

Building local research solutions to improve global health

JCB48 BRIEFING SESSION

John Reeder, Director TDR



For research on
diseases of poverty

UNICEF • UNDP • World Bank • WHO

What is TDR?

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) is hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is co-sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and WHO.

TDR's organizational arrangement as a United Nations-based Programme, engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders, puts it in a unique position to play a pivotal role as a catalyst, facilitator and advisor in the global health research debate.

What is the purpose of TDR?



Vision

The health and well-being of people burdened by infectious diseases of poverty is improved through research and innovation.

Mission

To support effective and innovative global health research, through strengthening the research capacity of disease-affected countries, and promoting the translation of evidence into interventions that reduce the burden of infectious diseases and build resilience in the most vulnerable populations.

A Little Bit of History

Established in 1974 with "the two interdependent objectives of developing improved tools for the control of tropical diseases and strengthening the research capability of affected countries themselves"



50 years of research making an impact



1975

MEDICINES, DIAGNOSTICS AND VECTOR CONTROL

- Multi-drug therapy for leprosy
- Mefloquin, Mefloquine plus sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine, bednets for malaria
- Ivermectin for onchocerciasis
- Leishmaniasis direct agglutination diagnostic test
- Insecticide-impregnated tsetse fly traps for sleeping sickness



1995

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

- Community-led approach to onchocerciasis annual mass treatment
- Home management of malaria by community healthcare workers
- New social research methodologies



2005

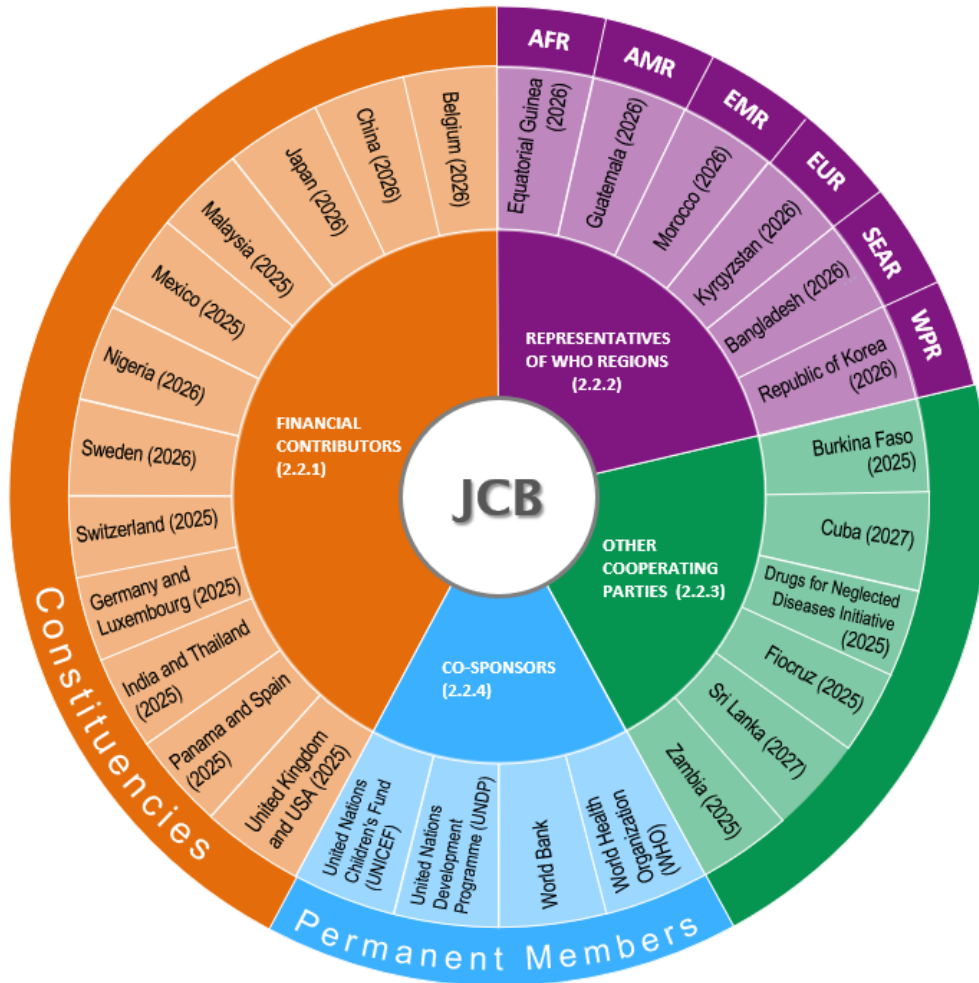
ACCESS FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

- Supporting research for implementation of innovative products, tools and strategies
- Strengthening capacity to conduct implementation research
- Accelerating UHC through innovative and inclusive approaches (e.g. new gender research strategy, Social Innovation in Health Initiative)

TDR Governance

- Established as a co-sponsored programme following resolutions at the World Health Assembly in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977 on the need for a special programme for research and training on tropical diseases.
- Formal establishment came in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding in 1978
- TDR is co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO.
- TDR operates under the legal framework of WHO, which acts as its executing agency. TDR staff are WHO employees.
- TDR's governance allows the Special Programme to operate within the broad framework of intergovernmental and interagency cooperation and participation.

TDR governance: Joint Coordinating Board membership (as of 1 January 2025)



28 MEMBERS

- 12 representatives from the governments contributing to TDR's resources.
- 6 government representatives selected by the WHO Regional Committees from among those countries directly affected by the diseases dealt with by the TDR.
- 6 members, designated by the JCB itself, from among the remaining Cooperating Parties, which may include nongovernmental organizations.
- 4 TDR co-sponsors



Chair
Dr Sunil De Alwis,
Sri Lanka



Vice-chair
Dr Daniel Eibach,
Germany

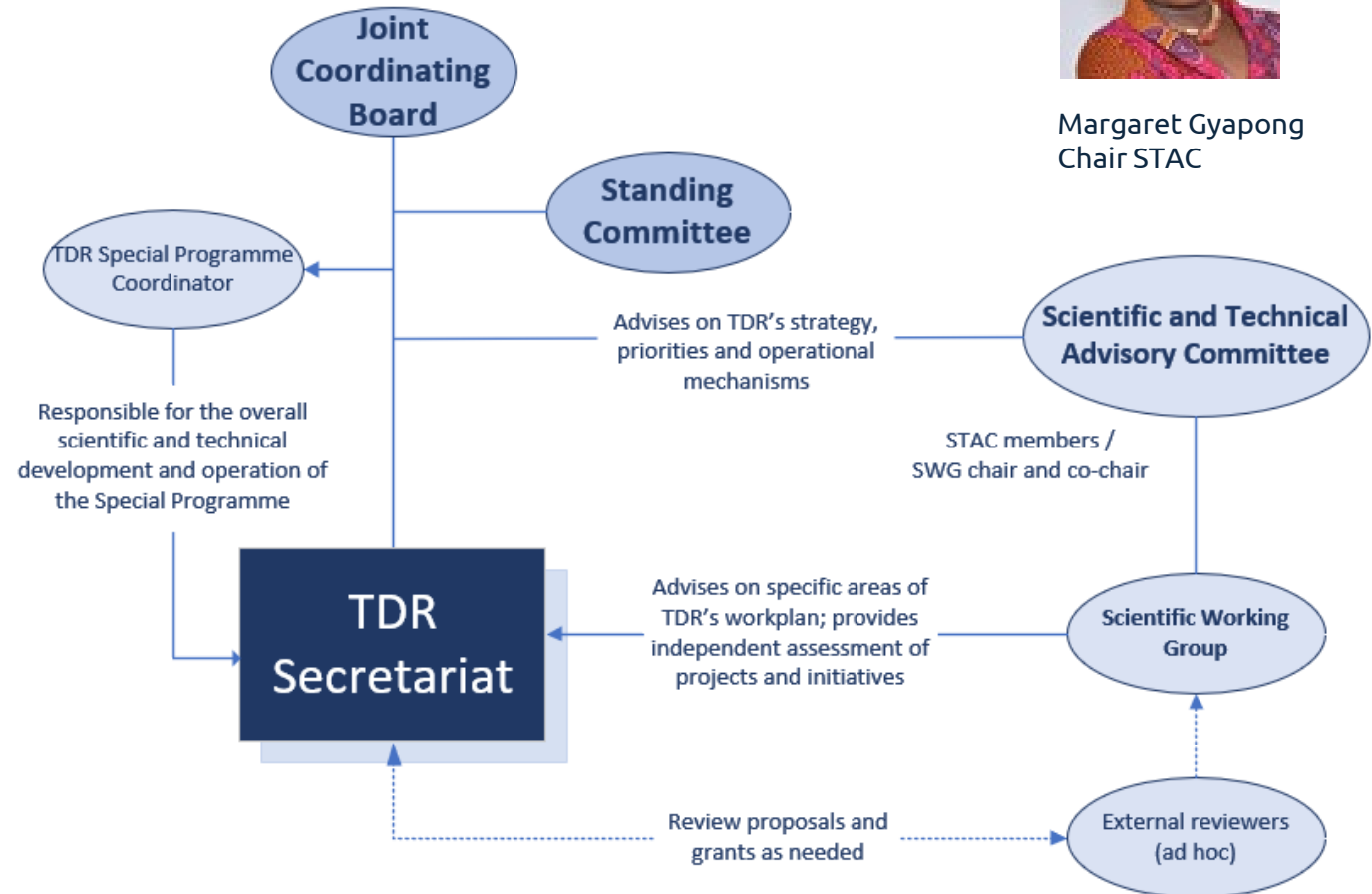
TDR governance



Sylvie Briand
WHO Chief Scientist / TDR Special
Programme Coordinator



John Reeder
Director TDR



Margaret Gyapong
Chair STAC



- See previous slide

Main functions:

- Review/approve TDR's planning and execution.
- Approve plans of action, budget and financing.
- Review progress reports towards achievement of objectives.
- Endorse STAC membership.

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Membership

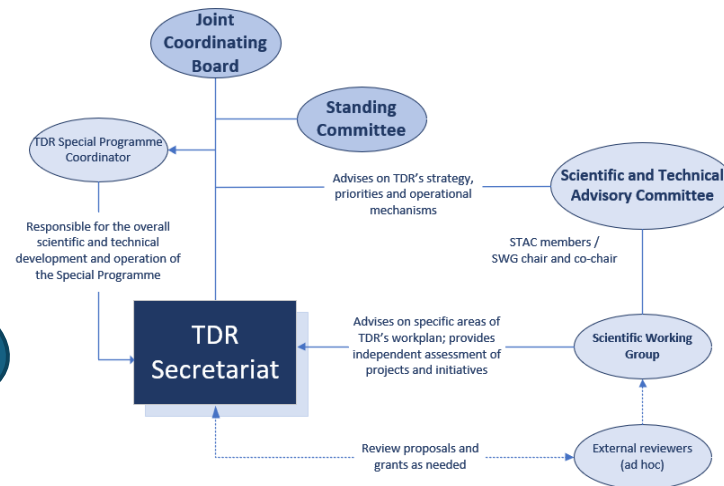
- Co-sponsors, JCB Chair and Vice-Chair, two JCB reps (resource contributor and DEC), Chair STAC.

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- Make proposals to the JCB for financing of TDR.
- Approve re-allocation of resources.
- Review particular aspects of TDR and present findings and recommendations to the JCB.

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Refer to the TDR MOU for more information.




- 15 experts with diverse technical expertise

Main functions:

- Review dimensions of the Programme from a scientific and technical standpoint.
- Review/advise on the portfolio scope, prioritization and balance across various functions, etc.
- Examine the interface between TDR and WHO departments.
- Examine SWG advice and input.

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Membership

- Experts with diverse technical expertise

Main functions:

- Review/prioritize proposed activities.
- Screen/select projects.
- Recommend funding.
- Follow-up progress/evaluation of results.

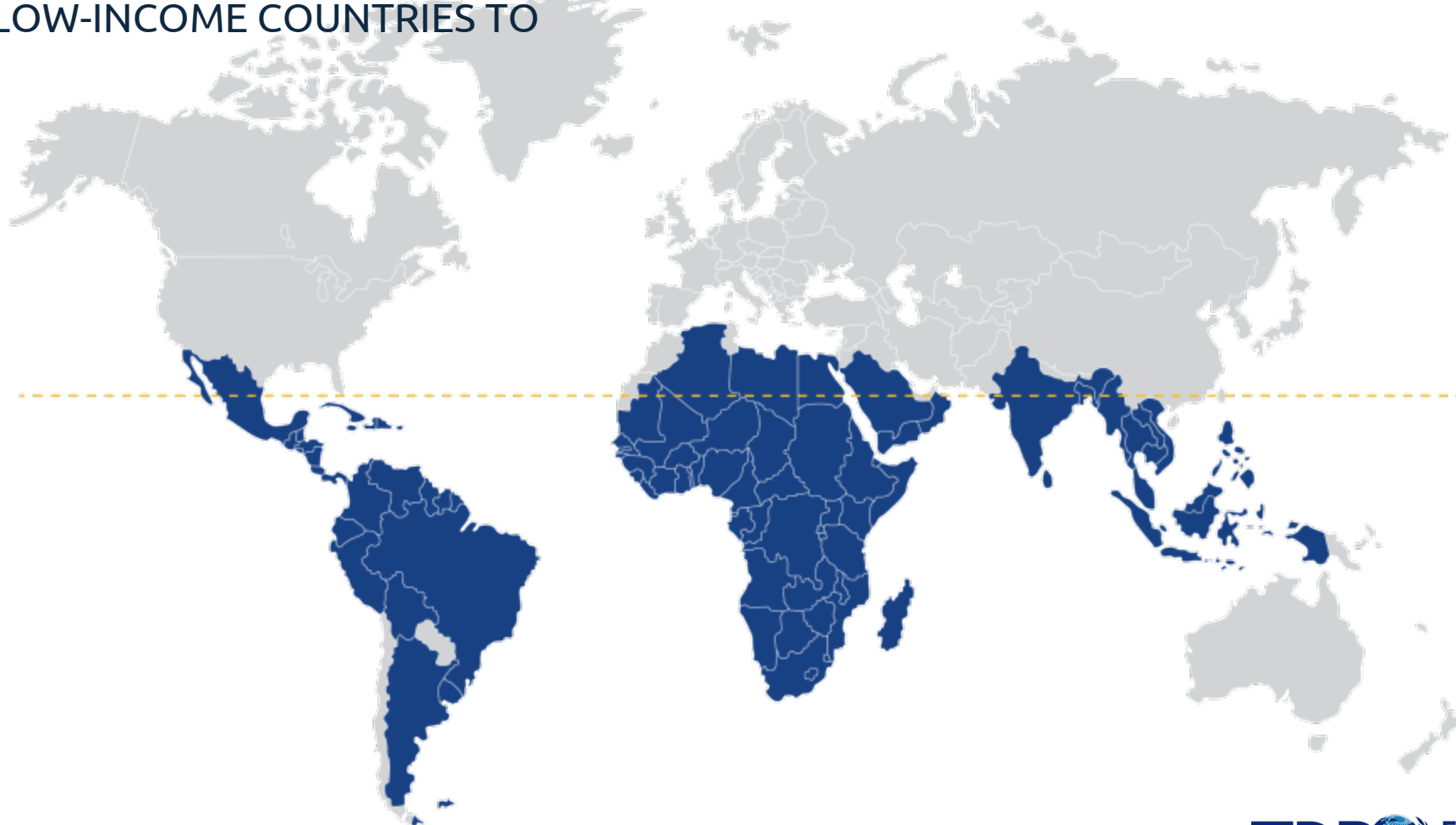
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Detailed standard operating procedures for running the SWG and other external scientific/ technical reviews of TDR projects are available on our website.

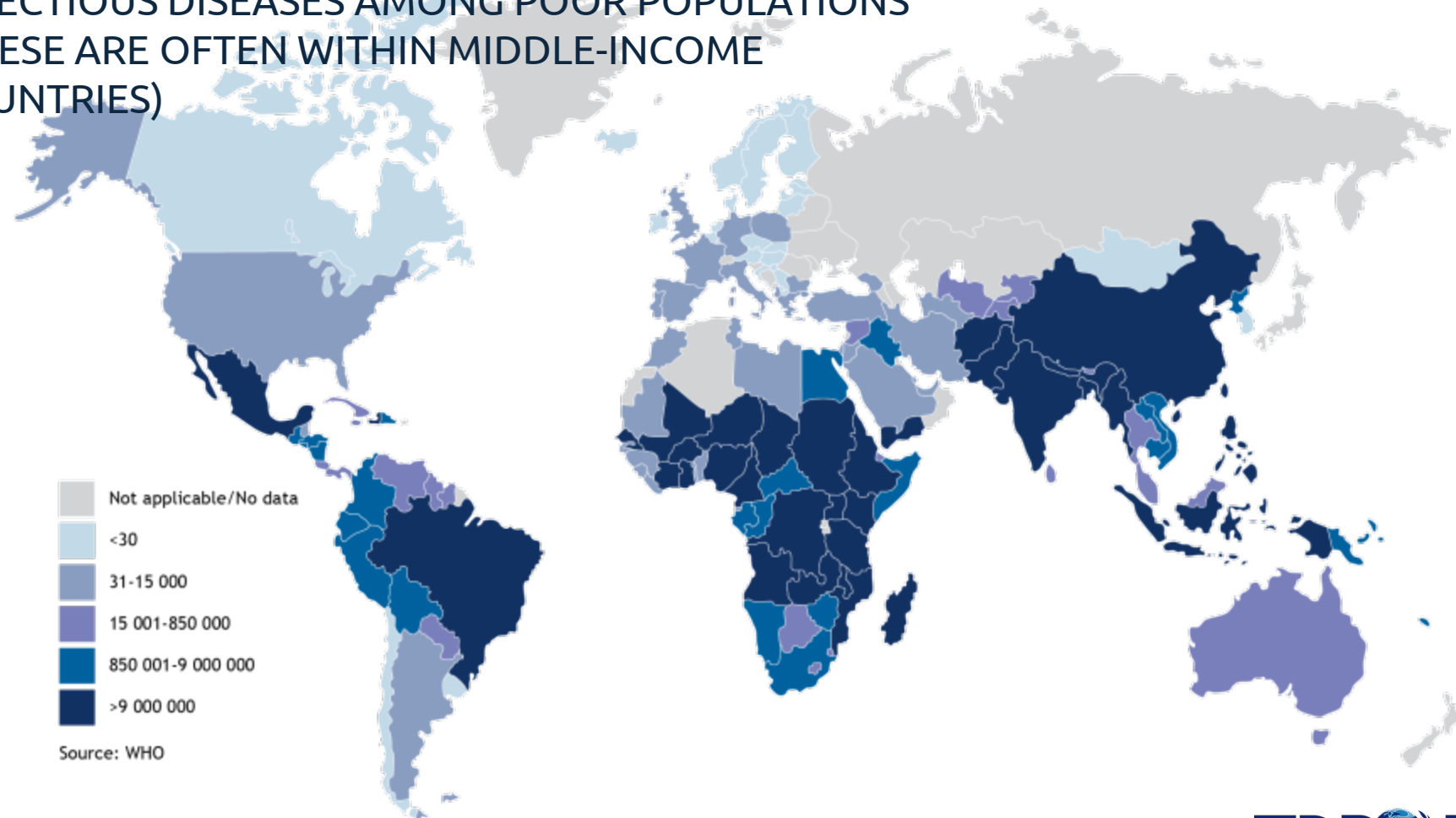
THE NTD MAP IS CHANGING

MOVING FROM “TROPICAL DISEASES”
IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES TO



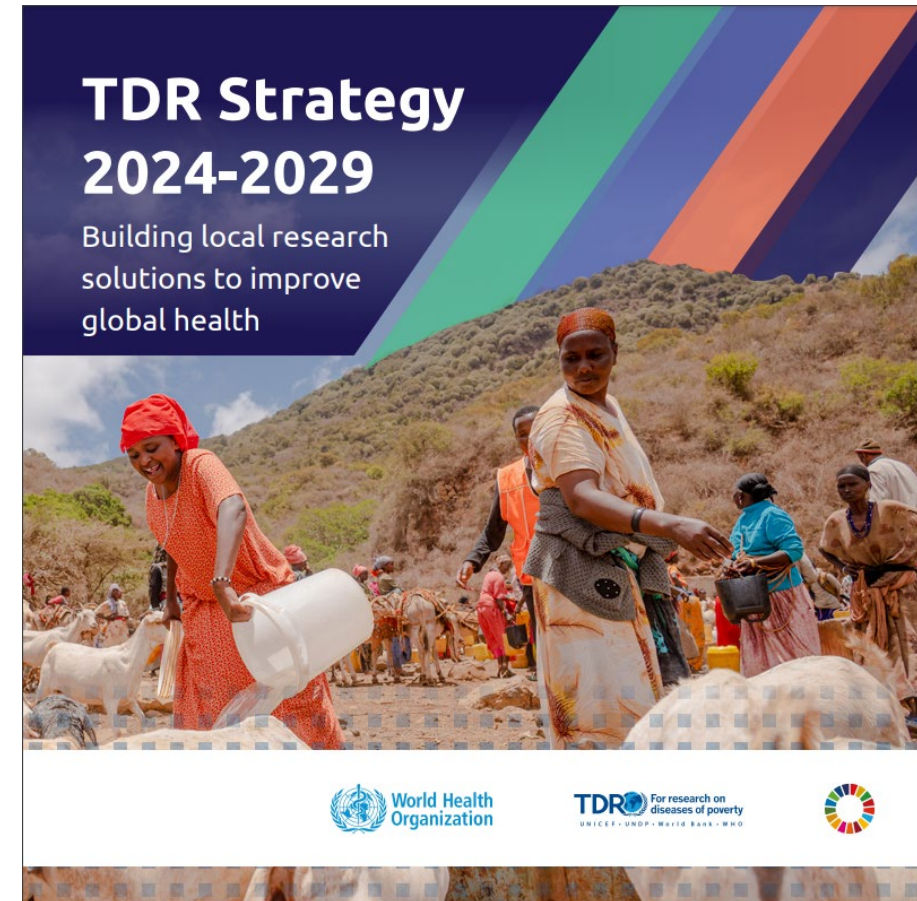
THE NTD MAP IS CHANGING

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG POOR POPULATIONS
(THESE ARE OFTEN WITHIN MIDDLE-INCOME
COUNTRIES)



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.



Strategic approaches to addressing global health challenges

Research support

Supporting and facilitating country-led implementation research to improve access to quality health interventions.

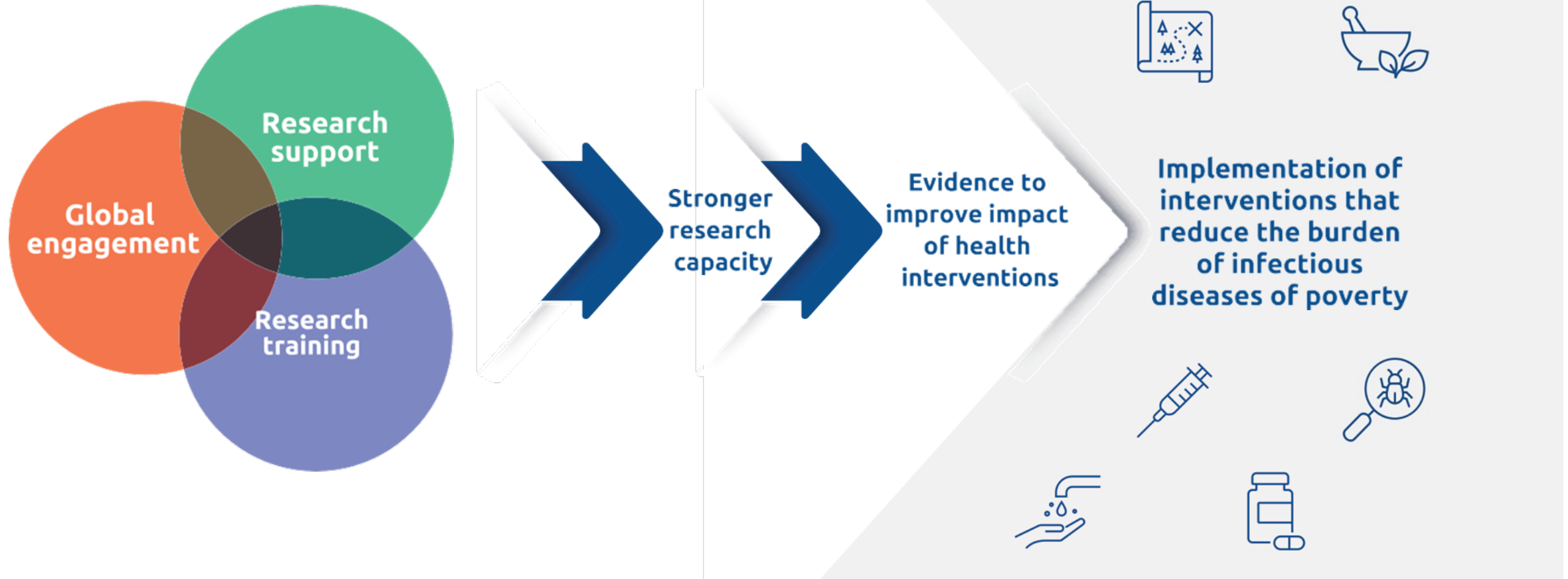
Research training

Strengthening the capacity of people, institutions and societies to produce research evidence that is useful for reducing the burden of infectious diseases of poverty.

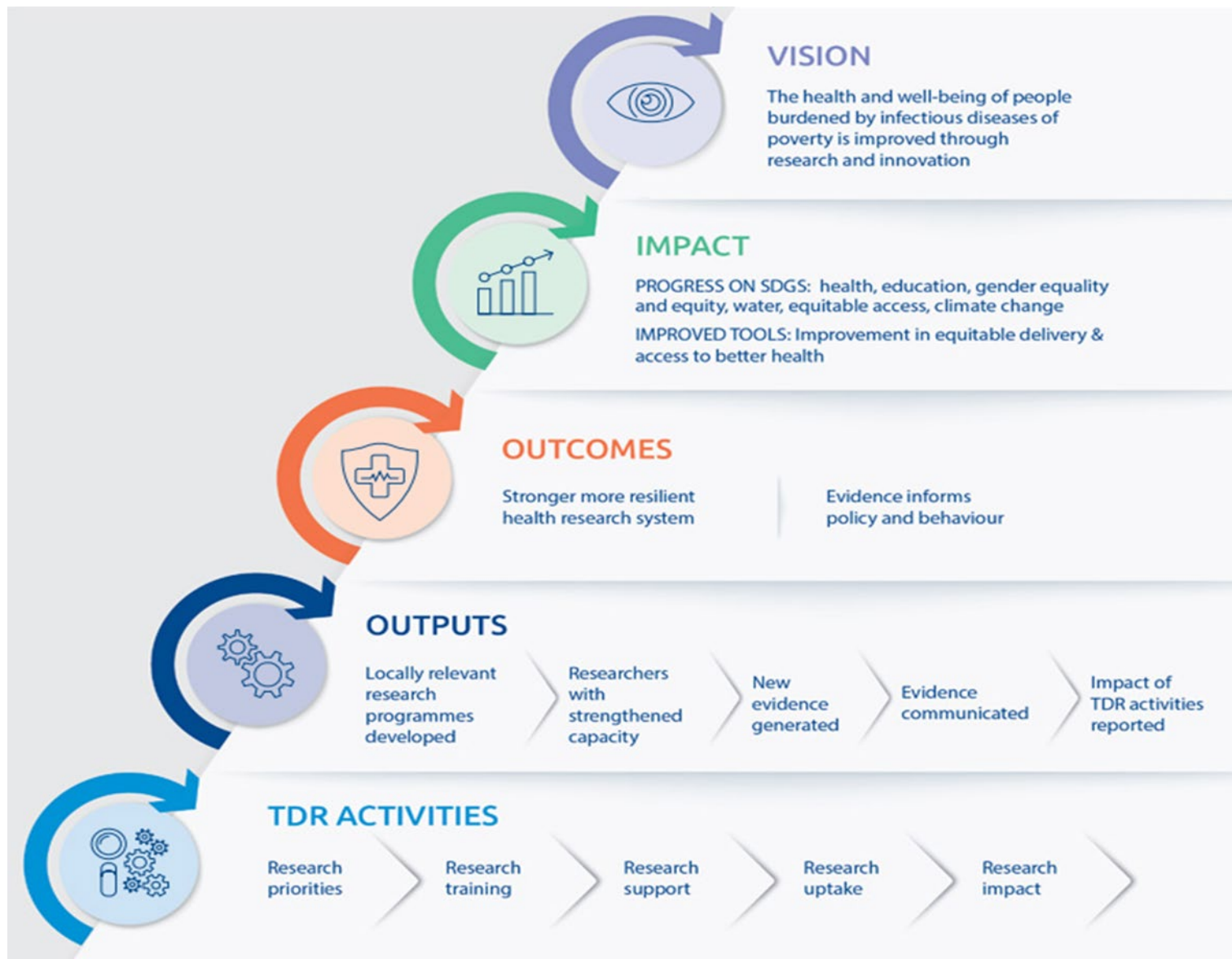
Global engagement

Engagement and collaboration with the wider global health effort to promote and facilitate the role of research for development.

The impact pathway

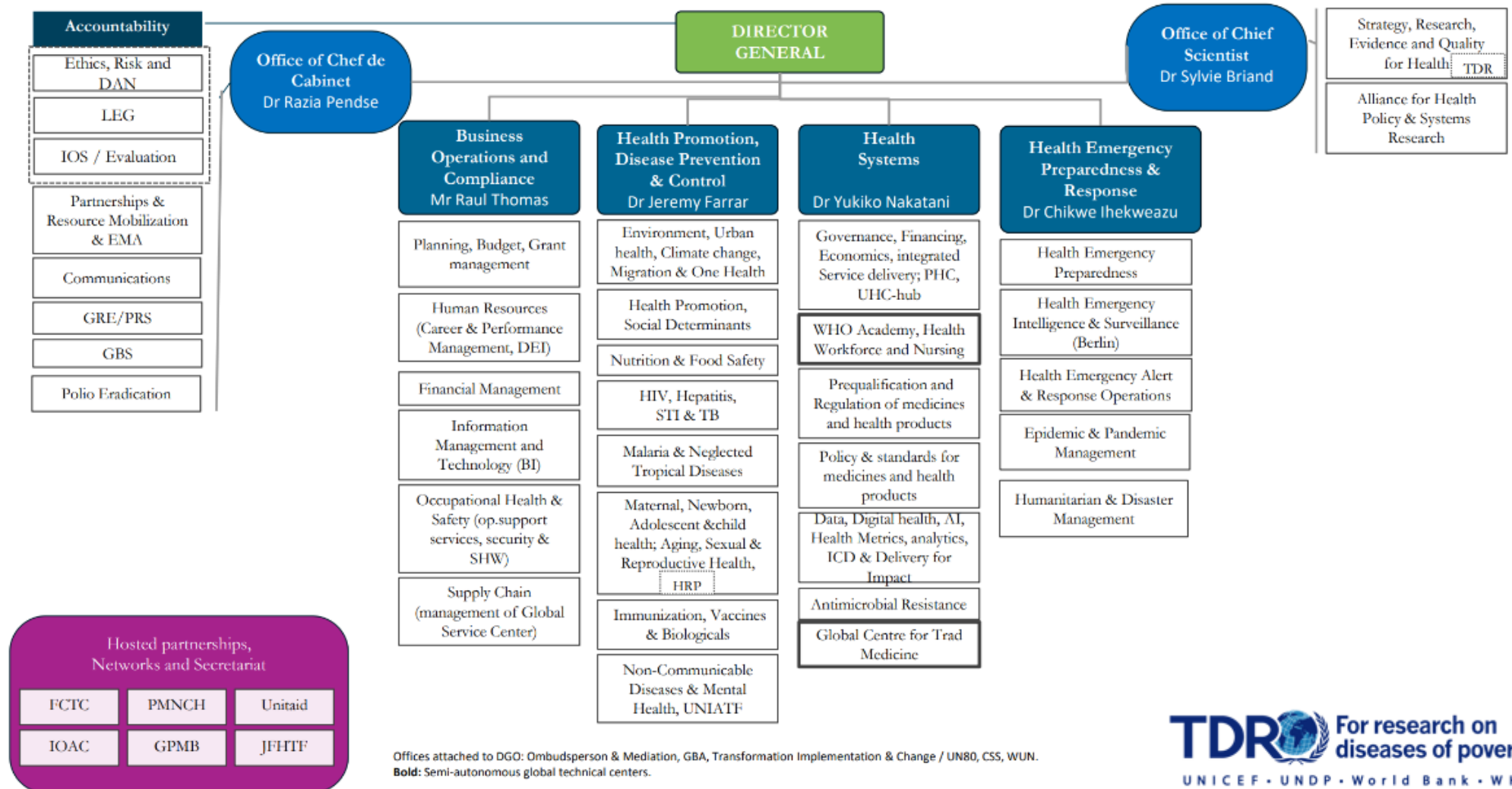


Our theory of change



The WHO-HQ Structure

Departmental organizational structure



WHO Science Division

- TDR director reports to the Chief Scientist
- One department:
 - Strategy, Research, Evidence and Quality for Health
- Two research entities based at WHO:
 - TDR
 - AHPSR



Sylvie Briand
WHO Chief Scientist / TDR Special
Programme Coordinator

Who funds us?

TDR has been able to continue its strong performance due to long-term, consistent funding from core donors – large and small – with additional support from project-specific funders. We would like to thank all donors and provide recognition here to TDR's funders in the last 5 years, listed in order of level of contributions.



The full list of all TDR contributors is available online: <https://tdr.who.int/about-us/our-donors>



Thanks to all TDR staff