

Collaboration with WHO Regional and Country Offices

Terms of Reference

Introduction

TDR is a co-sponsored Special Programme which implements its strategy and activities approved by the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) at the global level. While TDR is not mandated to implement its programmes through the WHO regional and country offices (ROs / COs), it is committed to engaging with them on behalf of all TDR co-sponsors – UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO. These Terms of Reference are intended to further develop TDR’s collaboration with all WHO offices to improve coherence, information sharing and harmonization of efforts.

Scope of collaboration

Wherever possible, the following key areas could be included in the scope of collaboration:

Policy development and governance

- Consultations on technical and policy issues at the regional committee level and enhancement of links between regional representatives on the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB).
- Analysis of regional advisory committees on health research recommendations and priorities related to research activities in the region.
- Joint efforts in advocacy, brokering, influencing and shaping the technical and other policies of TDR’s JCB and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Joint efforts in engaging additional health-related stakeholders in regions such as health research institutions and councils, national councils/ministries of science and technology, and others.

Strategic planning and operations

- Joint activities taking into account shared objectives, cost efficiency, identification of and responsiveness to regional needs and interests.
- Joint targeting of countries, institutions, WHO Collaborating Centres and brokering inter-regional collaborations.
- Technical support for developing proposals, guidelines, position papers, scientific publications and advocacy materials.
- Technical support to countries in developing their national strategic plans for health system and communicable disease research.
- Joint funding mechanisms.

WHO planning and monitoring process and information sharing

- Information/knowledge sharing (disease/theme reviews, key public health programmes, TDR website and regional reviews).
- Supporting researchers from developing countries in scientific writing to increase the proportion of articles published.
- Supporting the indexing of local scientific journals in developing countries.
- Implementation of improved mechanisms on communicating between TDR and ROs/COs.
- Consolidated list of all events, including advisory committee meetings, that require mutual representation on regional and global levels.
- WHO planning and monitoring process.

Resource mobilization

- Joint resource mobilization at regional and global levels.
- Brokering of fellowships or scholarships with leading tropical disease institutes.

Mechanisms to be used

Focal points:

- Regional expert consultations on research priorities.
- TDR Manager of Partnerships and Governance to act as the TDR focal point for ROs and to promote TDR-wide approach and information sharing.
- Each RO to assign a focal point (ROFP) who will facilitate activities and actions within the regional office, assist in implementing specific activities of joint interest and communicate/ disseminate opportunities through regional networks. In addition, focal points will assist in expansion and optimize interfaces with other RO programmes which are also natural partners of TDR, such as disease control, research policy, health systems, knowledge management, science and technology or others as appropriate.

Tools:

- Streamlined communication through:
 - regular teleconferences;
 - annual TDR-regional office focal points meeting; and
 - TDR staff and ROs/COs sharing information on visits, planned meetings and events of mutual interest.