

Amie Steel et al.

Research funding for traditional medicine

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## Global research funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine

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### Abstract

**Objective** To explore the global research funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

**Methods** We conducted a three-part study to assess the global research funding landscape. First, we searched Dimensions, Microsoft Copilot and Google between 12 November 2024 and 22 January 2025 for relevant grants. Second, we analysed national research infrastructure using World Health Organization (WHO) data, verified by regional contacts (14 January–28 February 2025). Third, we appraised selected funders across WHO regions, evaluating funding schemes for innovation, capacity-building, and alignment with traditional medicine paradigms.

**Findings** We identified 39 927 grants in the Dimensions database, with funding data available for 27 0198 grants totalling 24.5 million United States dollars (US\$) for the years 1960 to 2024. Most grants (42.6%; 11 548) were valued under US\$ 100 000, and half had a duration of 2–4 years. Cancer and cardiovascular diseases accounted for over half (8385/15 273) of topic-categorized grants, receiving US\$ 5.8 billion and US\$ 2.2 billion, respectively. Funders were concentrated in the Region of the

Americas, and European and Western Pacific regions. Only seven countries had schemes explicitly funding research for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine. Case study analysis of 40 schemes across 12 countries revealed limited support for traditional medicine paradigms, with few schemes meeting criteria for innovation, capacity-building or sensitivity to traditional knowledge systems.

**Conclusion** Funding for traditional medicine research remains disproportionately low relative to its global use. Strengthening support from research funding agencies is essential to achieving the goals of the WHO global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034.

## Introduction

Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine encompasses a wide range of practices, products, knowledge and medical systems that differ from the dominant biomedical paradigm and curriculum.<sup>1</sup> Global demand for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine is substantial:<sup>2,3</sup> of the 179 World Health Organization (WHO) Member States providing information for the *WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019*, 170 acknowledged use of traditional and complementary medicine among their populations.<sup>1</sup> In low- and middle-income countries, demand is especially high where biomedical services may be unavailable or inaccessible, and where Indigenous medicines remain rooted in cultural practices.<sup>4–10</sup>

The vision of the WHO's global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034<sup>11</sup> is to create universal access to safe, effective and people-centred traditional, complementary and integrative medicine for the health and well-being of all; while its goal is to maximize its contribution to the highest attainable standard of health and well-being. Achieving this goal requires a robust evidence base, supported by more research that is comprehensive, inclusive and reflective of diverse epistemological approaches.<sup>12</sup>

Research funding is fundamental to a research ecosystem and encompasses diverse funding mechanisms and sources. These mechanisms and sources can include government-allocated block funding, that is, funding explicitly allocated as an ongoing budgetary item, and competitive grant schemes via government agencies, philanthropic organizations and commercial entities, with each mechanism and source offering unique contributions.<sup>13</sup> To support WHO's new traditional medicine strategy, we aimed to explore the global research funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

## Methods

We conducted a three-part study to assess the global funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine. First, we searched online resources for information

about research grants. Second, we examined national research infrastructure for traditional medicine. Finally, we did a case study analysis of prominent funders. Full details of the methods are provided in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>

## **Grant identification**

### ***Search***

To identify research funding, we searched three web-based sources: (i) the Dimensions database (Digital Science & Research Solutions Inc. London, England), which includes information about awarded grants from participating countries (ii) Microsoft Copilot (Microsoft, Redmond, United States of America), an artificial intelligence assistant; and (iii) the Google search engine (Google, Mountain View, United States).

Three authors, with the assistance of a research librarian, developed detailed search strategies by testing a structured preparatory search across each web-based platform to identify relevant source terms, keywords, and in the case of Copilot, additional research questions used to guide the formulation of the search. The full search strategies for the three sources are available in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>

One author searched the Dimensions database between 12 November and 18 December 2024. To identify grants not recorded in the database, the author also searched Copilot. A second author verified the identified grants in Dimensions, by searching the database on 21 January 2025. For grants identified through Copilot but not indexed in Dimension, a second author verified the data through independent Copilot and Google online searches, conducted on 22 January 2025. Discrepancies were discussed and, where needed, data were further verified through online searches.

The searches yielded information about research grants through publications, grants, policies, data sets and related publication metrics.

### ***Eligibility criteria***

We included all grants indexed in and categorized as traditional medicine in Dimensions. Grants identified through Copilot and Google searches that reported funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine were also eligible.

### ***Data extraction***

We downloaded identified grant information as CSV files and imported the data into StataSE 18 (StataCorp LLC, College Station, United States) for analysis. We used the Stata duplicates command to detect duplicates. Identified duplicates were checked using the translated

abstract title in Dimensions and the grant number provided by the funder. We only removed items if there was duplication of funding amount, abstract title and grant number within the same record.

For each WHO Member State, three authors extracted data from identified grants awarded for research, the traditional medicine specificity of such grants, awarding of philanthropic funding, the number and value of grants and associated publications. Of included grants, we analysed the grant abstracts to classify which traditional medicine topics were mentioned. Using the funding amounts provided by Dimensions at the time of the award, we used an online calculator<sup>15</sup> to adjust for inflation and calculate the present-day value in United States dollars (US\$), based on the consumer price index. To detect any discrepancies in the extracted data, one author checked the data tables. Any discrepancies were resolved through discussion between the two authors, with a third author mediating if necessary.

As charitable and not-for-profit funding comprise an important and distinct component of health research funding, we checked the philanthropic status of individual funders through Copilot and Google searches.

### **Infrastructure analysis**

In alignment with the *WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019*,<sup>1</sup> we examined four components of government infrastructure and its research: (i) government-funded national traditional medicine centres; (ii) government departments, ministries or agencies focused on traditional medicine; (iii) national traditional medicine policies or frameworks; and (iv) regulation of traditional medicine products or practice. We assessed the centres presented in the WHO report using Copilot and Google searches to identify each centre's objectives, scope and funding mechanisms. To ensure the list was current and accurate, we used WHO regional office contacts, who verified and updated this list between 14 January and 28 February 2025. To assess the completeness of Dimensions data, we conducted online searches of countries with national centres responsible for administering government grant schemes.

### **Case study funder analysis**

We undertook a case study approach to critically appraise research funding schemes and assess their support for innovation, capacity-building and research that is sensitive to traditional medicine paradigms. This stage involved a content analysis of funding rules from selected grant schemes. We selected case study funders in three steps: (i) the most prominent

funders identified in the Dimensions search for each WHO region, based on the number of grants awarded for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine; (ii) schemes identified from Google or Copilot as being specific to traditional medicine, complementary and integrative research including schemes not indexed in Dimensions; and (iii) for countries with specific schemes identified in Step 2, the top Dimensions-indexed funder was also included, even if the most prominent funder in that WHO region (from Step 1) was based in a different country.

To ensure representativeness, we calculated the proportional contribution of each funder and their country to national and regional traditional medicine funding. For each funder, we reported the mean grant amount, grant duration, start date and total grant-linked publications using Dimensions data. We also assessed research impact of funders indexed in Dimensions, by calculating mean citations per funded publication as well as using Dimensions-linked Altmetrics (Clarivate, London, England) data.

We purposively selected up to five funding schemes per funder to illustrate the diversity in funding focus: (i) individuals; (ii) organizations; (iii) projects; (iv) topics specific to traditional, complementary and integrative medicine; and (v) commercial partnerships. Using a structured data extraction form, we extracted data for each scheme on funding amount, grant duration, methodological constraints, budget limitations, relevance and availability of funding rules. Further details are provided in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>

Two authors critically appraised funding rules using criteria from prior research and adapted from the Contemporary Implementation of Traditional knowledge and Evidence framework.<sup>16</sup> Appraisal domains included innovation,<sup>17,18</sup> capacity building<sup>19</sup> and sensitivity to traditional medicine-specific knowledge. Any disagreements during the appraisal were resolved through discussion with a third author. The appraisal domains and criteria are presented in Table 1 and in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>

## Results

We identified 39 927 grants listed in Dimensions, with the earliest grant recorded in 1960. Of these, 34 292 (86.5%) had data on duration, 27 019 (67.9%) reported funding data and 15 273 (38.3%) were categorized by research topic and health condition.

### Funding landscape

The 27 019 grants with recorded funding amounts were awarded between 1965 and 2025, with total funding amounting to US\$ 24.5 billion (online repository).<sup>14</sup> Of these, 42.6%

(11 548 grants) were valued up to US\$ 100 000, while 25.3% (6857 grants) ranged between US\$ 100 000 and 400 000. The highest total amount awarded was for the period between 2005 and 2010 (Fig. 1). While the number of indexed grants increased markedly until 2019, their mean value declined, and between 2020 and 2024, the mean value for the 4120 grants awarded was US\$ 629 804 (Fig. 2). Half (50.3%; 17 173) of the grants with duration information had an award period of 2–4 years (Fig. 3).

Table 2 presents funding allocations for grants categorized by research topic and health condition. Of these, 10 812 grants (70.8%) had recorded funding amounts. About half of research grants were allocated to cancer (34.8%; 5318 grants) and cardiovascular diseases (20.1%; 3067 grants), with approximately US\$ 5.8 billion and US\$ 2.2 billion awarded, respectively. Mean grant values varied by health condition, with the lowest average funding awarded to research on skin conditions (mean: US\$ 341 163; standard deviation, SD: 459 242), and the highest awarded to research on congenital conditions (mean: US\$ 2.2 million; SD: 3.6 million), despite few grants in this latter category (0.1%; 17 grants).

Text analysis of all available grant abstracts (37 320) showed that treatment-related concepts such as vitamins (52.1%; 19 461), acupuncture (25.8%; 9633) and medicinal plants (11.7%; 4374; Table 3) were most common. Least frequently referenced were terms linked to systems of medicine, such as Unani (< 0.1%; 12), anthroposophy (< 0.1%; 14) and homeopathy (0.1%; 58), or other related research topics, such as ethnobotany (0.1%; 54), biodiversity (1.6%; 586) and digital health (1.1%; 425).

### **WHO regions**

In assessing the countries where grants were awarded, we identified eight countries in the African Region, eight countries in the Region of the Americas, six in South-East Asia Region, 29 in the European Region, five in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and nine in the Western Pacific Region. Of the 39 515 (99.2%) grants with recorded funder locations, funders were primarily located in the Region of the Americas (52.5%; 20 728), the Western Pacific Region (29.4%; 11 601) and the European Region (12.5%; 5045). The African Region (5%; 1978), the South-East Asia Region (0.6%; 244) and the Eastern Mediterranean Region (0.1%; 27) were less represented. There was a significant difference by WHO region with a moderate effect size ( $P$ -value: < 0.001) whereby, compared to other regions, the Region of the Americas had a greater proportion of grants funded for more than 5 years (27.8%; 4958/17 816) and the European Region had more grants awarded for less than 1 year (14.4%; 665/4618). No funding amounts were available in Dimensions for grants in the African

Region; however there was a significant difference in grant amounts across other regions with a relatively strong effect size ( $P$ -value:  $< 0.001$ ; Fig. 4). We identified funding from philanthropic organizations in the Region of the Americas, the European and the Western Pacific regions.

The proportion of funding awarded by region differed significantly across a range of health condition categories, although the effect size was found to be weak or negligible (Table 2). In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the grant covered only four categories, whereas the Region of the Americas and the European Region had grants addressing each category. Notably, we did not identify funding for conditions within the categories of reproductive and maternal health or mental health in Dimensions.

### **Country level**

We analysed funding across the 194 Member States (Table 4 and online repository).<sup>14</sup> In the dimensions database, there was evidence of active research funding in 66 (34.0%) countries and research grant funding in 45 countries (23.2%). Of the countries with research grant funding recorded in Dimensions, only seven (15.6%) countries had funding schemes explicitly including traditional medicine as a research topic, and 19 (42.2%) received grant funding from philanthropic sources.

The most active philanthropic or charity-based funders, as reported in the Dimensions database, were located in the United States (47 funders), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (39 funders) and Canada (10 funders). Across all identified philanthropic funders, traditional medicine-related grants accounted for an average of 1.9% of their total awarded grants as of 23 January 2025 (median: 0.7%; range: 0.0–47.8; online repository).<sup>14</sup>

### **Country infrastructure**

We identified 30 countries having a government-funded national traditional medicine centre or a centre focused on a subset, such as medicinal plants, typically supported through block funding rather than competitive grants. Only eight of these countries also had grant schemes that had funded research for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, and India, Philippines, Republic of Korea and the United States offered competitive funding opportunities for such research. Except for Norway, countries with a government-funded centre had a national policy or framework, and Gabon and Nicaragua were the only countries not regulating products or practices. About three-quarters (22 countries) also had a

government department, ministry or agency explicitly responsible for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

### **Case study analysis**

We identified up to five prominent funders in four of the six WHO regions (Table 5). For the African Region, the National Research Foundation in South Africa was the only funder identified. In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, of the two funders identified the Qatar National Research Fund represented 96.3% (26/27) of all grants. Indian funders represented all five funders in the South-East Asia Region, while in the remaining regions the funders were spread across countries. The top five funders for the Western Pacific Region provided 94.0% (10 909/11 601) of all traditional medicine research grants in the region, whereas the top five funders in the Region of the Americas and the European Region provided 51.3% (10 626/20 728) and 30.2% (1490/4937) of grants, respectively. The median proportion of each funder's total grants allocated to traditional, complementary and integrative medicine research was 1.0% (range: 0.1–82.0).

### ***Funder characteristics***

We identified case study funders from twelve countries: Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, India, the Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States (online repository).<sup>14</sup> These case studies included four funders identified through online searches for specific schemes, and the top grant funders in eight countries as listed in the Dimensions database. Six of these were chosen as the leading funder in their region and the remaining two were the leading funder in a country with one of the four identified grant schemes. Across these countries, 40 grant schemes were examined. Of these, 13 (35.1%) explicitly indicated traditional, complementary and integrative medicine as a focus. Among the 13 schemes that specified methodological or design directives, clinical trials (seven) were the most frequently referenced. Five schemes encouraged trials, three exclusively permitted them and two explicitly prohibited them. One scheme prioritized safety and efficacy without specifying a trial method.

Funding data were available for eight of the Dimensions-indexed case study funders. These funders accounted for between 3.8% and 100.0% of traditional medicine research funding in their region, and between 20.3% and 100.0% in their respective countries (online repository).<sup>14</sup> Five of the eight had awarded research grants before 2001.

Between 11.7% (5170/44 151) of grant-associated publications from China and 86.9% (1194/1374) from the United Kingdom were indexed on Altmetrics, with citations spanning

all metric categories. Policy documents most frequently cited outputs from grants awarded in countries where English is a prominent language.

### ***Funding scheme critical appraisal***

Funding scheme appraisal is summarized in Table 1 and detailed in the online repository.<sup>14</sup> Based on criteria for supporting innovation and ground-breaking research, Brazil, China, India, the United Kingdom and the United States had funding landscapes that met all criteria either partially or fully. Across the 40 schemes analysed, flexibility was the most commonly met scheme-level criterion (30 schemes), while longer grant duration was the most frequently fully met criterion (16 schemes). At the country level, diversity in funding type emerged as the most common indicator of innovation, fully met by seven of the 12 countries included in the analysis.

Only schemes from the United States met all criteria for capacity-building support, while those from Canada and India partially met the criteria. The most met capacity-building criterion was support for researchers, with 27 of 40 schemes including provisions for students or early-career researchers. In contrast, only six schemes fully met the criteria for including clinicians in the research process or ensuring clinical relevance.

Only the National Natural Science Foundation Key Programme in China met all criteria for sensitivity to paradigmatic differences and knowledge types. A further eight schemes met seven of the eight criteria, with none fully addressing intellectual property rights of knowledge custodians. Notably, only four of these nine schemes were among the 11 identified as being specific to traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

## **Discussion**

Findings from this analysis of global research funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine suggest ways to strengthen the funding landscape (Box 1). Over the last 15 years, funding has declined, with traditional medicine receiving only 1.0% of global health research funding. This disparity undermines the strategic objective 1 of the global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034,<sup>11</sup> which aims to establish an evidence base for traditional medicine, and highlights the need for dedicated research funding through existing or new mechanisms. The lack of specific funding schemes often forces traditional medicine researchers to compete for mainstream schemes, where review panels may lack relevant expertise or hold ideological biases.<sup>20,21</sup> This challenge is compounded by the marginalized sociocultural position of traditional medicine within existing health and economic power structures.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, efforts to improve funding must also address marginalization, for

example, by including traditional medicine experts on grant review panels and in decision-making bodies that influence research funding.

We found that many countries lack the focused policy, expertise, education and research support for traditional medicine typically provided by a government-funded national research centre.<sup>22</sup> The analysis also revealed limited diversity in funding mechanisms or funder type in some countries. National centres often rely on stable block funding, while university-led research typically depends on competitive grants drawing on academic expertise.<sup>22</sup> A combination of both approaches could build a more sustainable and innovative traditional medicine research ecosystem. However, block funding may be allocated to centres with broader health mandates. Future research should investigate the level and type of traditional medicine research within these general block-funded centres.

Our analysis revealed considerable data gaps in the global database, underscoring persistent challenges in estimating research funding for traditional medicine. Some funding schemes were not indexed in Dimensions, and many indexed grants lacked key details such as funding amounts. Furthermore, no data were available for several countries in the African Region and the Region of the Americas, despite high reported use of traditional medicine in these regions.<sup>23,24</sup> Grant categorization within Dimensions also lacks granularity, which is problematic given the diversity of traditional medicine systems, treatments and interventions. A global classification system would support funding agencies, enhance database functionality, and enable more targeted searches. While Direction 2.1 of the global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034<sup>11</sup> advocates for standardized classifications of products within regulatory frameworks, our findings suggest this approach should be expanded to encompass research funding systems. Encouraging funders to share their data for indexing in global databases such as Dimensions would also support more complete and accurate future analyses.

Our case study analysis also revealed that major grant schemes often fail to accommodate paradigms and methods of traditional medicine.<sup>25,26</sup> As a result, research is frequently forced to conform to biomedical research frameworks, which misaligns with the traditional medicine strategy's calls for better incorporation of traditional medicine concepts in policies and action plans (Direction 4.1) and more inclusive models for knowledge use (Direction 4.2).<sup>11</sup> While these priorities are not specific to research, guidelines for designing funding schemes that accommodate the unique needs of traditional medicine research are essential to fully realize its potential for global health.

This study has several limitations. First, while our triangulated search strategy was designed to be comprehensive, it was not exhaustive; some grant schemes may have been missed, particularly those with limited indexing or online visibility. This issue is further compounded by limitations within the Dimensions database, including incomplete countries coverage, restricted indexing sources and variable details from funders. Second, case study funders did not represent the majority of funders in the European and Western Pacific regions, limiting generalizability. Third, poor performance against appraisal criteria may reflect the fact that some schemes were established before relevant frameworks were published, though this temporal mismatch is of minor importance, given the appraisal's forward-looking purpose. Fourth, our classification of topics relied on the occurrence of traditional medicine-related terms in grant abstracts, which may have led to misclassification. To mitigate this risk, we included only abstracts already classified as traditional medicine within Dimensions. Finally, in the absence of a prior data set for comparison, our findings should be interpreted with caution regarding potential over- or under-estimation.

To conclude, current features of the global research funding landscape constrain the growth of traditional medicine and hinder the development of robust evidence. Limitations in the Dimensions database also restrict the ability to assess research trends, which is essential for effective coordination and planning. Transforming funding for traditional medicine research requires focused attention to ensure adequate and proportionate resourcing. Funders, in collaboration with key stakeholders, play an essential role in advancing traditional medicine research and supporting the vision of the WHO global traditional medicine strategy.

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### **Competing interests:**

None declared.

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**Box 1. Analysis-informed suggestions to strengthen the global research funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine**

- Establish dedicated funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine research via existing or new grant schemes.
- Include traditional, complementary and integrative medicine experts on grant assessment panels.
- Support both block and competitive traditional, complementary and integrative medicine research funding.
- Improve indexing of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine grants in global databases, such as Dimensions, especially for underrepresented regions and smaller schemes.
- Develop a specific grant classification system for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
- Create guidelines for funders to design grants aligned with the unique paradigms and methods of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

**Table 1. Criteria for critical appraisal domains**

| Appraisal category, level of assessment, criteria | Definition of appraisal category, level of assessment, criteria                                                                                                                       | Response option                                                                     | No. of case studies |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Research innovation                               |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Scheme-level                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Longer funding duration                           | Funding with longer duration to support more complex and ground-breaking research projects                                                                                            | Yes (3 years or more)                                                               | 16                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Partial (2 to 3 years)                                                              | 7                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No (less than 2 years)                                                              | 6                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 11                  |
| Scheme flexibility                                | Breadth of methods and topics accepted, with flexibility for researcher-driven question design                                                                                        | Yes                                                                                 | 14                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Some                                                                                | 15                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                                                                  | 7                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unclear                                                                             | 4                   |
| Multidisciplinary                                 | Preferences multidisciplinary work within teams                                                                                                                                       | Yes                                                                                 | 8                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scope allows                                                                        | 18                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                                                                  | 11                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unclear                                                                             | 3                   |
| Country level                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Funder mechanism diversity <sup>a</sup>           | Philanthropic, competitive government funding and block funding                                                                                                                       | Yes (three funding mechanisms)                                                      | 1                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Partial (two funding mechanisms)                                                    | 7                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No (one funding mechanism)                                                          | 4                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 2                   |
| Diversity of funding type <sup>a</sup>            | Diverse funding types such as individual, project and institutional                                                                                                                   | Yes (more than two types)                                                           | 7                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Partial (two types)                                                                 | 1                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No (one only)                                                                       | 2                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 2                   |
| Diversity of funding size <sup>a</sup>            | Diverse range of funding size per grant: mix across small (< US\$ 100 000), mid (US\$ 100 00–400 000) and large (> US\$ 400 000) grants; small grants allow researchers to take risks | Yes (not limited, or across more than two funding ranges)                           | 2                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Partial (across more than one funding range, or inclusive of small funding amounts) | 8                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No (within one funding range, no small funding amounts)                             | 1                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 1                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Research capacity-building                        |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Scheme level                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Relationship to clinician                         | Clinician involvement in team or project                                                                                                                                              | Yes                                                                                 | 6                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scope allows                                                                        | 6                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                                                                  | 21                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unclear                                                                             | 5                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 2                   |
| Relevance to practice                             | Practical and clinical relevance of topic or issue                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                 | 6                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Scope allows                                                                        | 13                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                                                                  | 14                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unclear                                                                             | 5                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | NA                                                                                  | 2                   |
| Researcher level                                  | Accommodating early career and emerging researchers                                                                                                                                   | Yes: exclusively                                                                    | 4                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes: inclusive of other research levels                                             | 21                  |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | No                                                                                  | 1                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unspecified                                                                         | 4                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       | Unclear                                                                             | 8                   |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |
| Country level                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                     |

|                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Diverse funding size <sup>a</sup>                                          | Diverse range of funding size per grant: mix across small (< US\$ 100 000), mid (US\$ 100 000–400 000) and large (> US\$ 400 000) grants; small grants allow researchers to build track record, larger grants provide opportunity to build programmes of research | Yes (not limited, or across more than two funding ranges),<br>Partial (across more than one funding range, or inclusive of small funding amounts)<br>No (within one funding range, no small funding amounts)<br>NA | 2<br>8<br>1<br>1  |
| <b>Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine sensitivity</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| Scheme level                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                   |
| Paradigmatically-aligned                                                   | Alignment with core characteristics of the traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (e.g. consideration of the philosophical roots of the traditional, complementary and integrative medicine being studied)                                           | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>Partial<br>No                                                                                                                                                                               | 9<br>3<br>1<br>27 |
| Intellectual property rights                                               | Ethical approaches to intellectual property rights of traditional knowledge custodians                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes<br>Partial<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                               | 0<br>6<br>34      |
| Tradition-informed framing                                                 | Tradition-informed communication and framing rather than biomedical framing                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 9<br>3<br>28      |
| Person-centred                                                             | Person-centred translation (e.g. capacity for holistic, person-centred models and treatments to be measured; individualised; patient-engagement)                                                                                                                  | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1<br>12<br>27     |
| Interpretation                                                             | Accuracy of interpretation (e.g. consideration of changes to interpretation of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine practices and treatments over time)                                                                                            | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4<br>6<br>30      |
| Stakeholder-informed transferability                                       | Transferability of traditional knowledge considered (through participatory research or other forms stakeholder engagement)                                                                                                                                        | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2<br>13<br>25     |
| Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine resource accessibility | Accessibility and integrity of traditional resources considered (e.g. are the necessary materials, equipment and facilities available?)                                                                                                                           | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4<br>5<br>31      |
| Needs assessment                                                           | Comparative benefit and need (health and disease landscape, patient preferences and values)                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes<br>Scope allows<br>No                                                                                                                                                                                          | 5<br>7<br>28      |

NA: not available.

<sup>a</sup> Assessed at country level, hence sample size only 12.

Table 2. Indexed grants allocated to research, condition and disease categorization, by WHO Region

| Health condition category        | No. (%) of grants <sup>a</sup> | Amount funded, US\$<br>(n = 10 812) |                           | WHO region, no. (%) |             |                 |            |                       |                 | P <sup>b</sup> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                  |                                | Total                               | Mean (SD)                 | African             | Americas    | South-East Asia | European   | Eastern Mediterranean | Western Pacific |                |
| Cancer                           | 5318 (34.8)                    | 5 764 254 232                       | 1 470 473<br>(14 280 056) | 86 (1.6)            | 3409 (64.6) | 19 (0.4)        | 580 (11.0) | 6 (0.1)               | 1174 (22.3)     | <0.001         |
| Cardiovascular                   | 3067 (20.1)                    | 2 247 732 117                       | 1 038 693<br>(3 088 213)  | 73 (2.4)            | 1778 (58.6) | 12 (0.4)        | 405 (13.3) | 3 (0.1)               | 764 (25.2)      | <0.001         |
| Oral and gastrointestinal system | 2107 (13.8)                    | 1 144 581 469                       | 849 096<br>(2 318 899)    | 22 (1.1)            | 1347 (64.8) | 5 (0.2)         | 372 (17.9) | 2 (0.1)               | 332 (16.0)      | <0.001         |
| Infection                        | 1629 (10.7)                    | 896 476 966                         | 908 285<br>(1 748 120)    | 140 (8.7)           | 986 (61.5)  | 11 (0.7)        | 287 (17.9) | 0 (0.0)               | 180 (11.2)      | <0.001         |
| Metabolic and endocrine system   | 1260 (8.2)                     | 623 487 660                         | 770 689<br>(2 318 899)    | 30 (2.4)            | 719 (57.8)  | 10 (0.8)        | 136 (10.9) | 3 (0.2)               | 347 (27.9)      | <0.001         |
| Musculoskeletal                  | 1155 (7.6)                     | 964 663 653                         | 1 264 304<br>(3 588 746)  | 157 (13.7)          | 584 (50.8)  | 3 (0.3)         | 111 (9.7)  | 0 (0.0)               | 294 (25.6)      | <0.001         |
| Inflammatory and immune system   | 1138 (7.5)                     | 601 880 959                         | 712 285<br>(1 628 304)    | 13 (1.2)            | 595 (52.6)  | 1 (0.1)         | 134 (1.9)  | 0 (0.0)               | 388 (34.3)      | <0.001         |
| General relevance <sup>c</sup>   | 963 (6.3)                      | 913 957 876                         | 1 218 611<br>(2 984 216)  | 26 (2.7)            | 543 (56.9)  | 1 (0.1)         | 212 (22.2) | 1 (0.1)               | 172 (18.0)      | <0.001         |
| Respiratory                      | 281 (1.8)                      | 266 809 547                         | 1 160 042<br>(2 688 271)  | 7 (2.5)             | 130 (46.9)  | 1 (0.4)         | 33 (11.9)  | 0 (0.0)               | 106 (38.3)      | <0.001         |
| Stroke                           | 133 (0.9)                      | 58 629 690                          | 553 110<br>(1 219 682)    | 3 (2.3)             | 57 (43.2)   | 1 (0.8)         | 7 (5.3)    | 0 (0.0)               | 64 (48.5)       | <0.001         |
| Renal and urogenital system      | 88 (0.6)                       | 46 369 677                          | 747 898<br>(1 115)        | 0 (0.0)             | 63 (71.6)   | 0 (0.0)         | 10 (11.4)  | 0 (0.0)               | 15 (17.0)       | 0.18           |
| Skin                             | 85 (0.6)                       | 17 399 320                          | 341 163<br>(459 242)      | 1 (1.2)             | 49 (58.3)   | 0 (0.0)         | 9 (10.7)   | 0 (0.0)               | 25 (29.8)       | 0.62           |
| Injury and accident              | 74 (0.5)                       | 53 792 170                          | 1 014 947<br>(1 710 677)  | 10 (13.7)           | 40 (54.8)   | 0 (0.0)         | 9 (12.3)   | 0 (0.0)               | 14 (19.2)       | 0.001          |
| Neurological                     | 32 (0.2)                       | 32 115 122                          | 1 235 197<br>(1 467 216)  | 0 (0.0)             | 20 (64.5)   | 1 (3.2)         | 6 (19.4)   | 0 (0.0)               | 4 (12.9)        | 0.07           |
| Disputed etiology                | 18 (0.1)                       | 12 865 270                          | 756 781<br>(1 429 293)    | 1 (5.6)             | 6 (33.3)    | 0 (0.0)         | 2 (11.1)   | 0 (0.0)               | 9 (50.0)        | 0.17           |
| Ear                              | 18 (0.1)                       | 6 308 119                           | 394 257<br>(611 686)      | 2 (11.1)            | 8 (44.4)    | 0 (0.0)         | 3 (16.7)   | 0 (0.0)               | 5 (27.8)        | 0.57           |

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|              |                           |                       |                                  |                  |                    |                 |                    |                 |                    |           |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Congenital   | 17 (0.1)                  | 21 925 925            | 2 192 593<br>(3 601 535)         | 1 (5.9)          | 11 (64.7)          | 0 (0.0)         | 4 (23.5)           | 0 (0.0)         | 1 (5.9)            | 0.53      |
| Blood        | 17 (0.1)                  | 11 447 687            | 763 179<br>(569 869)             | 0 (0.0)          | 9 (52.9)           | 1 (5.9)         | 5 (29.4)           | 0 (0.0)         | 2 (11.8)           | 0.003     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>15 273<br/>(100.0)</b> | <b>13 684 697 459</b> | <b>1 158 235<br/>(8 874 424)</b> | <b>551 (3.6)</b> | <b>8992 (59.4)</b> | <b>60 (0.4)</b> | <b>1954 (12.9)</b> | <b>13 (0.1)</b> | <b>3559 (23.5)</b> | <b>NA</b> |

NA: not applicable; SD: standard deviation; US\$: United States dollars.

<sup>a</sup> Grants were able to be allocated to more than one category.

<sup>b</sup> *P*-values denote differences between regions.

<sup>c</sup> Includes grants that do not have a specific match to the existing categories.

Note: the categories maternal and reproductive health and mental health had no grants allocation and therefore not shown. Some inconsistencies arise in some values due to rounding.

**Table 3. Frequency of terms in abstracts of included grants for research on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, 1960 to 2025**

| <b>Term</b>      | <b>No. (%)<sup>a</sup><br/>(<i>n</i> = 37 320)</b> |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Vitamin          | 19 461 (52.1)                                      |
| Acupuncture      | 9633 (25.8)                                        |
| Medicinal plants | 4374 (11.7)                                        |
| Yoga             | 2209 (5.9)                                         |
| Meditation       | 1910 (5.1)                                         |
| Massage          | 1279 (3.4)                                         |
| Biodiversity     | 586 (1.6)                                          |
| Indigenous       | 447 (1.2)                                          |
| Digital health   | 425 (1.1)                                          |
| Chiropractic     | 344 (0.9)                                          |
| Cupping          | 143 (0.4)                                          |
| Osteopathy       | 81 (0.2)                                           |
| Naturopathy      | 71 (0.2)                                           |
| Ayurveda         | 67 (0.2)                                           |
| Homeopathy       | 58 (0.1)                                           |
| Ethnobotany      | 54 (0.1)                                           |
| Anthroposophy    | 14 (< 0.1)                                         |
| Unani            | 12 (< 0.1)                                         |

<sup>a</sup> Abstracts can contain more than one term, hence the total sum grants does not equal the sample size. Grants were able to be allocated to more than one category.

**Table 4. Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine infrastructure and funding by country, 2025**

| Country, by WHO region           | Funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine |                              |                        |                             |                 |                              |                                           |                                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                  | Any research funding                                                      | Any grant funding identified | Specific grant funding | Philanthropic grant funding | National centre | National policy or framework | Government department, ministry or agency | Regulation of products or practice |
| <b>African Region</b>            |                                                                           |                              |                        |                             |                 |                              |                                           |                                    |
| Benin                            | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Burkina Faso                     | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | NA                                        | NA                                 |
| Burundi                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Cameroon                         | Yes                                                                       | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | Yes             | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Central African Republic         | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | No                                 |
| Chad                             | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | No                                 |
| Comoros                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | No                                 |
| Congo                            | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | No                                 |
| Côte d'Ivoire                    | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Equatorial Guinea                | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Eritrea                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Eswatini                         | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | NA              | NA                           | NA                                        | NA                                 |
| Ethiopia                         | Yes                                                                       | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | Yes             | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Gabon                            | Yes                                                                       | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | Yes             | Yes                          | Yes                                       | No                                 |
| Gambia                           | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | No                                 |
| Ghana                            | Yes                                                                       | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | Yes             | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Guinea-Bissau                    | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Kenya                            | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | NA              | NA                           | NA                                        | NA                                 |
| Liberia                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | Yes                                |
| Madagascar                       | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Malawi                           | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | NA                           | NA                                        | NA                                 |
| Mali                             | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | NA              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Mozambique                       | Yes                                                                       | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | Yes             | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Namibia                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | No                                 |
| Niger                            | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| Sao Tome and Principe            | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | No                                        | No                                 |
| Senegal                          | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | Yes                                |
| South Africa                     | Yes                                                                       | Yes                          | No                     | No                          | No              | Yes                          | Yes                                       | No                                 |
| Togo                             | No                                                                        | No                           | NA                     | NA                          | NA              | NA                           | NA                                        | NA                                 |

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|                                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Uganda                                | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes |
| United Republic of Tanzania           | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| <b>Region of the Americas</b>         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Argentina                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | NA  | No  | Yes |
| Bahamas                               | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Barbados                              | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | No  | No  |
| Belize                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of)      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Brazil                                | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Canada                                | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Chile                                 | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Colombia                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Costa Rica                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Cuba                                  | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Ecuador                               | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| El Salvador                           | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Grenada                               | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Guatemala                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Guyana                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Haiti                                 | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Honduras                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Mexico                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Nicaragua                             | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  |
| Panama                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | No  |
| Paraguay                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Peru                                  | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Saint Lucia                           | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Suriname                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes |
| Trinidad and Tobago                   | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | No  |
| United States                         | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Uruguay                               | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>South-East Asia Region</b>         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bangladesh                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Bhutan                                | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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|                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| India                        | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Maldives                     | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Myanmar                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Nepal                        | Yes | Yes | Yes | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Sri Lanka                    | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Thailand                     | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Timor-Leste                  | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | NA  | NA  |
| <b>European Region</b>       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Albania                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Andorra                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Armenia                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Austria                      | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Azerbaijan                   | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Belarus                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Belgium                      | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina       | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Bulgaria                     | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes |
| Croatia                      | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Cyprus                       | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Czechia                      | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Denmark                      | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Estonia                      | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Finland                      | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| France                       | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Germany                      | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hungary                      | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Iceland                      | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Ireland                      | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | No  | Yes | NA  |
| Israel                       | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Italy                        | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Latvia                       | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Lithuania                    | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Luxembourg                   | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Malta                        | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Montenegro                   | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Norway                       | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Poland                       | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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|                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Portugal                            | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Republic of Moldova                 | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Romania                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Russian Federation                  | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Serbia                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Slovakia                            | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Slovenia                            | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Spain                               | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Sweden                              | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Switzerland                         | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Tajikistan                          | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  | NA  |
| Türkiye                             | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Ukraine                             | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes |
| United Kingdom                      | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| <b>Eastern Mediterranean Region</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Afghanistan                         | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | No  |
| Bahrain                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of)          | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Iraq                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Jordan                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Kuwait                              | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Lebanon                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Morocco                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Oman                                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Pakistan                            | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Qatar                               | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Saudi Arabia                        | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Somalia                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | No  |
| Sudan                               | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes |
| Syrian Arab Republic                | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | NA  | Yes | Yes |
| Tunisia                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | Yes |
| United Arab Emirates                | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Yemen                               | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| <b>Western Pacific Region</b>       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Australia                           | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Brunei Darussalam                   | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | Yes | Yes |
| Cambodia                            | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| China                               | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Cook Islands                        | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |

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|                                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Fiji                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | No  |
| Indonesia                        | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Japan                            | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Kiribati                         | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Malaysia                         | Yes | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Marshall Islands                 | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Micronesia (Federated States of) | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Mongolia                         | Yes | No  | NA  | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Nauru                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | No  |
| New Zealand                      | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | No  |
| Niue                             | No  | No  | NA  | NA  |     | Yes | No  | No  |
| Palau                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Papua New Guinea                 | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Philippines                      | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Republic of Korea                | Yes | Yes | Yes | NA  | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Samoa                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | No  |
| Singapore                        | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Solomon Islands                  | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | No  | No  |
| Tonga                            | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Tuvalu                           | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | Yes |
| Vanuatu                          | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| Viet Nam                         | No  | No  | NA  | NA  | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes |

NA: not applicable; WHO: World Health Organization.

Note: we did not identify data pertaining to funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine for Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eswatini, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Nigeria, Republic of North Macedonia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Table 5. Leading funders of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine research indexed in the Dimensions database, by WHO region, 1976–2025**

| Funder, by WHO region <sup>a</sup>                                                | Country                      | No. (%) of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine grants from funder | % of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine grants in region |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>African Region</b>                                                             |                              | 1978 (5.0)                                                                        | 100.0                                                                     |
| National Research Foundation ( <i>n</i> = 275 743)                                | South Africa                 | 1978 (0.7)                                                                        | 100.0                                                                     |
| <b>Region of the Americas</b>                                                     |                              | 20 728 (52.5)                                                                     | 100.0                                                                     |
| São Paulo Research Foundation ( <i>n</i> = 224 236)                               | Brazil                       | 3097 (1.4)                                                                        | 14.9                                                                      |
| Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior ( <i>n</i> = 205 203) | Brazil                       | 2758 (1.3)                                                                        | 13.3                                                                      |
| National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine ( <i>n</i> = 2483)     | United States                | 2035 (82.0)                                                                       | 9.8                                                                       |
| National Cancer Institute ( <i>n</i> = 73 859)                                    | United States                | 1581 (2.1)                                                                        | 7.6                                                                       |
| National Institute of Food and Agriculture ( <i>n</i> = 72 373)                   | United States                | 1155 (1.6)                                                                        | 5.6                                                                       |
| <b>South East Asian Region</b>                                                    |                              | 244 (0.6)                                                                         | 100.0                                                                     |
| Department of Biotechnology ( <i>n</i> = 7803)                                    | India                        | 136 (1.7)                                                                         | 55.7                                                                      |
| Science and Engineering Board ( <i>n</i> = 8416)                                  | India                        | 64 (0.8)                                                                          | 26.2                                                                      |
| Indian Council of Medical Research ( <i>n</i> = 760)                              | India                        | 30 (3.9)                                                                          | 12.3                                                                      |
| Department of Science and Technology ( <i>n</i> = 1726)                           | India                        | 7 (0.4)                                                                           | 2.9                                                                       |
| DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance ( <i>n</i> = 543 )                              | India                        | 7 (1.3)                                                                           | 2.9                                                                       |
| <b>European Region</b>                                                            |                              | 4937 (12.5)                                                                       | 30.1                                                                      |
| Russian Foundation for Basic Research ( <i>n</i> = 440 636)                       | Russian Federation           | 393 (0.1)                                                                         | 8.0                                                                       |
| National Science Center ( <i>n</i> = 29 834)                                      | Poland                       | 346 (1.2)                                                                         | 7.0                                                                       |
| Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft ( <i>n</i> = 151 671)                             | Germany                      | 254 (0.2)                                                                         | 5.1                                                                       |
| Belgian Federal Science Policy Office ( <i>n</i> = 51 655)                        | Belgium                      | 253 (0.5)                                                                         | 5.1                                                                       |
| European Commission ( <i>n</i> = 155 198)                                         | European Union Member States | 244 (0.2)                                                                         | 4.9                                                                       |
| <b>Eastern Mediterranean Region</b>                                               |                              | 27 (0.1)                                                                          | 100.0                                                                     |
| Qatar National Research Fund ( <i>n</i> = 4022)                                   | Qatar                        | 26 (0.6)                                                                          | 96.3                                                                      |
| University of Sharjah ( <i>n</i> = 481)                                           | United Arab Emirates         | 1 (0.2)                                                                           | 3.7                                                                       |
| <b>Western Pacific Region</b>                                                     |                              | 11 601 (29.4)                                                                     | 94.2                                                                      |
| National Natural Science Foundation of China ( <i>n</i> = 561 771)                | China                        | 5798 (1.0)                                                                        | 50.0                                                                      |
| Japan Society for the Promotion of Science ( <i>n</i> = 1 032 253)                | Japan                        | 4346 (0.4)                                                                        | 37.5                                                                      |
| Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare ( <i>n</i> = 30 086)                        | Japan                        | 347 (1.2)                                                                         | 3.0                                                                       |
| National Health and Medical Research Council ( <i>n</i> = 31 896)                 | Australia                    | 246 (0.8)                                                                         | 2.1                                                                       |
| Ministry of Higher Education ( <i>n</i> = 5483)                                   | Malaysia                     | 182 (3.30)                                                                        | 1.6                                                                       |

WHO: World Health Organization.

<sup>a</sup> The sample sizes are the total number of grants the funders have awarded.

**Fig. 1. Total funding amounts for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, 1960–2024**

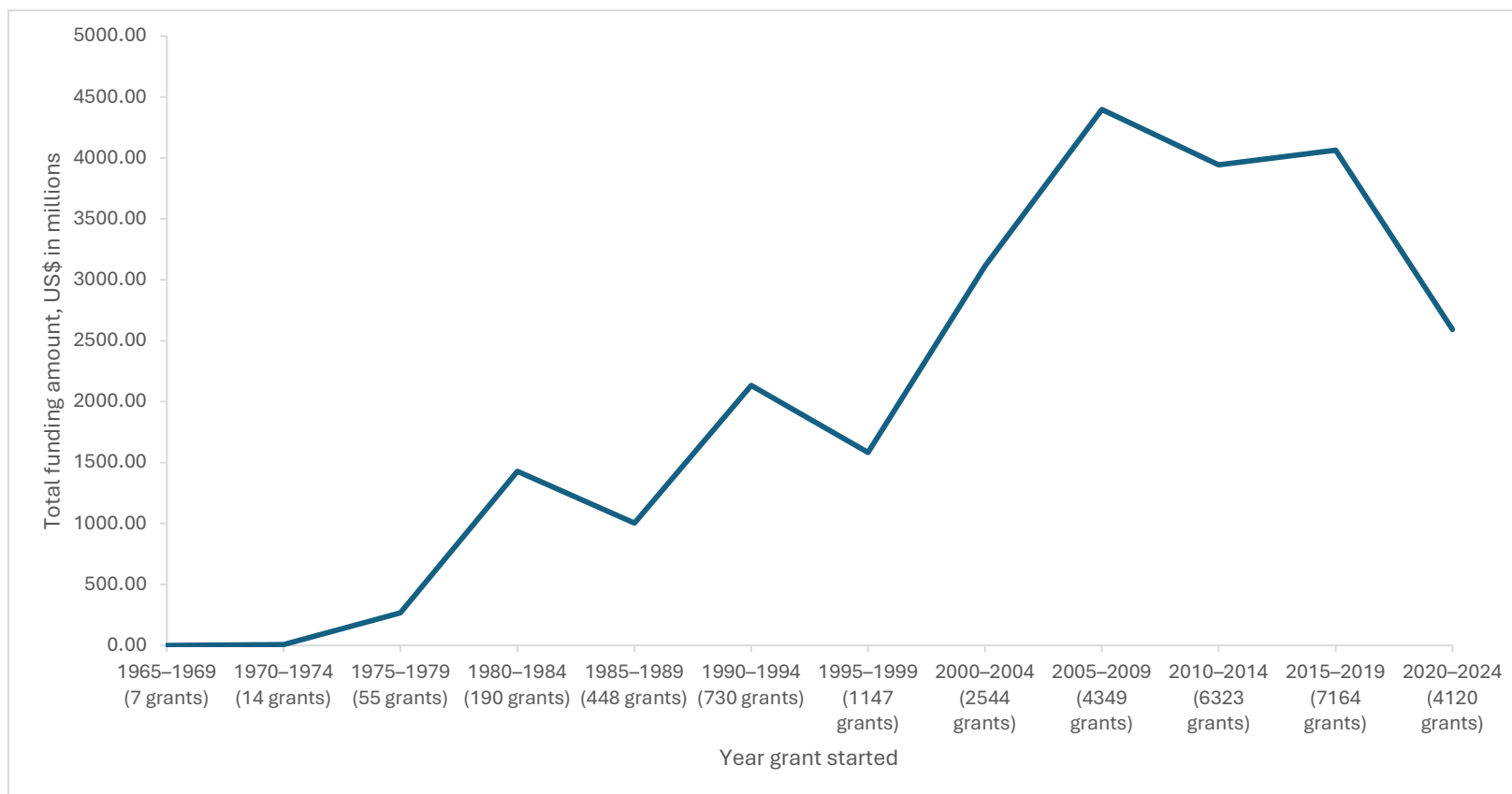


Fig. 2. **Mean funding amounts for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, 1960–2024**

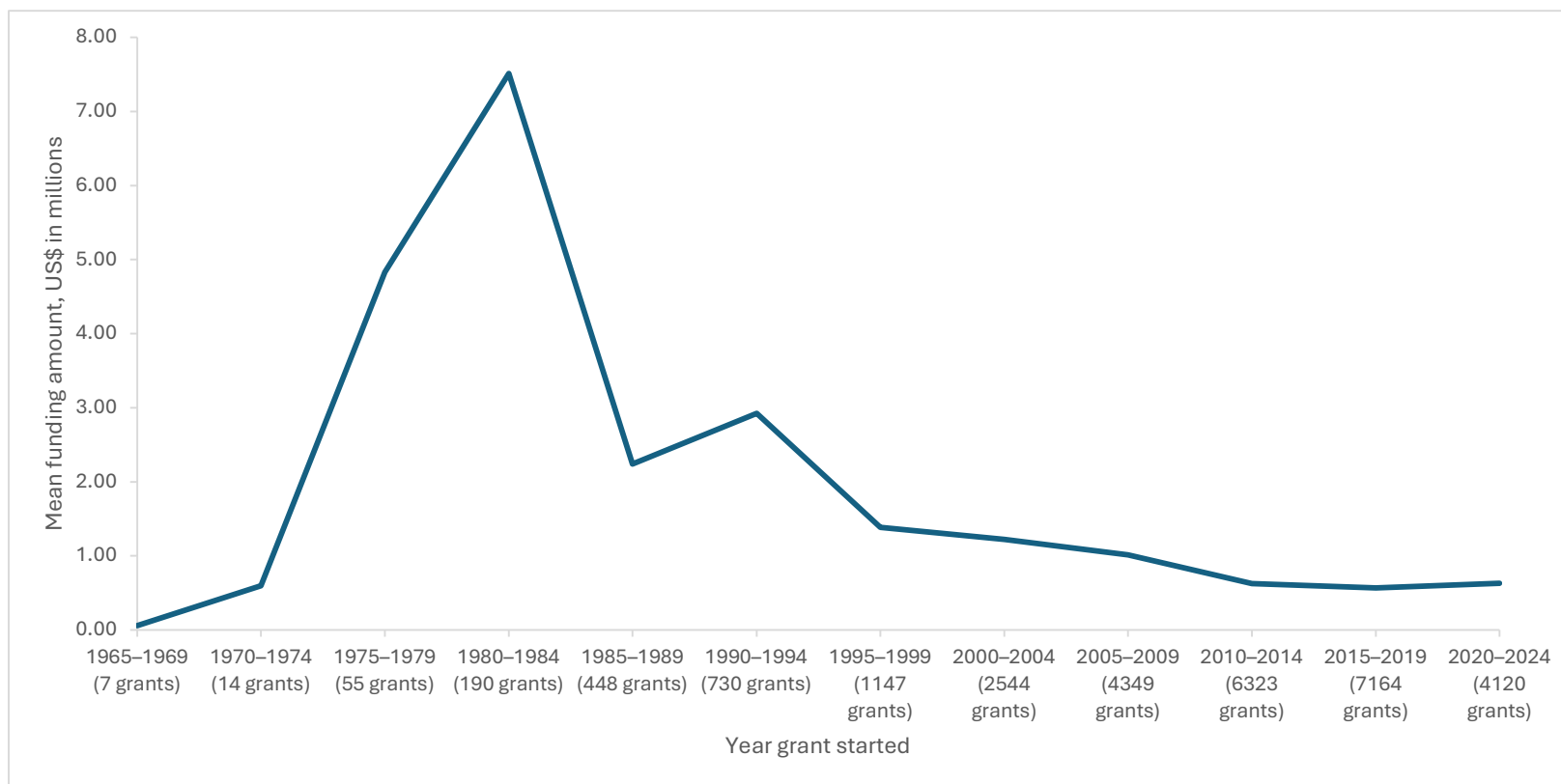
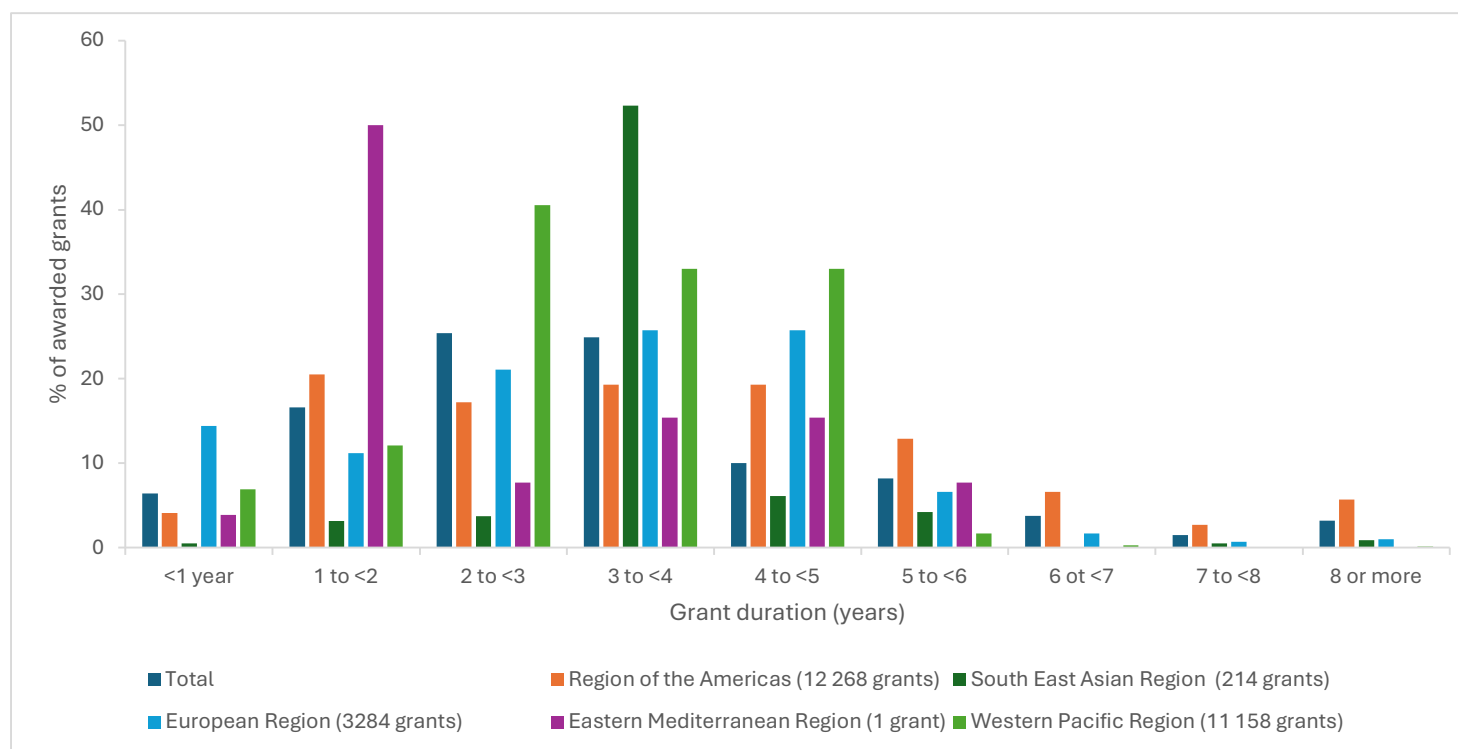


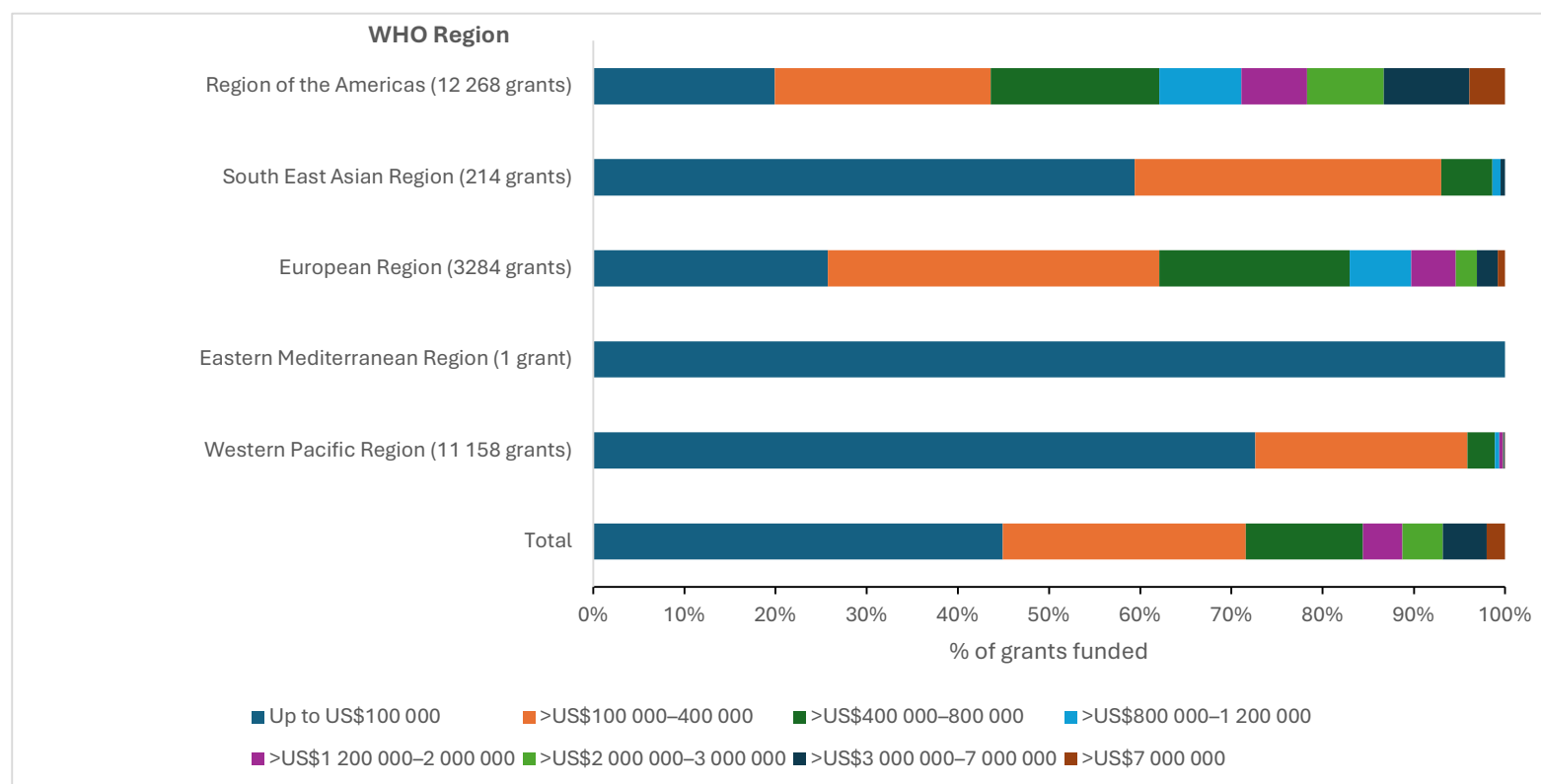
Fig. 3. Duration of awarded grants for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, by WHO region, 1960–2024



WHO: World Health Organization.

Note: no funding amounts for grants from the African Region were reported in the Dimension database. The absolute numbers are available in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>

**Fig. 4. Grant distribution by funding size for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, across WHO regions, 1960–2024**



US\$: United States dollars; WHO: World Health Organization.

Note: no funding amounts for grants from the African Region were reported in the Dimension database. The absolute numbers are available in the online repository.<sup>14</sup>