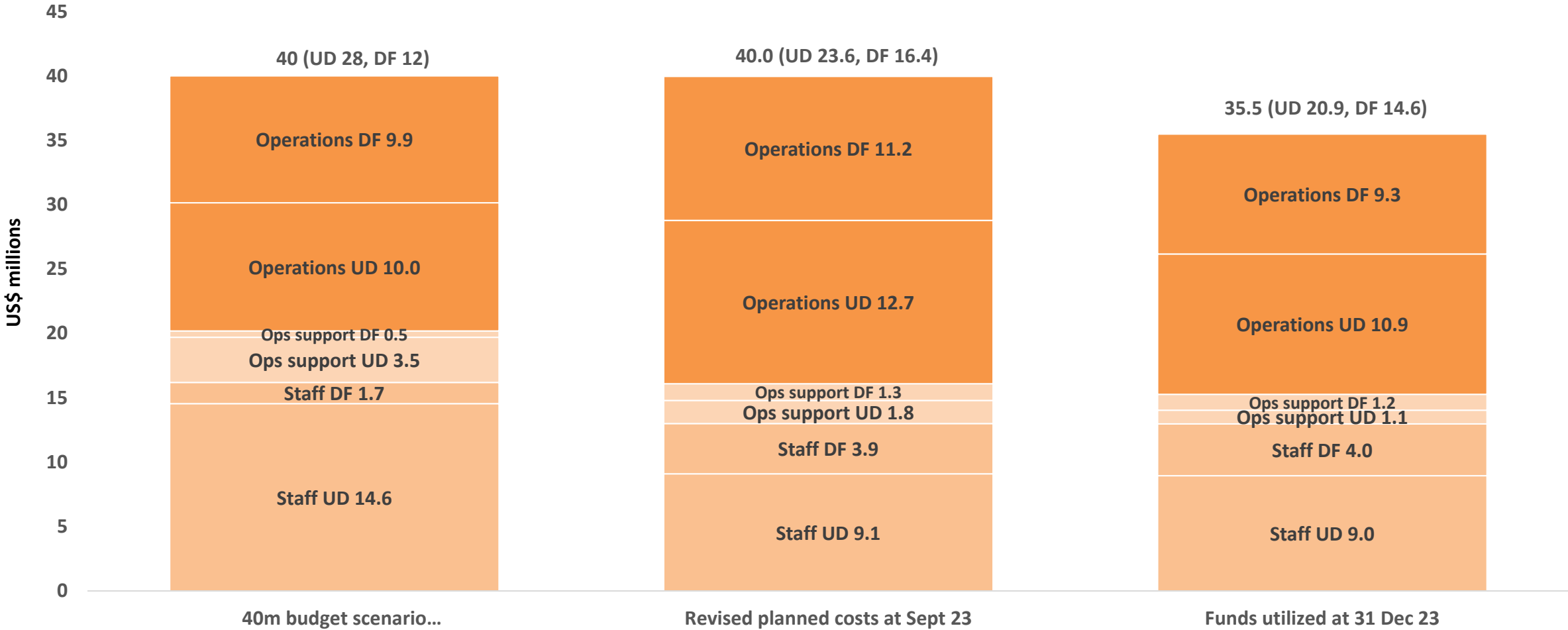


Proportion of open/free access publications

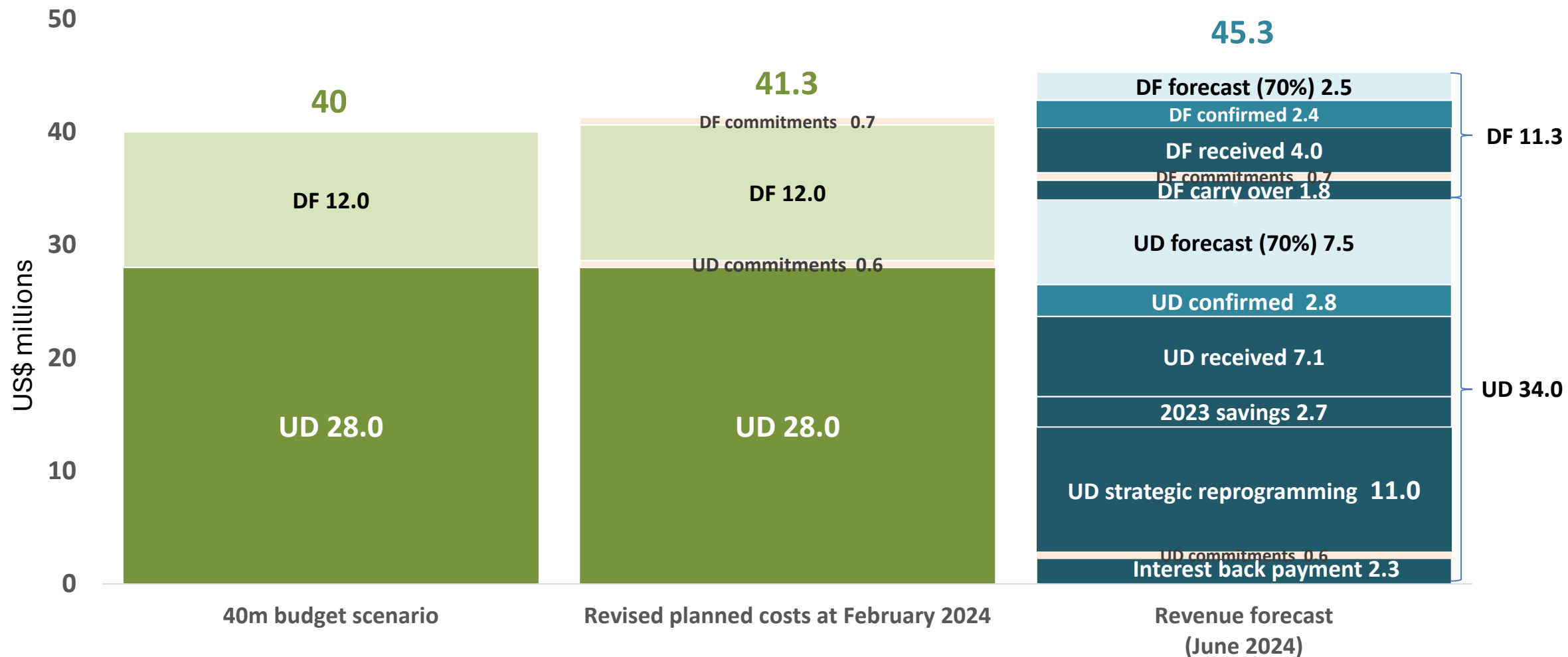


Proportion of funding going to women

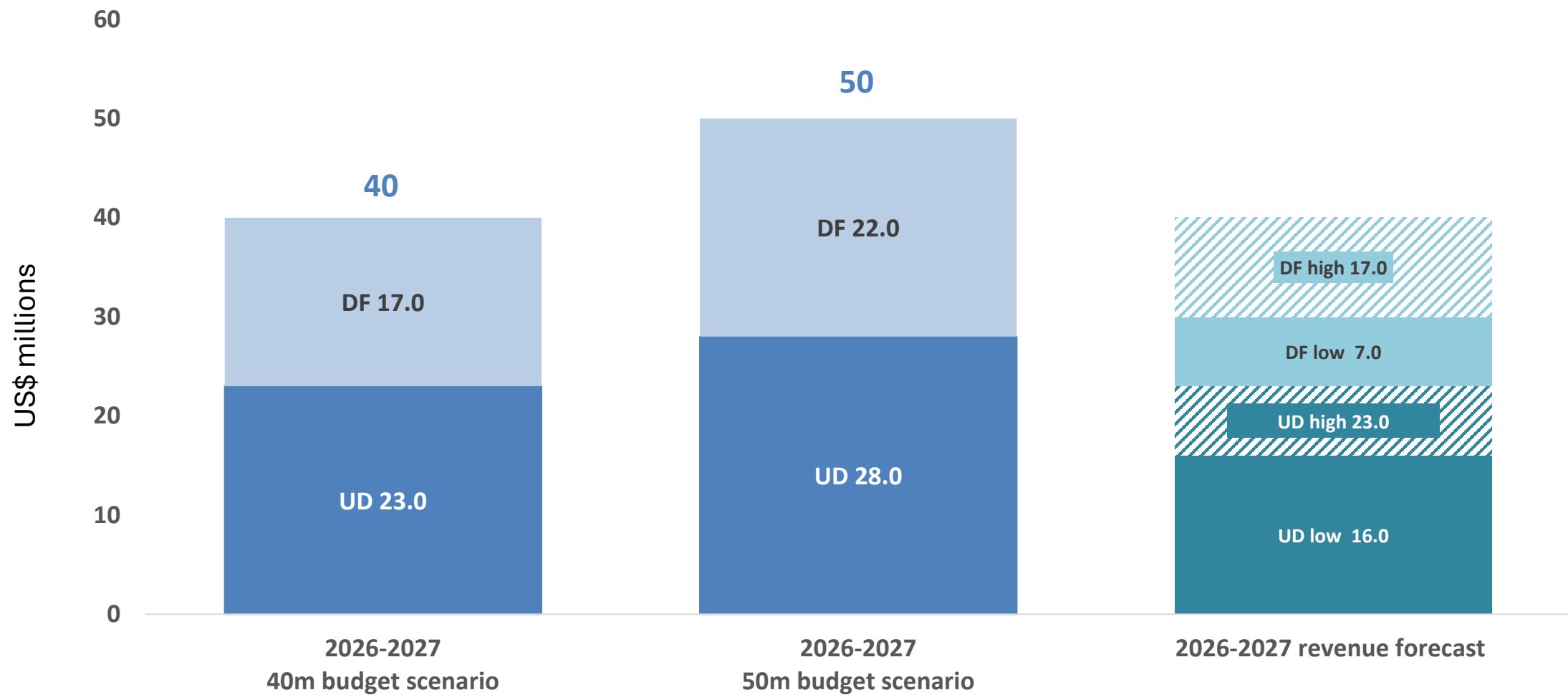
2022-2023 Financial overview



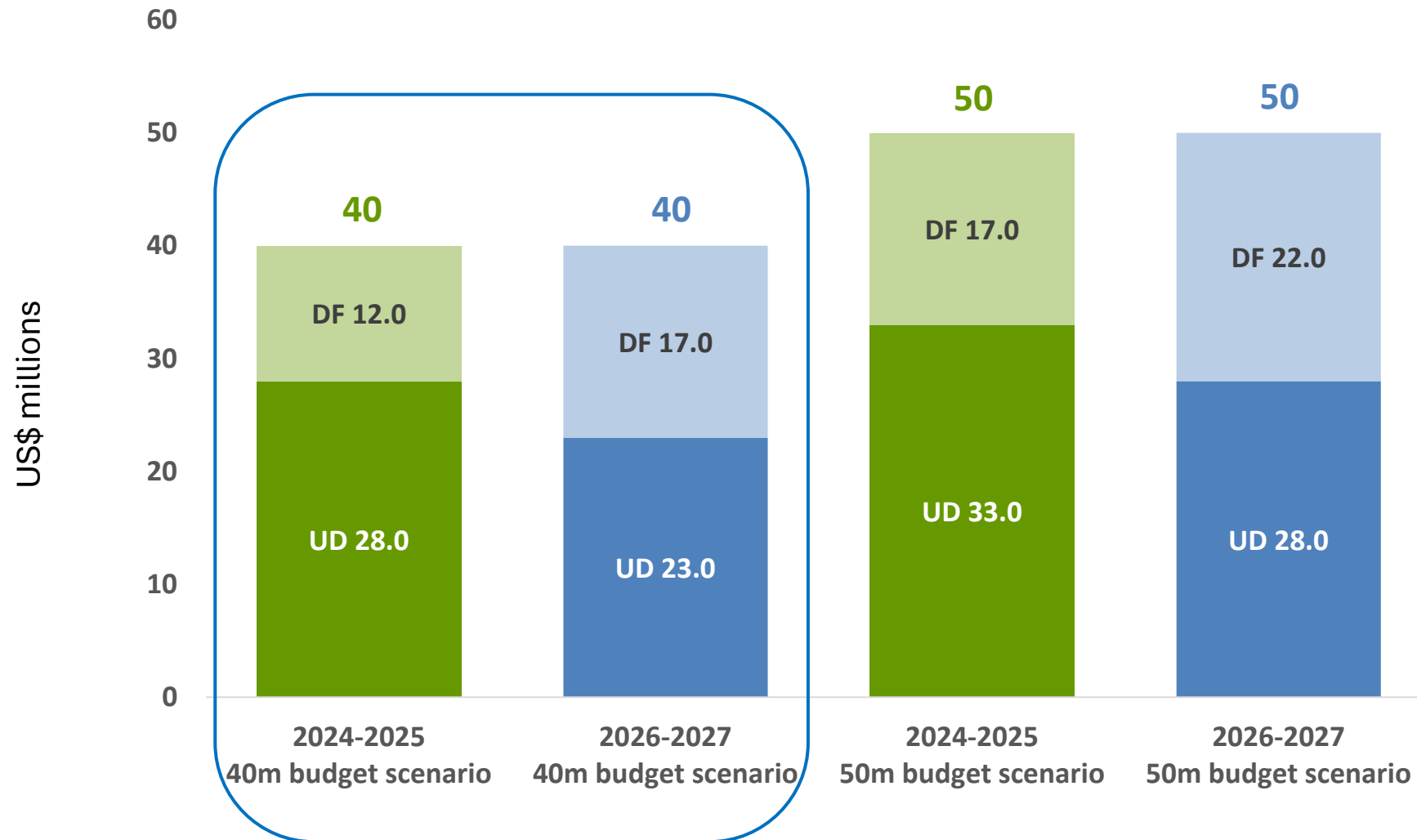
2024-2025 budget scenarios and funding



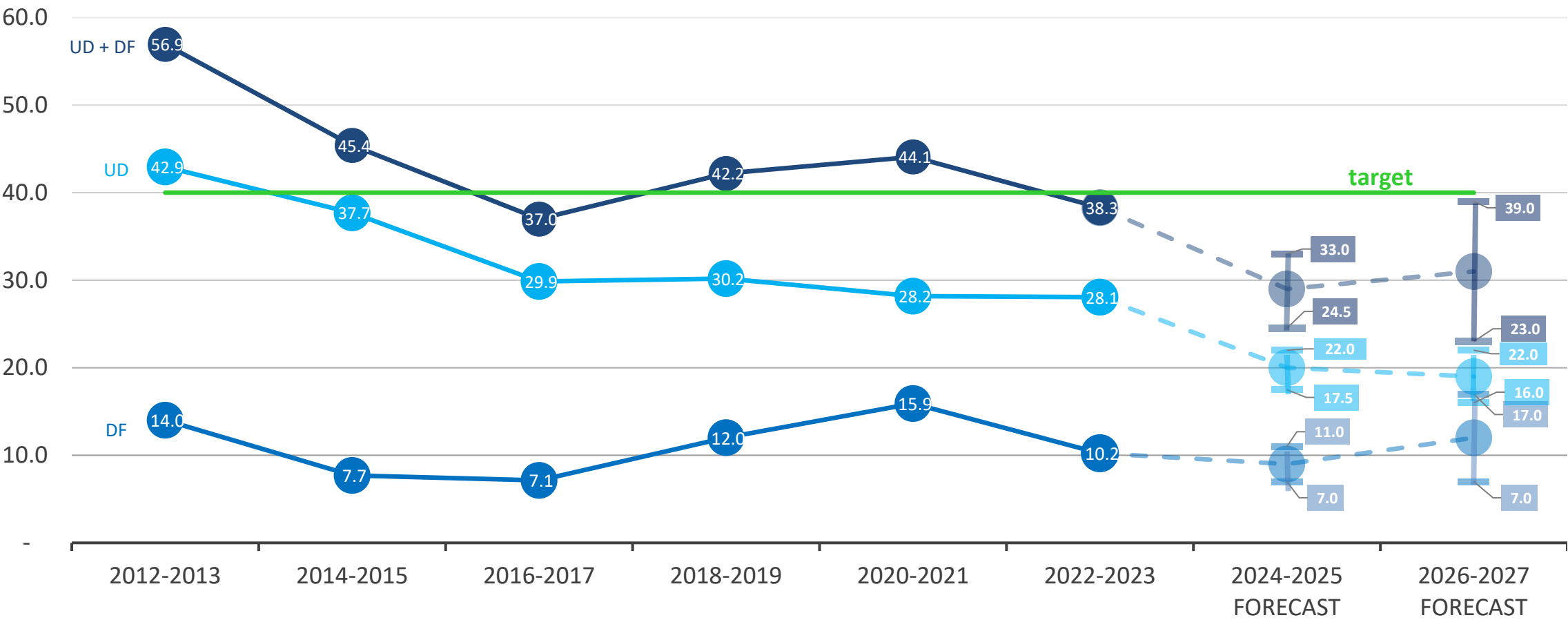
2026-2027 budget scenarios and revenue forecast



Budget scenario levels proposed



Revenue trend and forecast



HR Changes



Farewell to: Dr Abraham Aseffa – Retiring as IMP Unit Head this month.

Abraham joined TDR in February 2020 as the Unit Head for Implementation. Before TDR, Abraham served as Director of the Armauer Hansen Research Institute in Ethiopia between 2010-2016.

Welcome to: Dr Christine Halleux - Returning 1 August

Christine originally joined TDR in March 2009 as Scientist in Research Unit. In June 2020, she was promoted to the department of Quality Assurance, Norms and Standards where she leads the quality assurance process to strengthen the normative function of the Organization.

Before joining TDR, Christine worked for several years in the field with Médecins Sans Frontières, leading medical programmes and implementation research in various countries in Africa and Latin America. She also worked for a few years in the pharmaceutical industry in Latin America, focusing on knowledge management and research quality.



HR Changes



Retiring: Christine Coze –

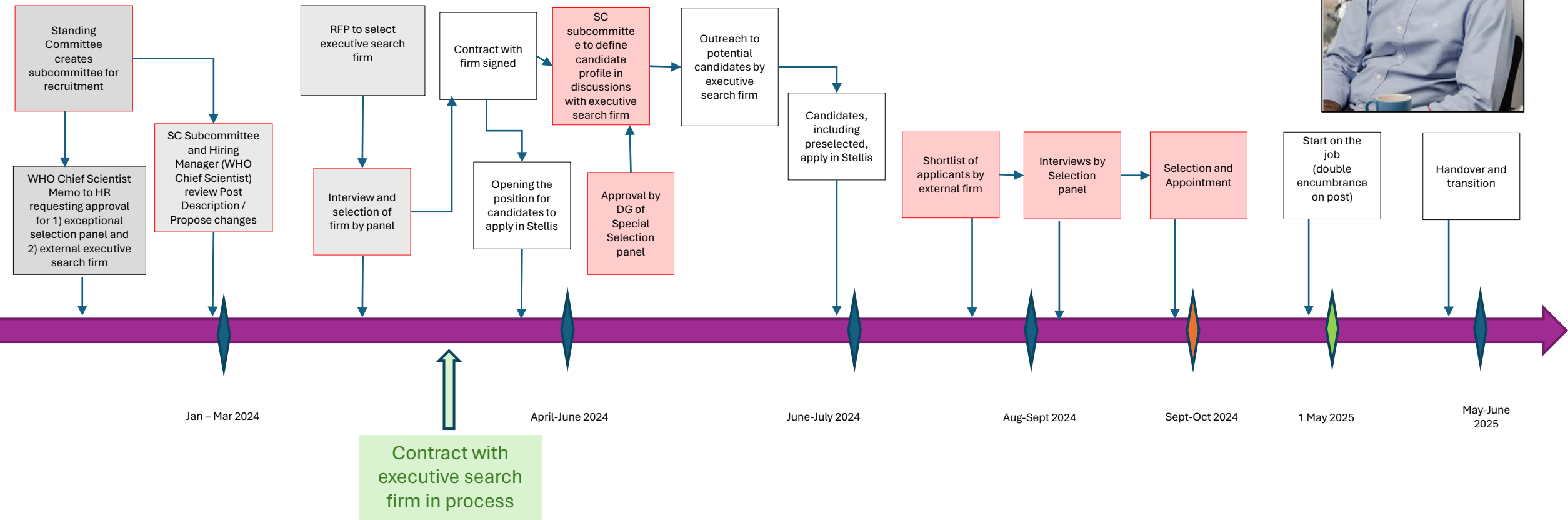
Retiring in September after 29 years in WHO, 19 years with TDR and 19 Joint Coordinating Boards.

Chris has been instrumental in organizing and facilitating TDR governance meetings. She has also been a great asset in maintaining donor relations, working closely with the manager for partnerships and global engagement.

Recruitment of new Director (JR end date May/June 2025)



TIMELINE FOR RECRUITMENT OF DIRECTOR TDR



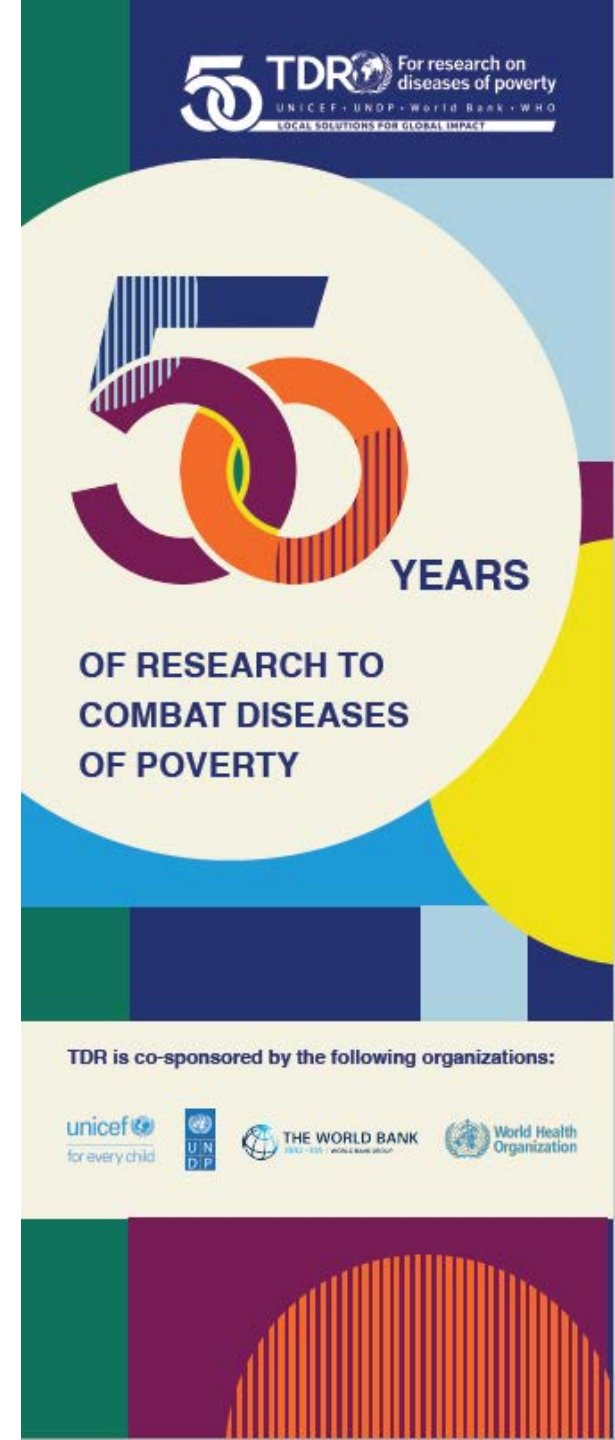
TDR is 50!

EVENTS

- April: symposium at Multilateral Initiative on Malaria in Rwanda
- May: reception during World Health Assembly
- June: 50th anniversary panel and celebration event at JCB
- June: TDR Golden Jubilee organized by Armauer Hansen Research Institute in Ethiopia
- July: Virtual celebration event organized by Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Brazil
- October: joint symposium with MMV at ASTMH in USA

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS / SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- Series of advocacy videos
- Interactive posters of key achievements – themes linked to Strategy
- Video diaries from TDR Global members
- Photo contest engaging TDR Global members
- ²⁶Interactive map showing TDR's impact across the world



Summary



- Strong operational achievements in 2023
- Good progress towards results targets
- Good project implementation rate (90%)
- Despite difficult funding environment, TDR was able to start 2024–2025 with the full US\$ 40 million funding scenario as approved by JCB
- Clear and achievable workplan for 2024–2025 targeting new strategy
- Happy 50th Birthday TDR!