

# THE ROLE OF IP FOR INNOVATION AND ACCESS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

WHO-WIPO-WTO Trilateral Symposium:  
Facing the Future: Human health and climate change

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## **BEST SCIENCE FOR THE MOST NEGLECTED**



**We discover, develop, and accelerate access to urgently needed treatments for neglected patients** focusing on gaps for infectious diseases that fuel cycles of poverty and disease in resource-constrained settings

# A patient needs-focused, globally networked R&D organization

## Treatments delivered

**12** 


field-adapted and affordable  
treatments for 6 deadly diseases

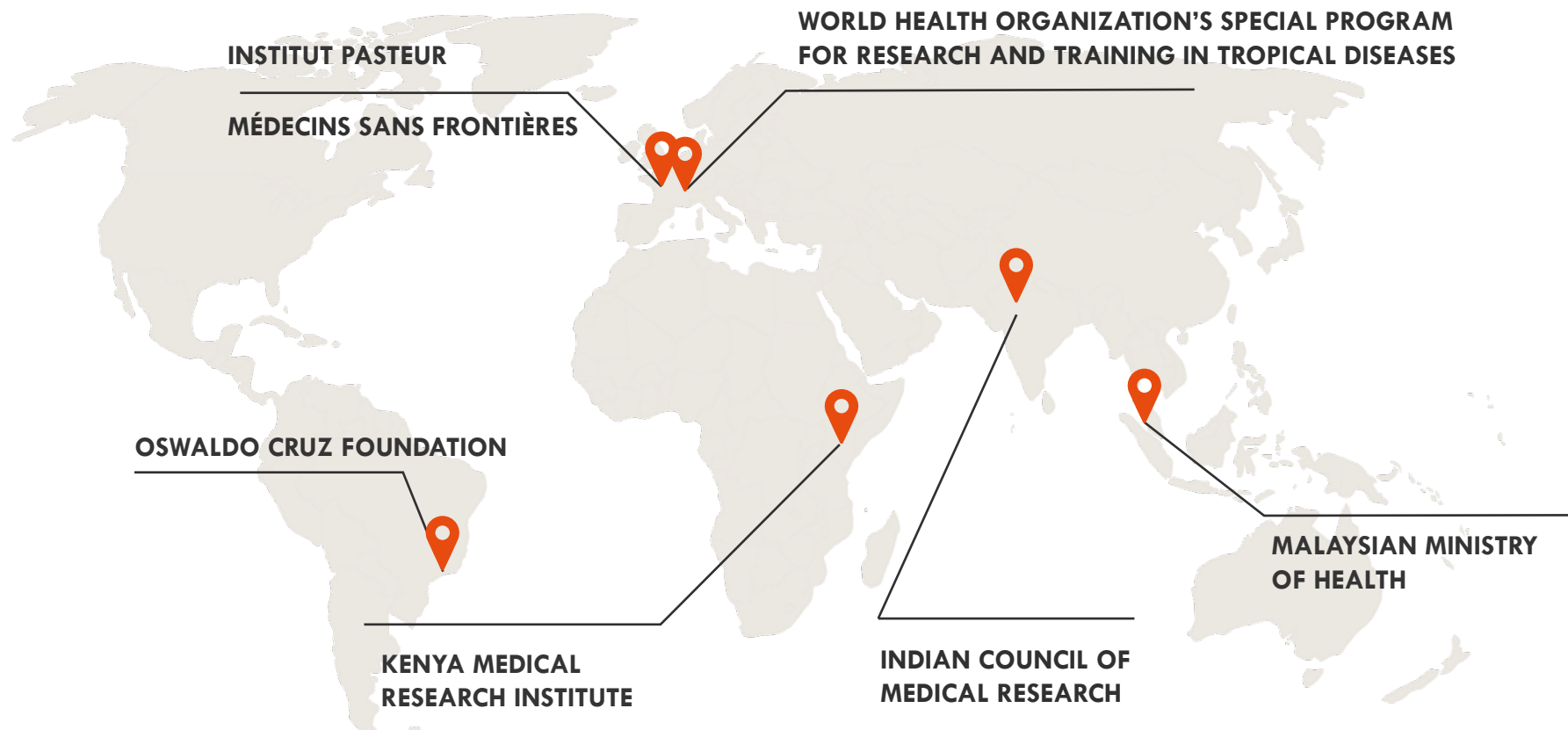
## R&D pipeline replenished

 **> 20+ NCEs**  
**> 4 million+ compounds screened**  
**> 13 projects in Phase III and registration**

A healthy pipeline of drug candidates  
for 8 deadly diseases

## Clinical trials conducted

 **An average of 20 active  
clinical studies per year**



# DNDi's four-pronged approach to climate, environment, and health R&D

**Develop treatments for climate-sensitive diseases in LMICs**  
DNDi will innovate for neglected patients with climate-sensitive diseases and deliver new, adapted, and affordable treatments.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

**Green biomedical R&D and manufacturing**  
DNDi will proactively contribute to the movement for greening R&D and manufacturing practices while helping to abandon the use of toxic drugs that harm the environment as we introduce new NTD therapeutic options.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Advocate for medical innovation for climate-sensitive diseases in the climate change response**

DNDi will advocate for increased focus on the pressing need for R&D for health tools to combat climate-sensitive diseases in climate adaptation policies and discussions – and for commitments to ensure that innovation caters to the needs of populations disproportionately impacted by climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

**Reduce our carbon emissions and environmental footprint (REEF)**

DNDi will halve its carbon emissions and reduce its environmental footprint by revisiting its corporate and project approaches.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

DNDi

Climate, environment, and  
health R&D Roadmap

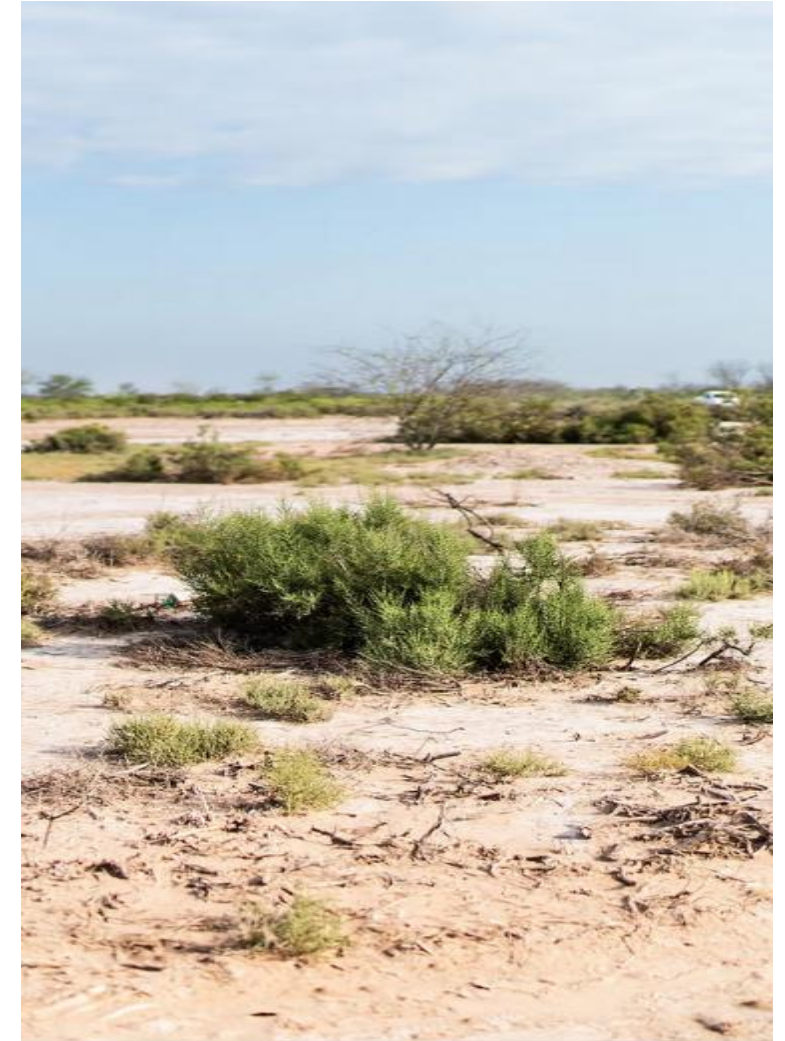


# Neglected Tropical Diseases: among top climate sensitive diseases

NTDs include several parasitic, viral, and bacterial infectious diseases **that cause substantial illness for 1.65 billion people globally**, mostly in the least developed economies and most impoverished communities.

**NTDs are climate sensitive diseases:** Nearly half of the NTDs (Dengue, Leishmaniasis, Sleeping sickness, Chagas etc.) **are vector-borne or water-borne**, and **are at the forefront of the climate sensitive infectious diseases list**

- **Increased disease transmission:** Favorable conditions for NTD spread. However, incidence of some infectious diseases might be reduced as the environment may become hostile for vector survival
- **Expanded range:** Spread of NTDs to new areas. "tropical diseases" now causing global outbreaks. E.g. dengue in the United States, Europe, and re-emergence in Japan.
- **Treatment resistance rises:** Increased resistance to NTDs treatment.
- **Elevated risk of epidemics:** sustained disease outbreaks due to increased disease incidence
- **Severity of diseases:** Climate change is making it easier for vectors to survive and spread disease
- **Compounding health inequities:** Climate change further exacerbating existing health inequities



# Innovation and access

## Innovation gap:

- The prevailing profit-oriented model for medical research and development (R&D) leaves little incentive to develop drugs for the poorest and most vulnerable communities
- As a result, many NTDs still lack tools for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment that are simple, safe, and effective – and that can be easily integrated into already overburdened health systems.
- **Access gap:**
- Despite global spread, countries in the Global South continue to bear the burden due to impact of climate change on infectious diseases
- Spread of climate sensitive infectious diseases to HICs may spur innovation on health tools, however
  - This doesn't guarantee equitable access to these tools by populations that need them the most, in countries where the burden of disease is already extensive
  - This also doesn't guarantee R&D for those climate-sensitive diseases which predominantly affect lower-and middle-income countries



# LEISHMANIASIS

DELIVERING SAFER, SIMPLER TREATMENTS  
TO SAVE LIVES AND REDUCE SOCIAL STIGMA

## FACTS

Over  
**600 million**  
people at risk of  
VL worldwide

**600,000-  
1 million**  
new cases of CL  
each year

About  
**50%**  
of people infected  
with VL and CL are  
children

## CHALLENGES

**VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS (VL):** Treatments require either hospital stays or complex infusions.

**CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS (CL):** Current treatments are more than 60 years old, costly, and often require weeks of painful injections of toxic, heavy metal-based drugs with severe side effects.

## OUR WORK

**VL:** Improved treatments now part of national guidelines in **East Africa (2010)** and **South Asia (2011)**

**CL:** Several **promising compounds identified**, now in different stages of development

**Replenished R&D pipeline** with an unprecedented portfolio of all-new potential drugs

## OUR GOALS

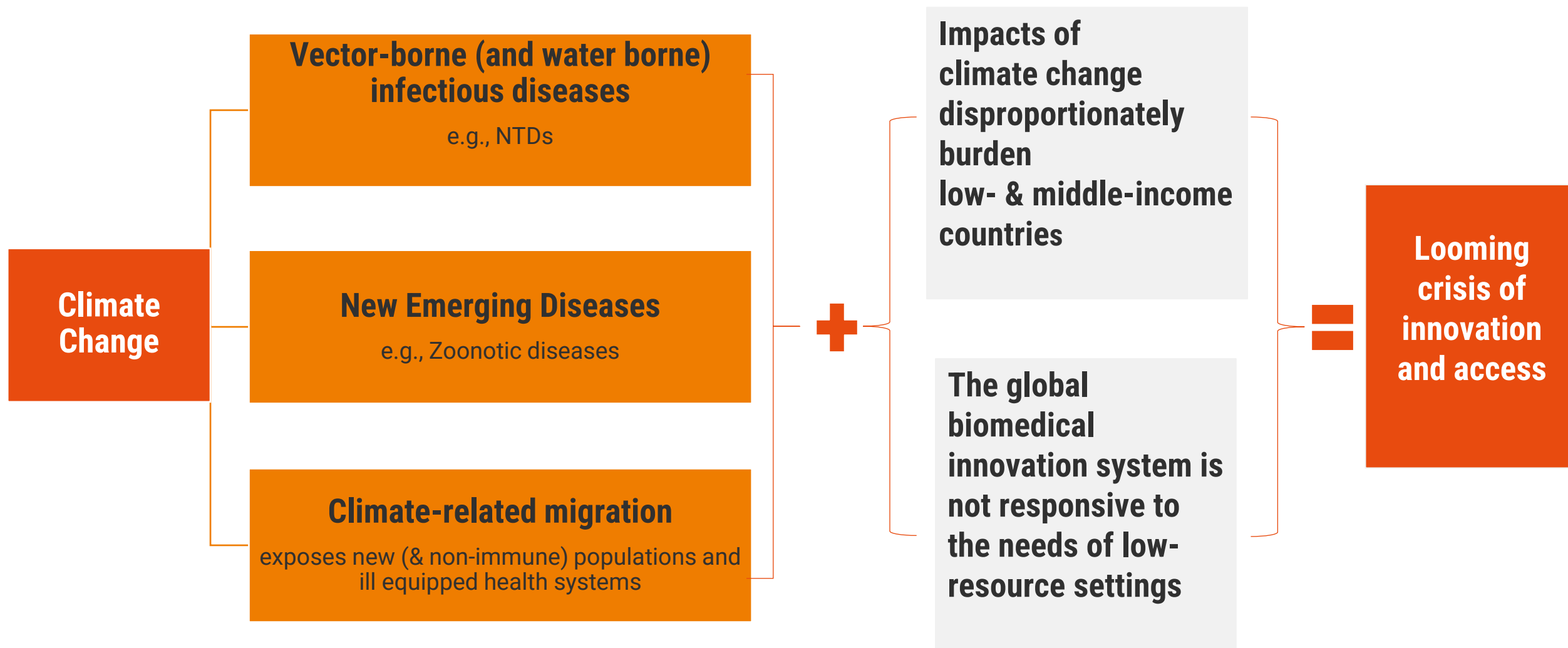
**2021-2028: Deliver safer, simpler treatments to save lives and reduce social stigma**

- Deliver **five new short-course treatments** for: VL and HIV co-infection (delivered June 2022), VL in East Africa and Latin America (delivered June 2022), post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis, and CL
- Advance **two oral combination regimens** based on new chemical entities to Phase III
- Advance **'immunomodulator' for CL** to clinical development
- Ensure **prompt diagnosis** and **affordable access** to new treatments



**MAIN PARTNERS:** [dndi.org/leish-partners](https://dndi.org/leish-partners)

# The acute challenge for low resource settings



## IP in neglected diseases:

- IP has **not been** an incentive/ booster/ driver for NTDs/ diseases of poverty
- **BUT** R&D is based on using knowledge which can be subject to preexisting or potential IP rights created as part of the development process.

### IP can:

- Limit access to valuable chemical compounds
- Limit use of new technologies, platforms, formulations e.g AI, mRNA
- Restrict distribution (territory limitations)
- Hinder open innovation strategies
- Prevent manufacturing, technology transfer, affordable access and distribution

## Pro Access Policies: ensuring IP rights do not hinder innovation and access

To address roadblocks to innovation and access created by intellectual property rights limiting the possibility of collaboration, follow-on R&D, production, or equitable access to end-result products, [DNDi's Intellectual Property Policy](#) is based on two guiding principles that inform negotiations:

- **ensure that drugs are affordable and accessible in an equitable manner to patients who need them; and**
- **develop drugs as global public goods whenever possible.**

### *Examples:*

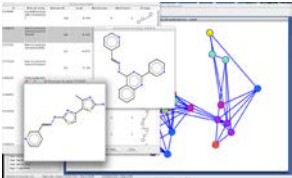
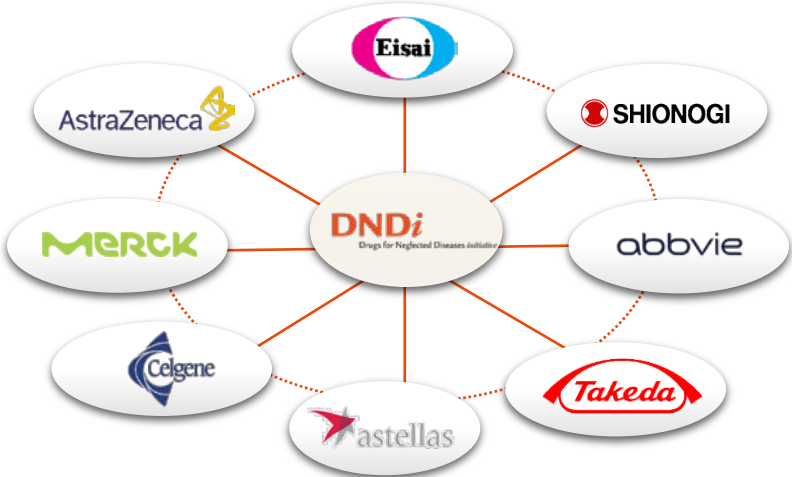
*Building on its experience, DNDi has defined 'gold standard' licensing terms to ensure equitable and affordable access to treatments, including, whenever possible:*

- *terms such as perpetual royalty-free, non-exclusive, sub-licensable licenses to DNDi in the contractually defined target disease(s);*
- *worldwide research and manufacturing rights;*
- *commitment to make the final product available at cost, plus a minimal margin, in all endemic countries, regardless of income level; and*
- *non-exclusivity, enabling technology transfer and local production to multiply sources of production and decrease price of product.*

DNDi also publishes model contracts or templates of the collaboration and licensing agreements that it signs with public and private partners, including with pharmaceutical companies.

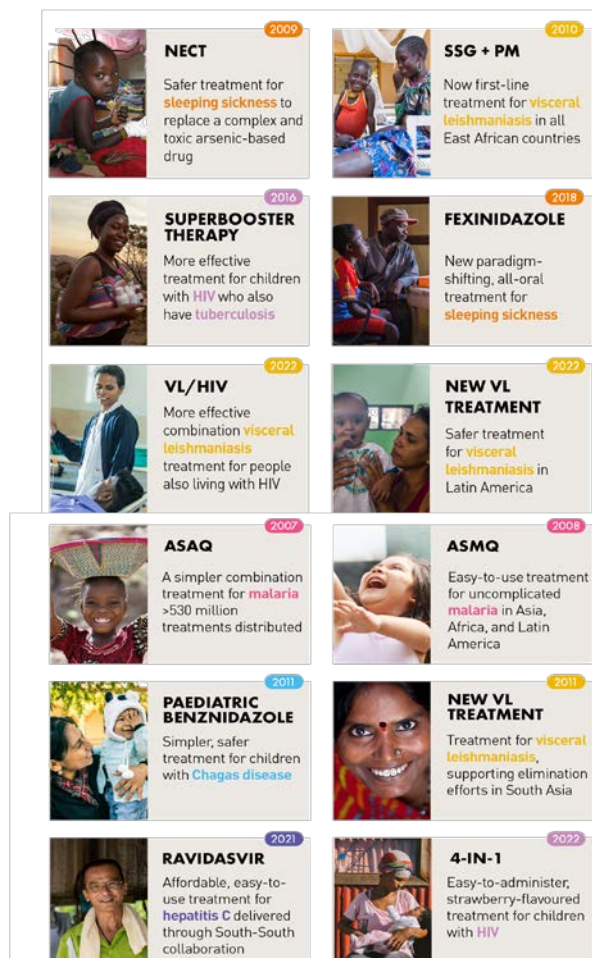
[Read DNDi's fuller legal commentary 'Striking fair deals for equitable access to medicines' published in the Oxford Journal of IP Law and Practice](#)

# NTD Drug Discovery Booster



## 12 NEW TREATMENTS DEVELOPED FOR 6 DEADLY DISEASES, SAVING MILLIONS OF LIVES

- ✓ Easy to use
- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Context-adapted
- ✓ No patent barriers



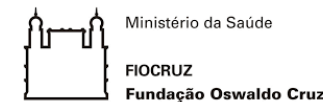
## EMBEDDING EQUITABLE ACCESS KEY FACTORS:

- Prioritize access from the outset of R&D and embed at all stages, not once a product is in late-stage clinical development or has received regulatory approval (end-to-end approach)
- Underpinned by collaboration agreements with partners based on a shared vision
- Based on: Target Product Profiles that respond to population needs (including target price) with local experts, clinicians, regulators, and affected communities
- Public **IP Policy**- Key principles:
  - Equitable access and affordability of end-product
  - Make results of DNDi research available to the wider research community
  - Develop drugs as public goods whenever possible

## Co-creating solutions: Dengue Alliance

To develop a new treatment, utilizing expertise and capacity of partners from dengue-endemic countries

- Create a joint and collaborative agenda for the development of affordable dengue therapeutics
- Focused on solutions that work best in endemic contexts
- Promote collaborative non-for-profit medical research and development (R&D) environment
- Implement research activities
- Engage in joint fundraising
- Encourage, support and develop research knowledge and skills of personnel
- **Encourage and promote the use and sharing of the research results (including intellectual property) and products, created under this collaboration, for an equitable and affordable access, policy-making and other public purposes**



## POLICY ACTION

1



**Ensure developing new tools (drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines) for primary and community healthcare is a key component of climate adaptation discussions at COP**

2



**Create an enabling framework :**

- Public policies and mechanisms to specifically address IP barriers.
- Conditions on public and philanthropic R&D funding (incl affordability and IP licensing obligations) to ensure development and access to health tools.
- Support alternative ways to fund R&D e.g. not for profit models, prizes.

3








- **Support south-south and triangular collaborations** –where countries facing the greatest burden and most affected by climate-sensitive diseases lead innovation



# Thank You

For more information: [mchilds@dndi.org](mailto:mchilds@dndi.org)



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