

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

48th Session of the TDR Joint Coordinating Board

John Reeder
Director, TDR

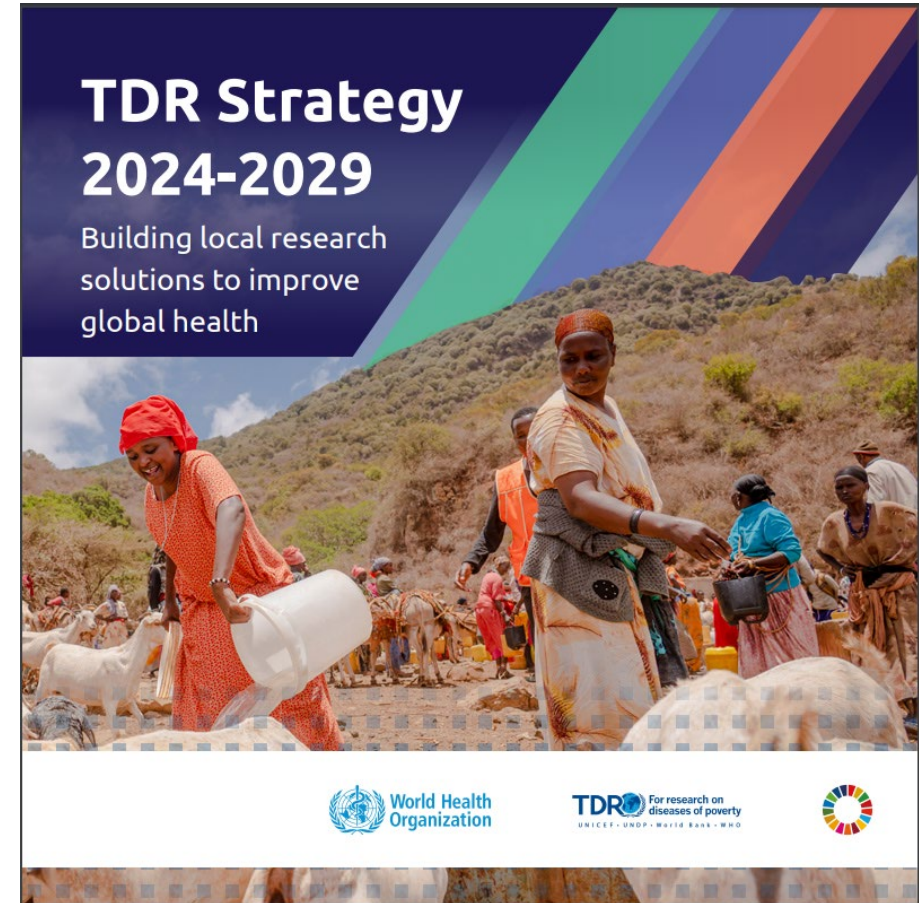
18-19 June 2025

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

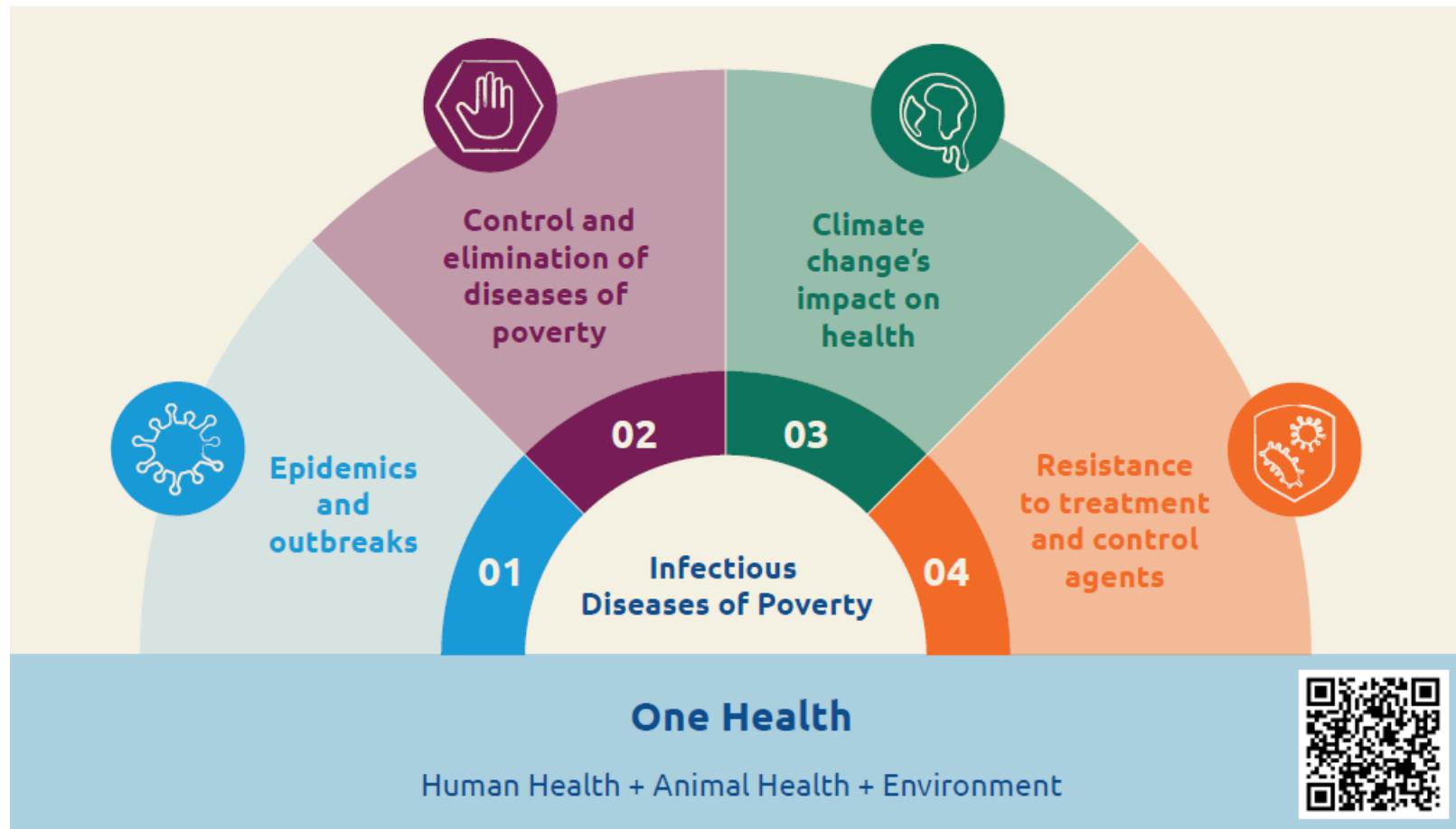


TDR Strategy 2024-2029

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.



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



Research support



Research for
delivery and
access



Research for
innovative
solutions



Research
for decision-
making



Key achievements: 2024

➤ Understanding implementation challenges when **introducing new health technologies**

Research in support of roll-out of:

- ❑ Paediatric praziquantel
- ❑ Malaria vaccine
- ❑ Moxidectin for onchocerciasis



➤ Generating evidence on new strategies to reduce **impact of climate on vector-borne diseases**

Evidence generated from 4 projects in Africa

Implementation research **informing policy**

Research in support of **AMR global action plan**:
Impact assessment of 75 past projects

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN
ON ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE

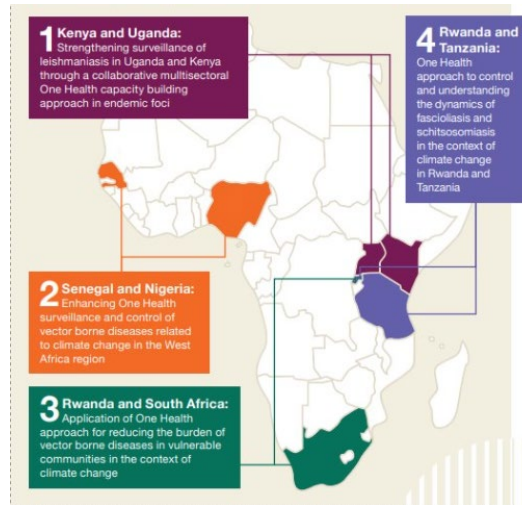


79% projects influenced policy and practice

Research on TB disability recognized by the Global TB Programme as a key milestone, directly **contributing to WHO policy on TB-associated disability**

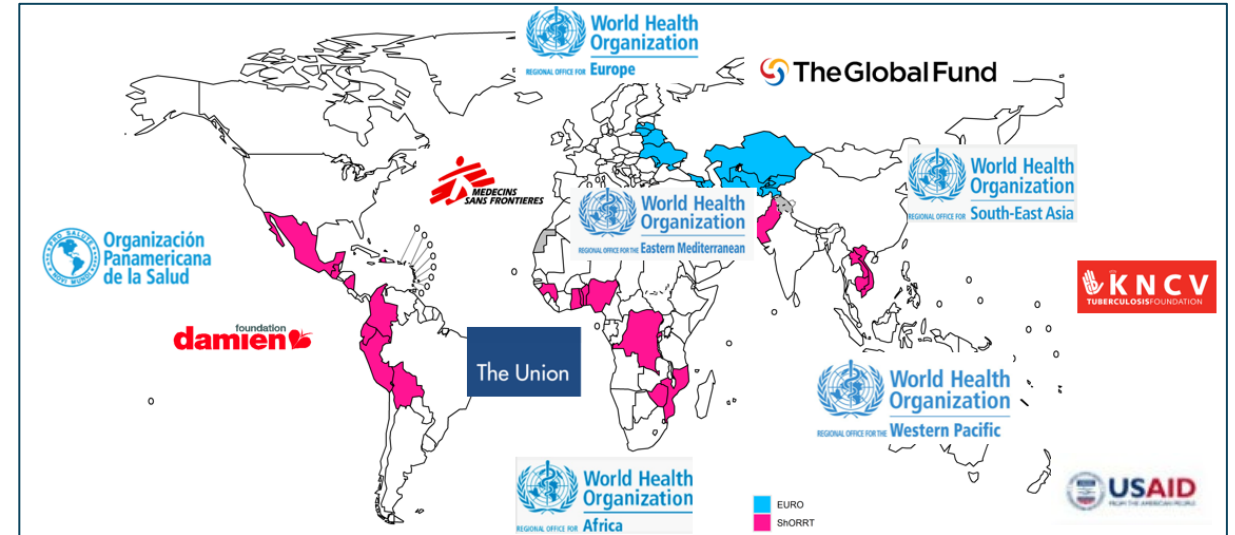
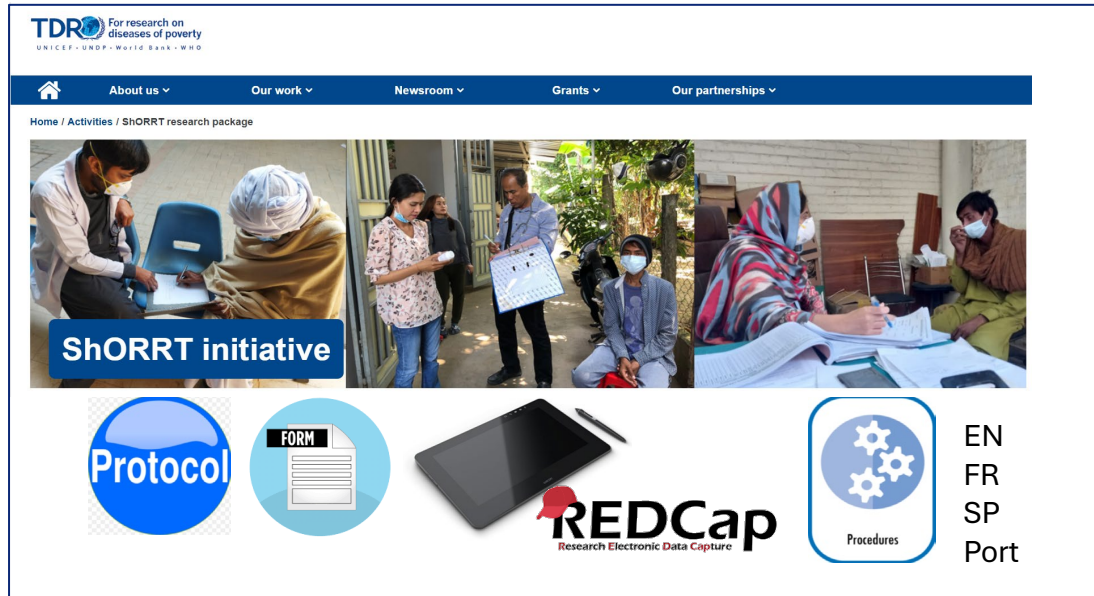
SHORT IT
Improving health systems through research

4 projects in Africa
(Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Uganda)



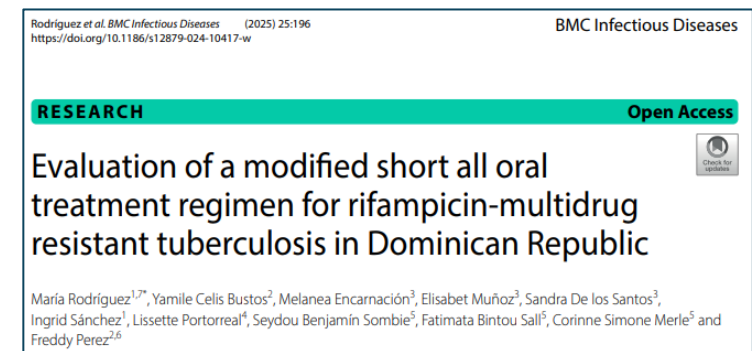
TDR develops research tools to facilitate the conduct of OR/IR

Example: ShORRT research package to address drug-resistant TB

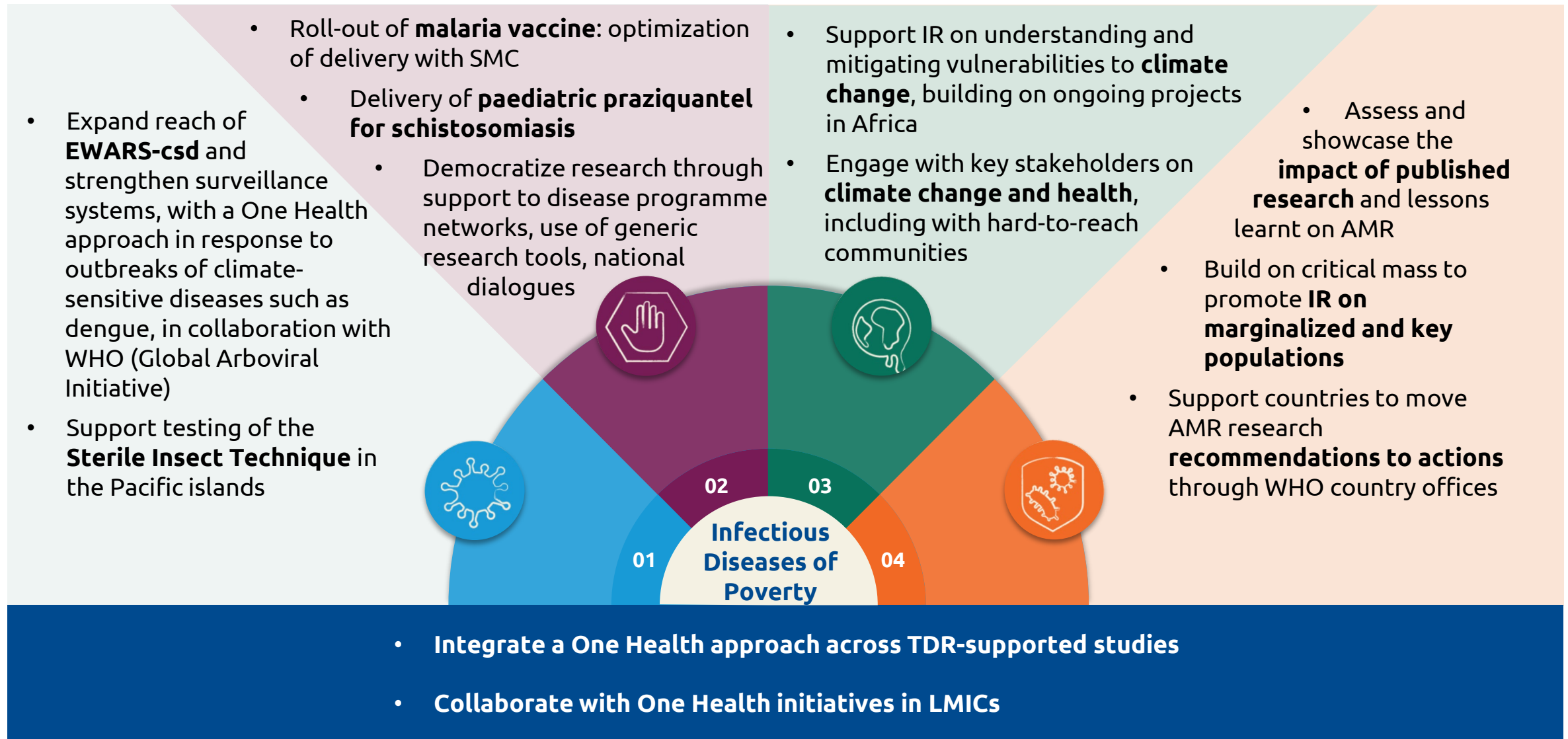


A collaborative approach led by TDR

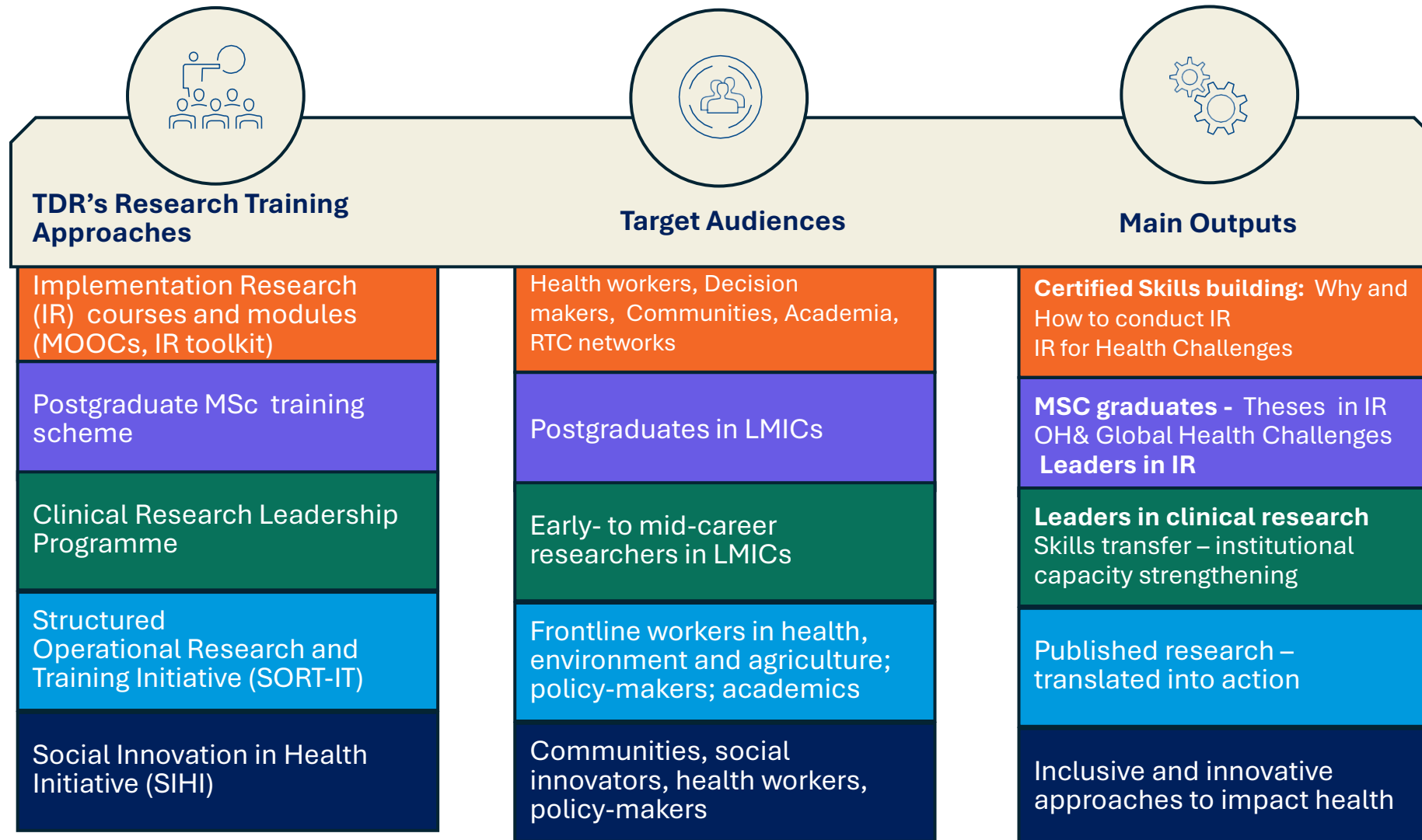
- 27 countries have used ShORRT
- 3,345 patients enrolled in studies
- **Impact: Study results directly influenced national TB policies in all countries**
- **Impact: Study results informed WHO Global TB Programme guidelines**



Research for implementation priorities for 2025-2026



Research training for capacity strengthening



Key achievements: 2024

539
MASTER'S
STUDENTS
TRAINED

TOTAL
WORLDWIDE
SINCE 2015



PRESENTER

TDR's Clinical Research Leadership programme

Developing leadership in clinical research in low- and middle-income countries

TDR For research on diseases of poverty
UNICEF • UNDP • World Bank • WHO

16 Clinical Research Leadership fellows placed with 10 host institutions



Mentoring programme kicks off with 20 mentor-mentee pairs to support research leadership careers



41 students obtained Master of Public Health degrees on implementation research through TDR's postgraduate training scheme

- TDR-supported Regional Training Centres (RTCs) managed **9 sessions of the TDR Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on implementation research**, delivered in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish to more than

7300 registered participants

- NEW Social Innovation and Community Engagement MOOC
- NEW IR toolkit modules on One Health, climate change and health



Responding to sub-regional needs: Strengthening research capacity in IR and One Health approaches in French-speaking West and Central Africa

TDR collaborated with the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal (TDR-supported Regional Training Centre/postgraduate training partner):

- To develop and produce a French-language Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on One Health Approaches in IR
- To support four MSc/MPH students from the region (2 women, 2 men) to focus their theses on One Health approaches in implementation research



WEBINAIRE



Renforcer le leadership en **One Health**
grâce à la recherche sur la mise
en œuvre en Afrique francophone

Mardi 10 juin
9h-10h am EST / 15h-16h CEST

INSCRIPTION
Anglais et Français,
avec interprétation
simultanée en anglais
et en français.

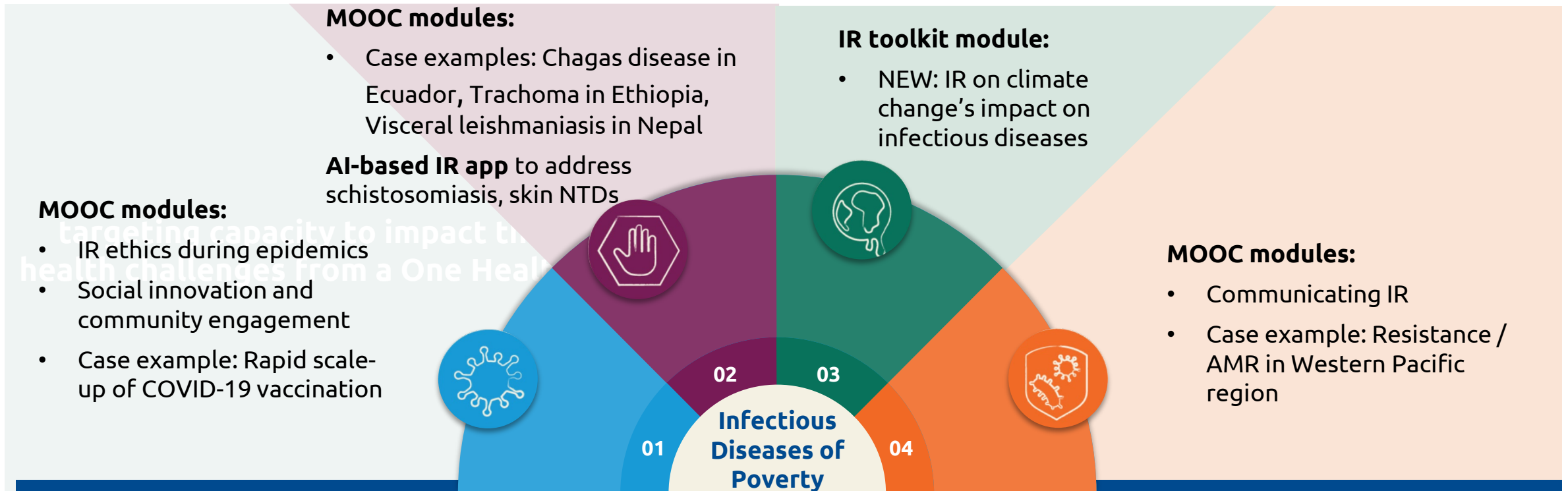


More than 900 people registered
for the webinar, showing strong
interest in the course

Research capacity strengthening priorities for 2026-2027

Streamlined across: capacity to impact the four global health challenges from a One Health perspective

Multilingual, multi-modal research capacity strengthening courses and activities



Regional Training Centres: interactive online short courses, in-person engagement & small research projects for learners, train-the-trainers and institutional strengthening with national disease entities and communities

Developing Implementation Science leadership: comprehensive, strategic programme co-developed and launched

Institutionalizing mentoring: networks for research leadership career development providing multi-lingual resources

Postgraduate training scheme: to equip researchers and implementers with knowledge and skills in IR, accreditation of IR curricula

Training tools: Multilingual tools development, targeting wide and niched audiences through online, hybrid and in person modalities

Global engagement



Shaping
research
priorities
and systems



Improving
research
uptake and
use



Addressing gender
and other social
determinants
of health



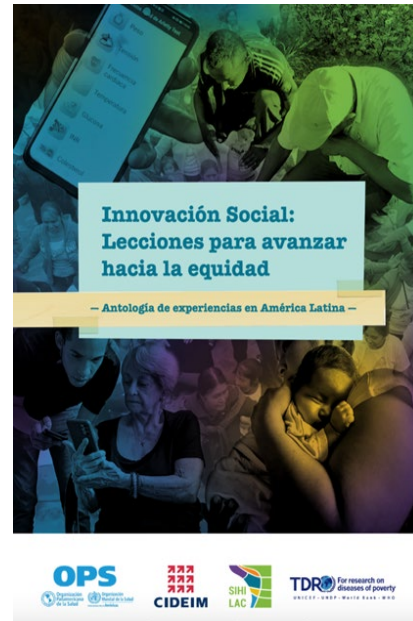
BMJ INNOVATIONS
COLLECTION ON
GENDER AND
SOCIAL INNOVATION



Key achievements: 2024



Two calls for Impact Grants in collaboration with WHO regional offices launched with the focus on new strategy priorities



- SIHI LAC/ PAHO compendium on social innovation projects in Latin America published
- SIHI hubs in Latin America, Philippines and Uganda explored gender dimensions of social innovation in health projects at country level, highlighting how community-led solutions are transforming health care, expanding access and advancing health equity.



- New training course on communicating research findings being developed
- More than 200 trained on gender, intersectionality and IR through IR MOOC

Women in Science compendium updated and launched

➤ Second edition 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*

➤ Compendium launched during webinar held on 1 November 2024

DOWNLOAD THE
COMPENDIUM



Global Health Matters podcast

A total of 48 episodes have been produced over the last four years.

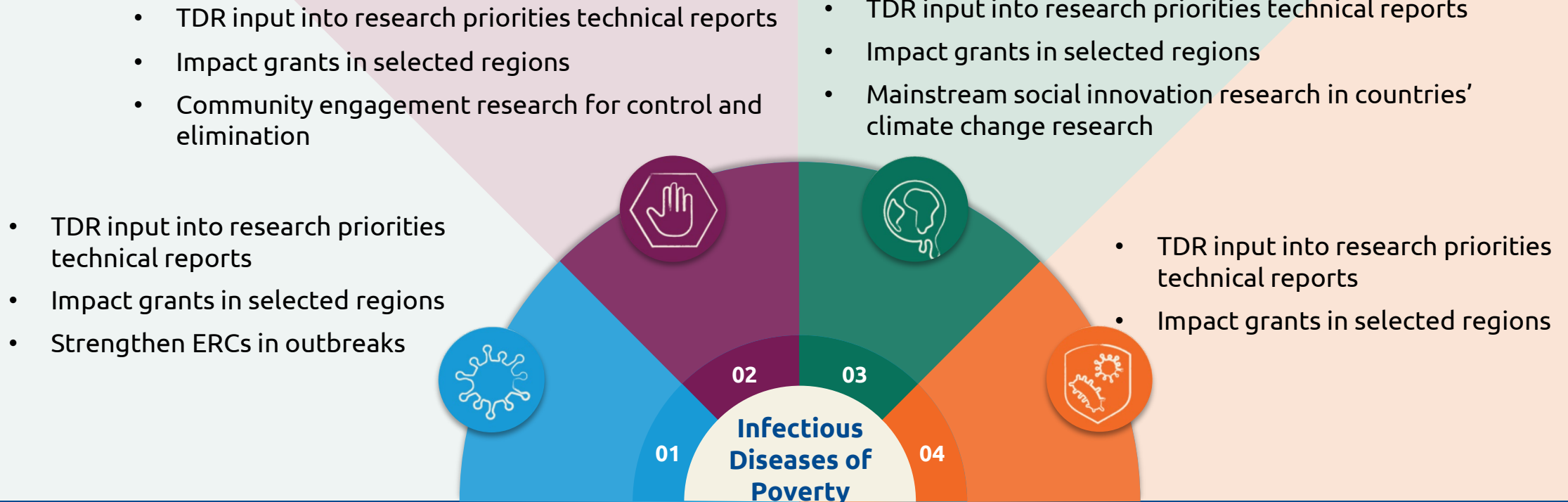
A total of 100,000 downloads by listeners in 204 countries/territories, with a strong and growing audience in LMICs.

Season 5 launches in October 2025 with a livestream recording event at the World Health Summit!



Global Engagement priorities for 2025-2026

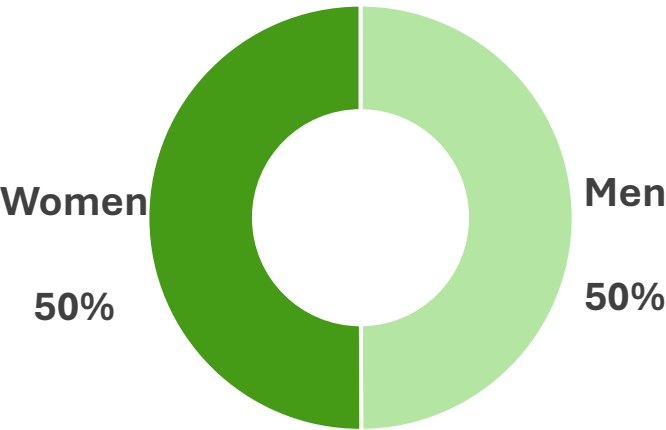
Engage globally and with cross-cutting issues to address:



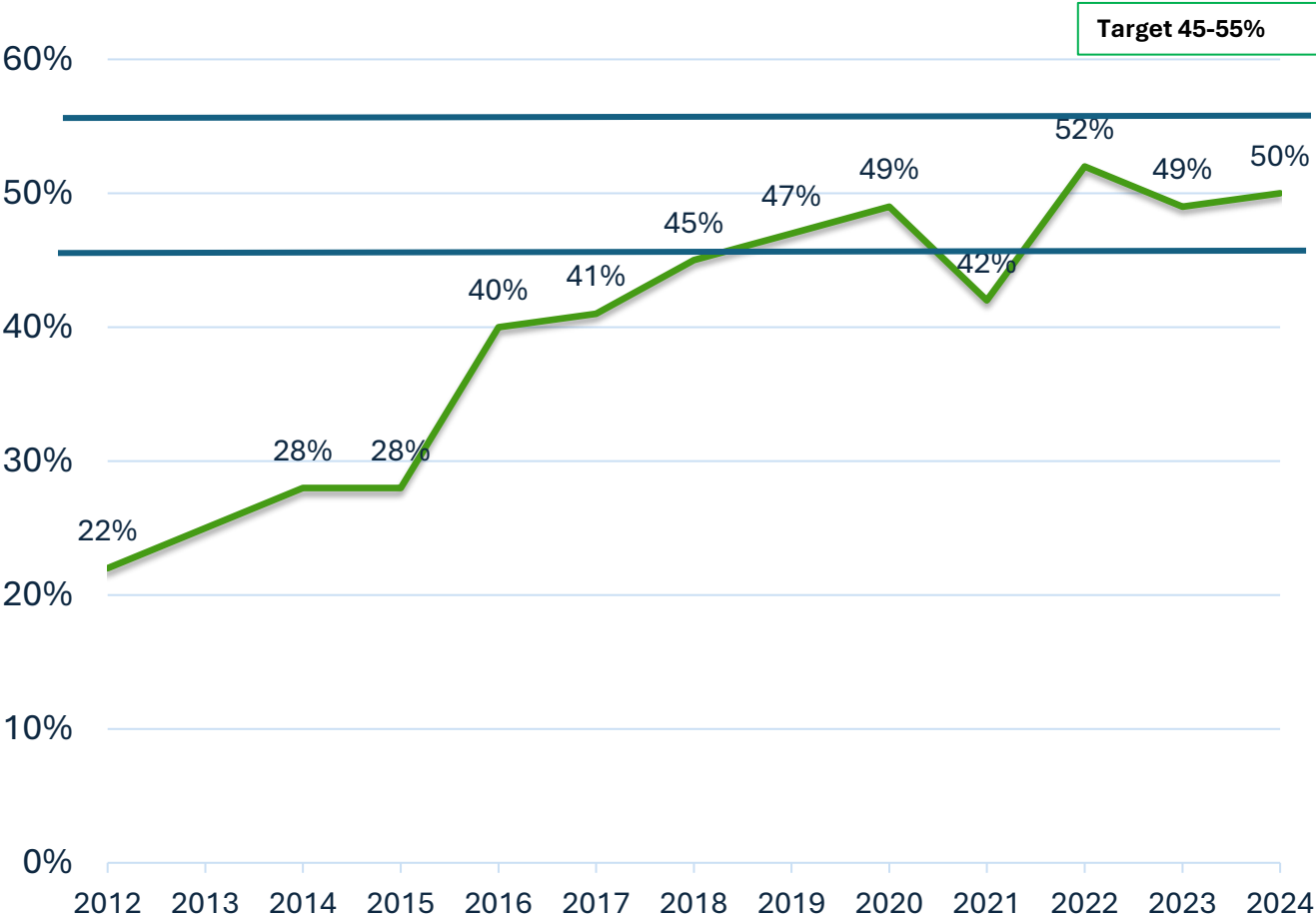
- Communicating research findings for impact, including MOOC training
- Revise and implement the TDR Global strategy
- Integration of SIHI and gender/intersectionality
- Support for research management in LMICs under the leadership of ESSENCE initiative
- Develop a TDR led ethics guidance for ERCs to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

Gender equity in allocation of funding (grants and contracts)

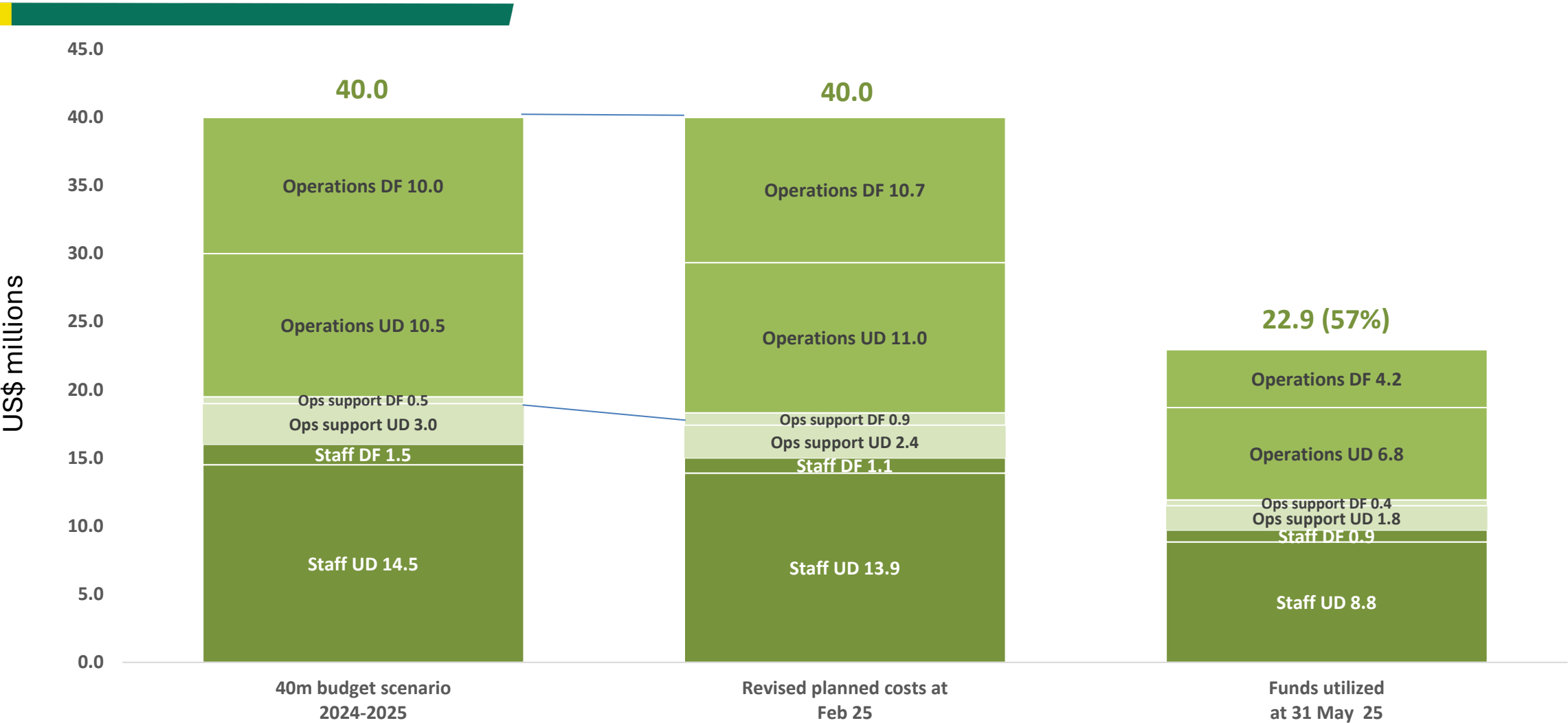
Proportion of TDR funding (grants and contracts) going to women PIs, 2012-2024



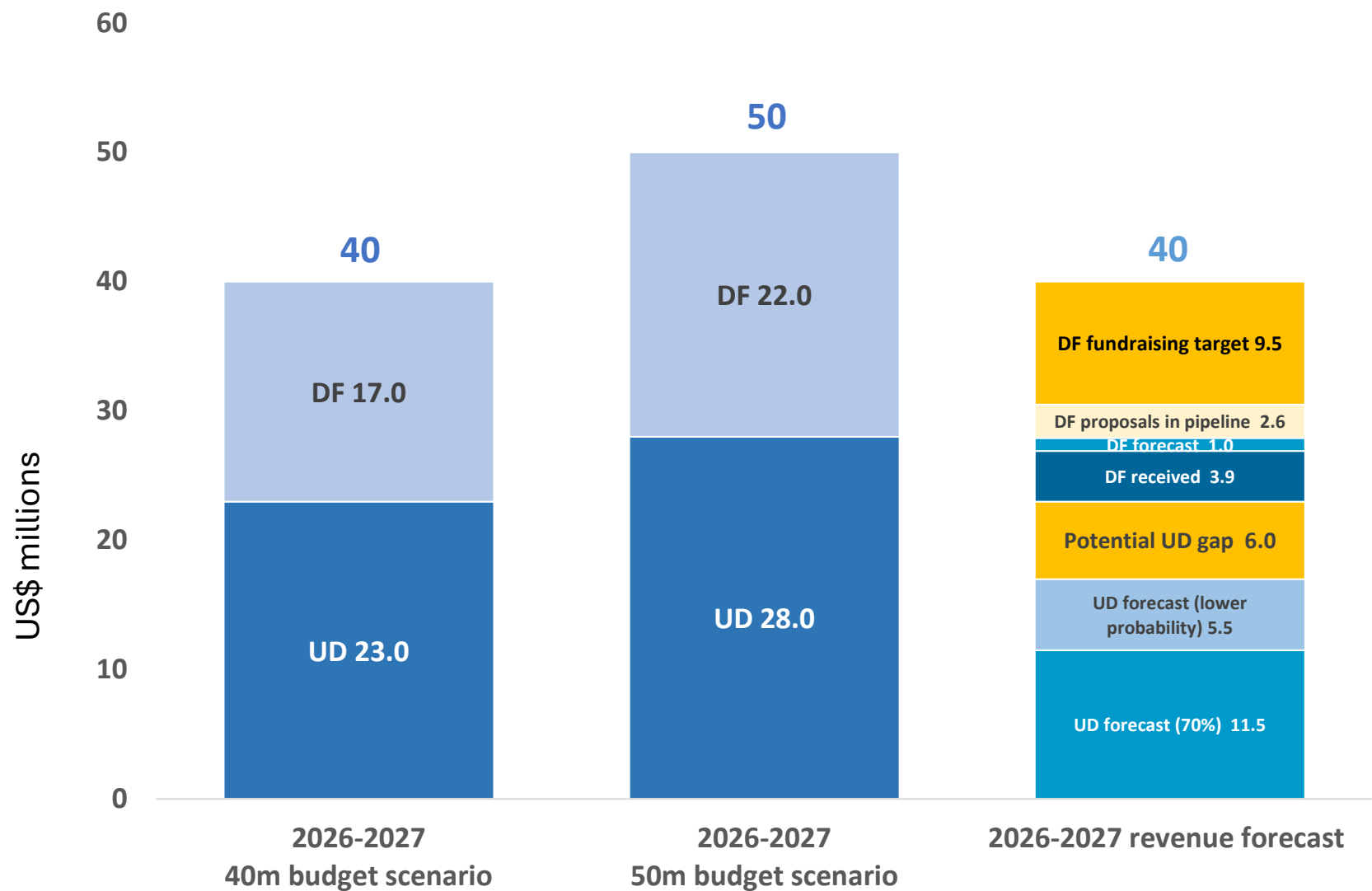
Proportion of funds allocated in 2024, by PI gender (% amount)



2024-2025 financial overview at 31 May 2025

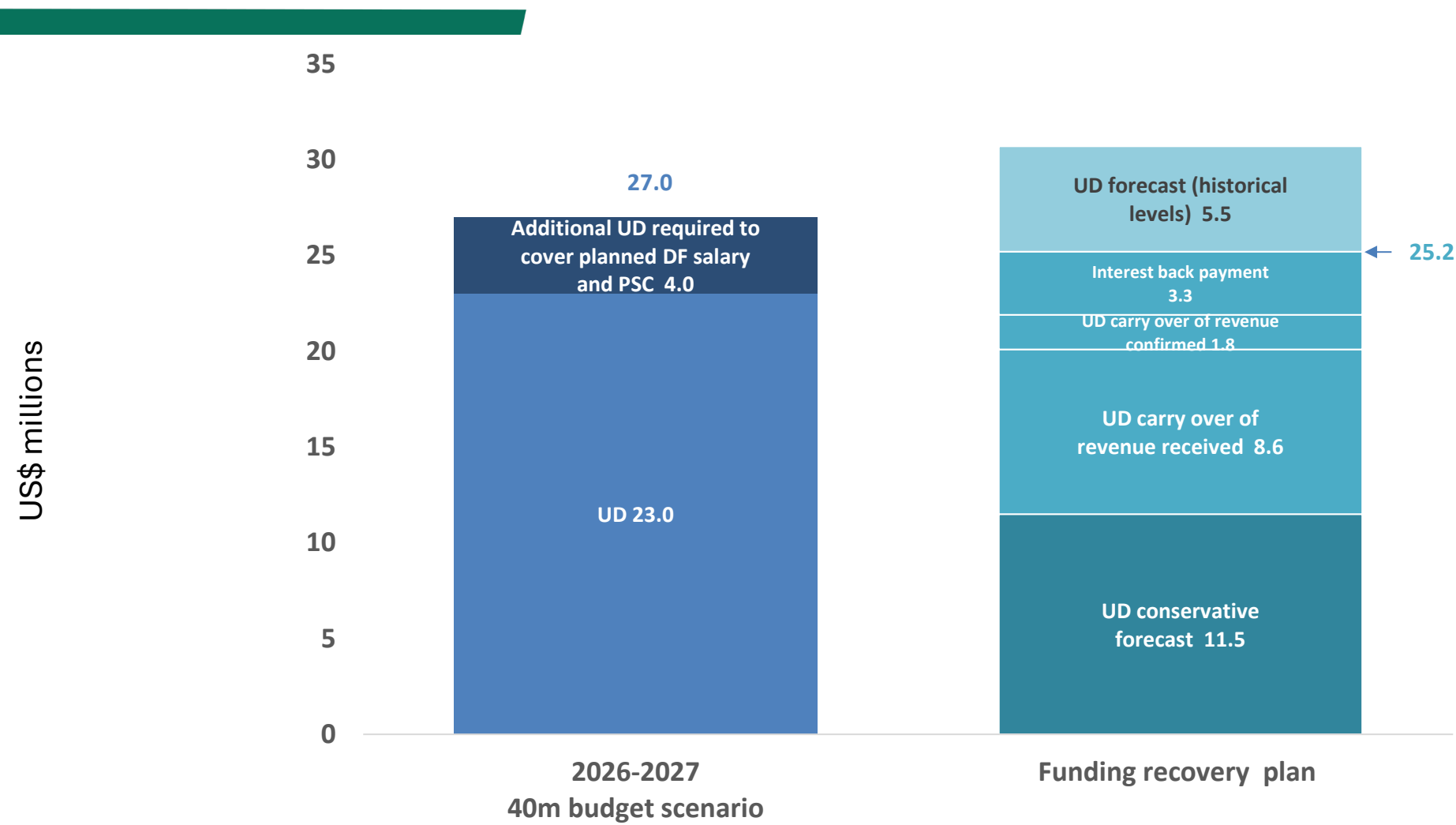


2026-2027 budget scenarios and funding



Contingency plan developed in case funding forecast below US\$ 40 million

2026-2027 covering the funding gap



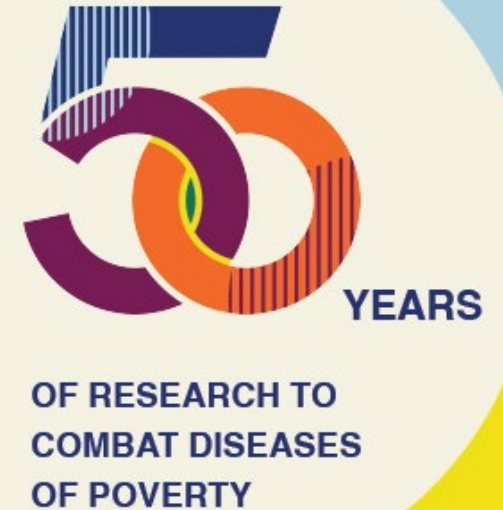
TDR's 50th anniversary

EVENTS

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

COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS / SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- Photo contest engaging TDR Global members
- Series of advocacy videos
- *Global Health Matters* podcast episode on developing global health leaders
- Interactive posters highlighting key achievements – themes linked to TDR Strategy
- Video diaries from TDR Global members
- BMJ Collection of 3 articles on elimination of VL, strengthening research capacity, and community engagement/social innovation (to be published later this year)



TDR is co-sponsored by the following organizations:



HR Changes 2024-25



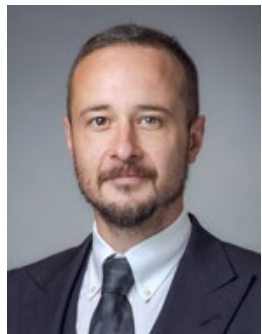
Farewell to: Chris Coze

For 19 years, Chris was the linchpin of TDR governance meetings, orchestrating and facilitating with great expertise. Her synergy with the Partnerships and Global Engagement Manager was pivotal in nurturing donor relations. Now, Chris is enjoying the vibrant landscapes of Spain, where she is savouring a completely different, sun-drenched lifestyle.



Izabela Suder-Dayao

Iza has been with TDR since 2001. Previously, she provided administrative support to the TDR Director and communication activities, and managed TDR website. Since October 2024, she has taken on administrative responsibilities related to TDR's governance meetings and donor relations, ensuring smooth operations and strong stakeholder relationships.



Welcome to: Joseph Silvester

Joe joined TDR in February 2025. He has been with WHO for five years and previously performed the role of Programme Assistant within the Department of Regulation and Prequalification. He has a background in Engineering, Finance and Law and will support the Office of the Director primarily in the areas of administration, communications and technical support.



Retiring: Dr Florence Fouque



Florence will retire on 31 October 2025. She joined TDR in 2014, coming from the Pasteur Institute, as Team Leader of the “Vectors, Environment and Society” unit and later as scientist and focal person for vectors within the new TDR Research for Implementation Unit in 2019.

Her activities included managing research projects and training activities on vectors, vector-borne diseases and vector control , including tackling residual malaria and insecticide resistance, developing and testing multisectoral approaches and more recently testing the Sterile Insect Technique against vectors of arboviral diseases. She has also supported operational programmes related to vectors and vector control, including participating in the development of the Global Vector Control Response.

HR Changes 2024-25



Retiring: Professor John Reeder

John will retire on 30 June 2025.

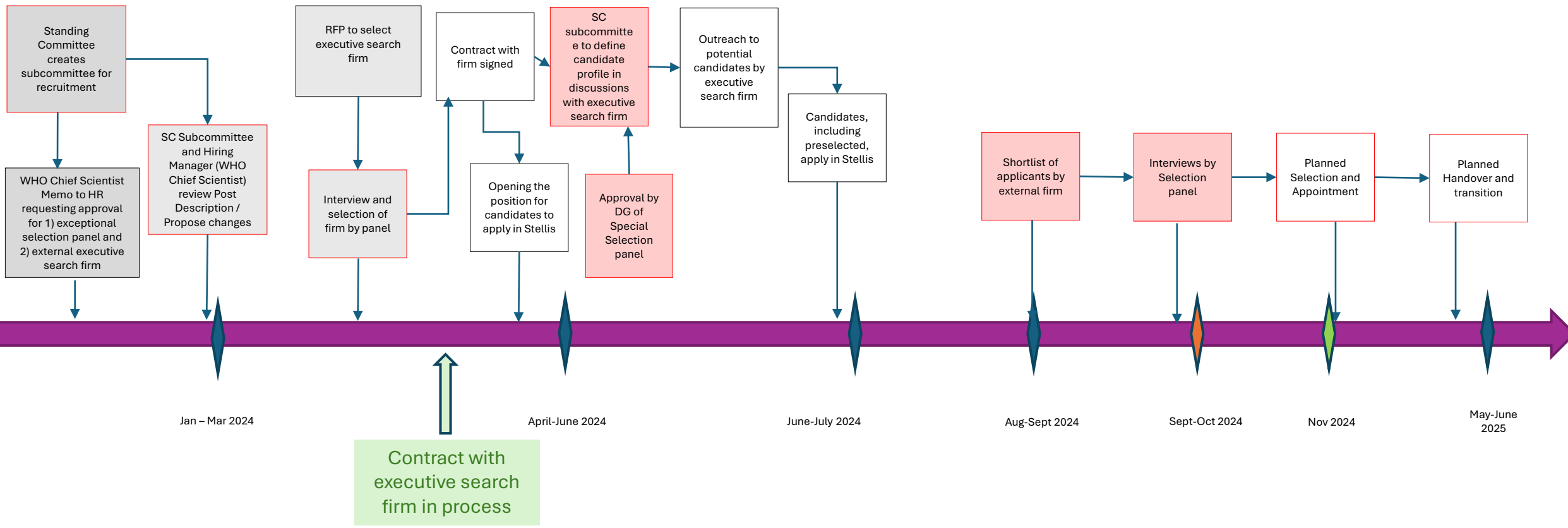
He has served as the Director of TDR since February 2012. In addition to this role, John has also been the Director of the Research for Health Department since 2019.

Prior to coming to Geneva, John was Director of the Centre for Population Health at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, Australia and had previously been Director of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research. His research background is in malaria genetics and he has authored over 200 scientific papers cited almost 7000 times.

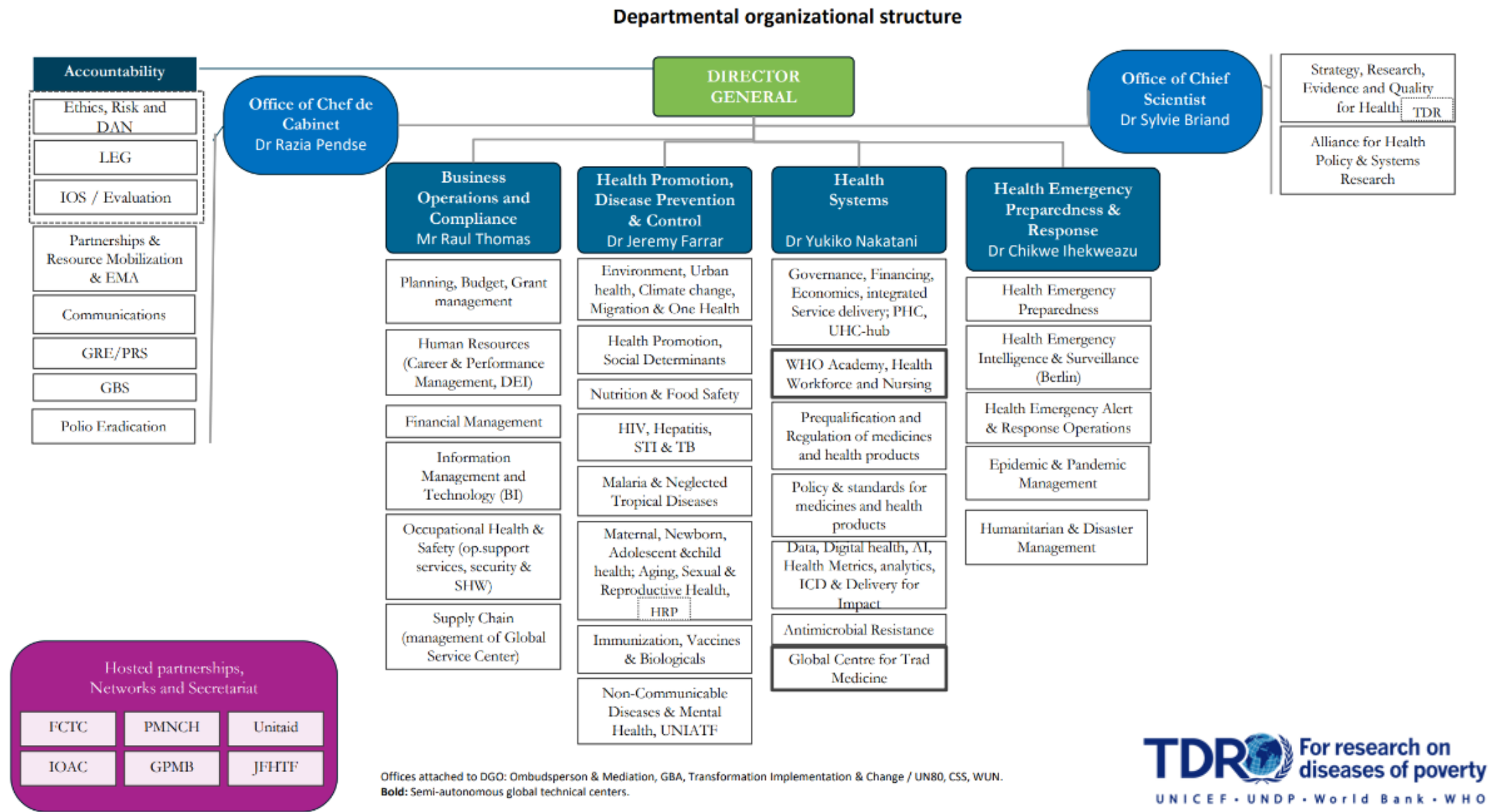
He will remain in Geneva after retiring : reederj1305@outlook.com



Recruitment of new Director



WHO reorganization



Summary

- Strong operational achievements
- Good progress towards results targets
- Good project implementation rate
- Despite difficult funding environment, TDR is operating with the full \$40million funding scenario as approved by JCB
- Hard focus on increasing designated funding in line with strategy
- Clear and achievable workplan 2025 targeting new strategy

TDR Staff

