

SMART4TB Country Survey Results and Recommendations

March 21, 2023



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Key Takeaways

The results of the survey (220 participants from 23 high-priority countries) indicate the following:

1. Strong support for regional collaboratives, with more than 70% of respondents supporting each of the proposed regional collaborative roles (slides 19-20);
2. Significant need for quality engagement of all stakeholders at the country level to define operational research priorities to accelerate the TB performance;
3. Operational research should be a spectrum, addressing the cascade of care and social dimensions of TB prevention and care (slides 26-27);
4. Local NGOs and the national institutes/academia should be key players in addition to the routine NTP structure and system; and
5. Capacity building and knowledge exchange on translating operational research to practice/program settings should be a priority.



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Outline

- Background and Objectives
- Participant Characteristics
- Overall Response
- Challenges, Needs & Priorities
- Operational Research Priorities
- Conclusions and Recommendations



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Background and Objectives



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Background and Objectives

The strategic vision of USAID/SMART4TB includes:

- Designing and implementing research studies with local partners that will identify effective person-centered methods for finding, treating, and preventing TB;
- Strengthening local capacity to conduct high-quality research; and
- Engaging communities to build demand for new interventions, drive policy change, and improve implementation of new and existing interventions to reach the End TB targets.

The objective of this survey was to get further inputs from key in-country stakeholders on how SMART4TB can best engage in high-priority countries to further develop and implement its strategic vision



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Survey approach

An online survey tool was developed through an iterative process that involved SMART4TB leadership and TA members, with TA6 taking the lead role. Survey questions covered the following thematic areas:

- Participant demographics
- Challenges and country capacity building needs and priorities
- The role of regional collaboratives
- Willingness of participants to contribute to regional collaboratives
- Operational research priorities

Three webinar sessions were organized (06-07 February 2023)

- Link to the survey shared following the webinar
- Additional reminders sent to ensure adequate response rate

Survey data analysed and descriptive results presented



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Participant Characteristics



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304 participants from 38 countries attended the webinars

- 73 were from the US (including from 23 USAID and 20 research institutions)
- Top 5 countries with highest number of participants were:
 - India (44), Uganda (27), Bangladesh & Kyrgyzstan (13 each), Indonesia (12) and Ethiopia (10)
- Top 5 types of organizations with highest number of participants were from:
 - Local NGOs-68
 - USAID-58
 - Research institutions-51
 - Academic Institutions-48
 - International NGOs-27
- 18 participants were from MOH/NTPs



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Overall Response

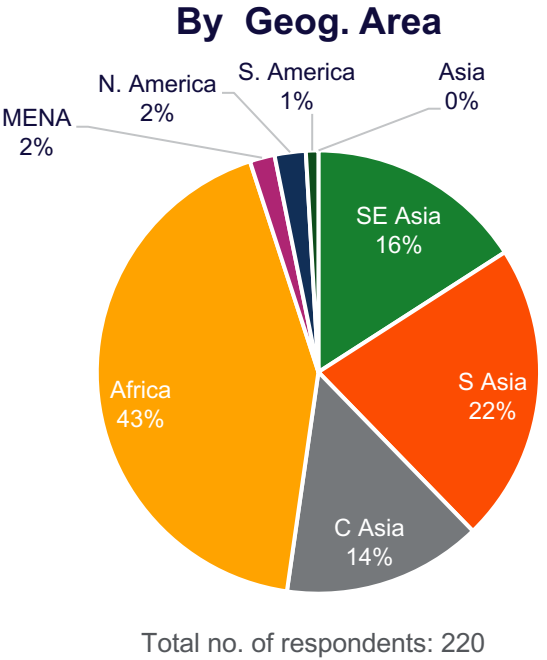
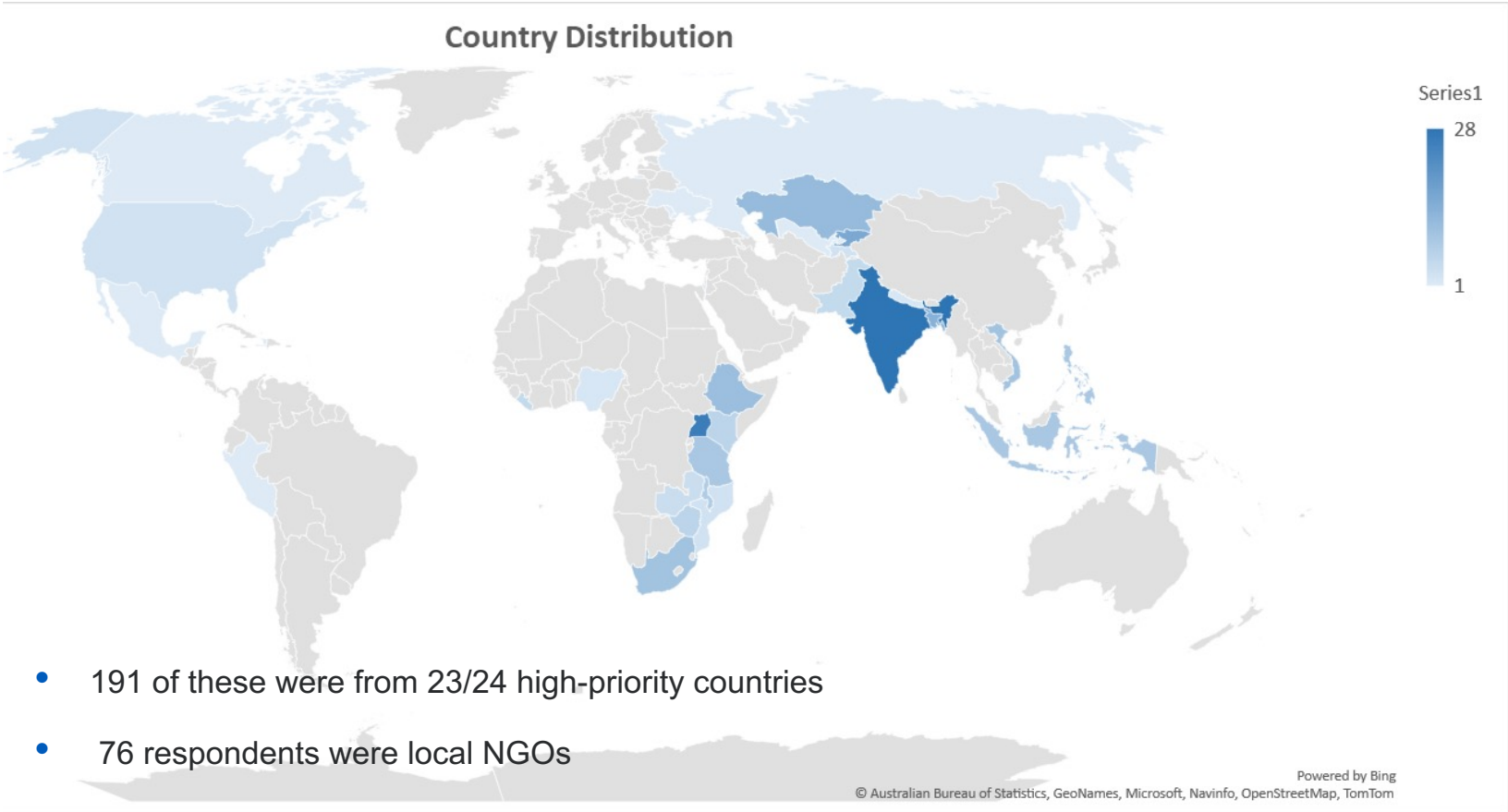


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220 responded to the survey



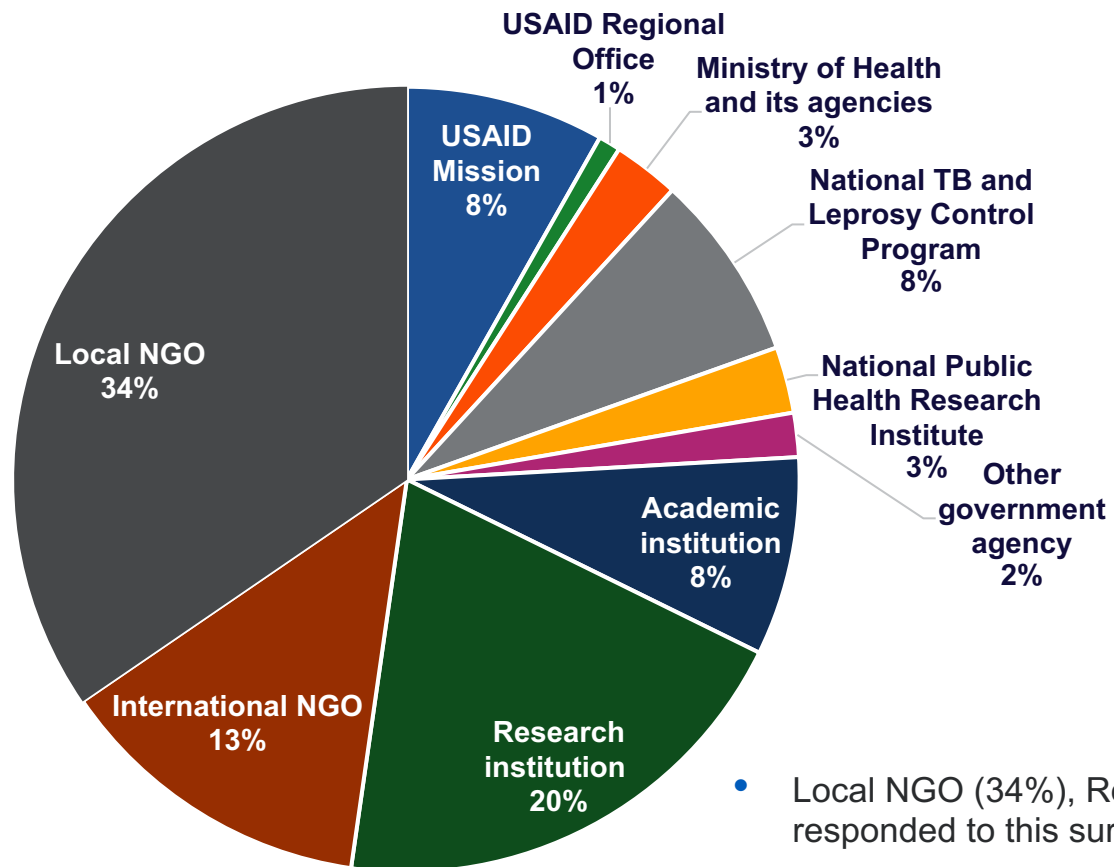
- 191 of these were from 23/24 high-priority countries
- 76 respondents were local NGOs
- Academic and research institutes combined constituted the second-largest number of respondents
- 18 USAID mission staff responded to the survey (17 from TB priority countries)



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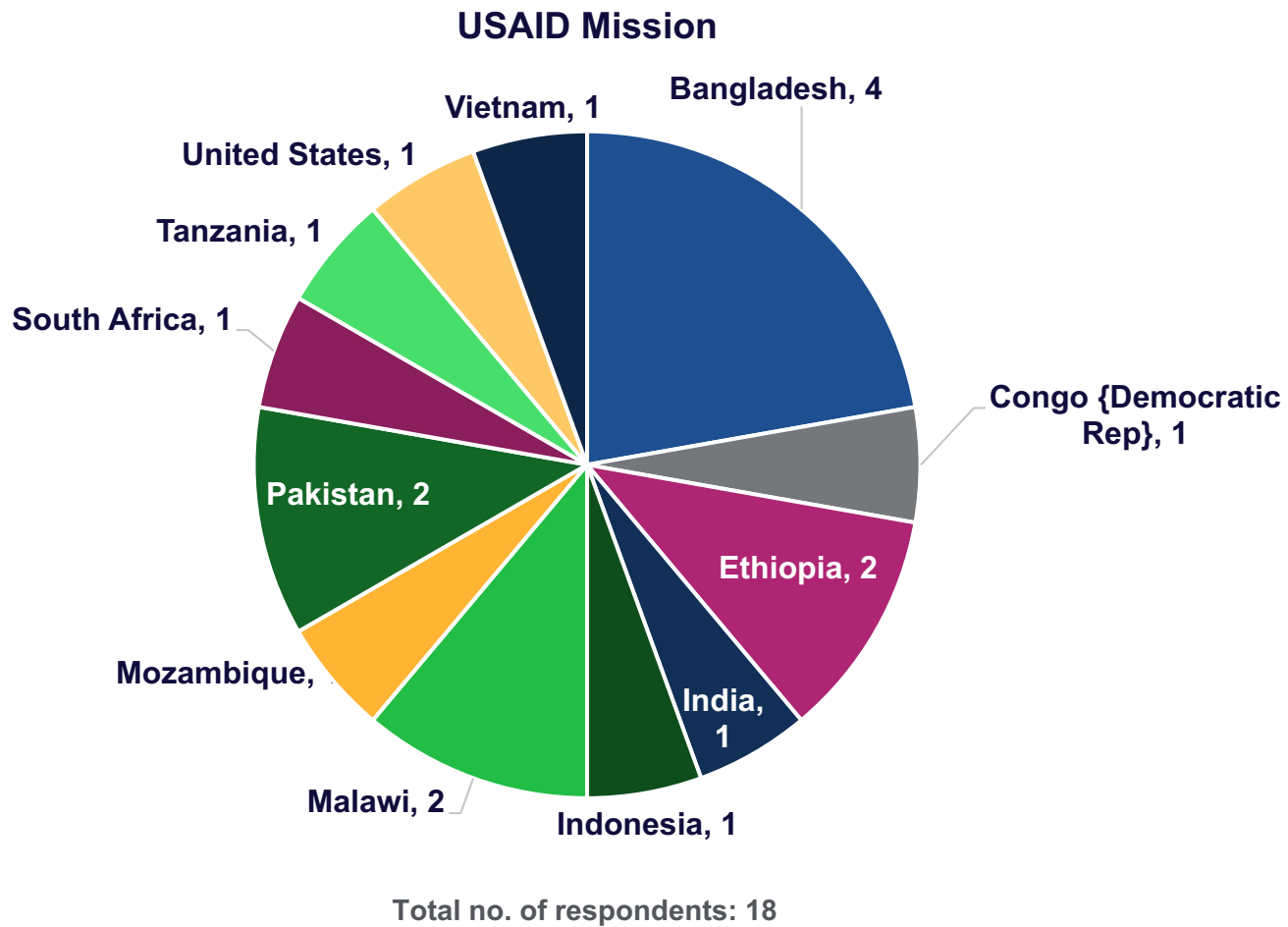
Response by type of organization



Organization	
USAID Mission	18
USAID Regional Office	2
Ministry of Health and its agencies	6
National TB and Leprosy Control Program	17
National Public Health Research Institute	6
Other government agency	4
Academic institution	18
Research institution	44
International NGO	29
Local NGO	76
Total	220

- Local NGO (34%), Research institution (20%) and INGO(13%) are the top 3 groups that responded to this survey
- MoH and NTP only accounted for 11%

USAID Mission Respondents per country



- 20 respondents are related to USAID
 - 18 USAID Mission
 - 2 USAID Regional Office (East Africa and Sudan and South and Central Asia)
- Out of 18 USAID Mission
 - 11 are Subject Matter Specialists
 - 4 are team leads
 - 14 manage TB activities in their country
 - 7 are AORs, 5 are activity managers and 1 Alternate AORs

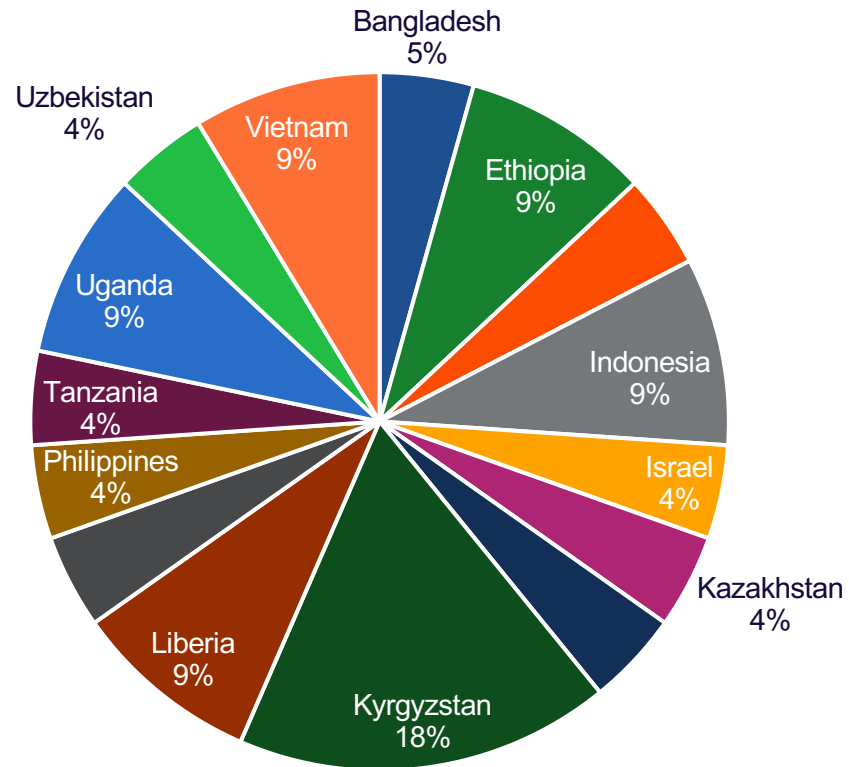


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23 MOH & NTP respondents from 15 countries



Country	
Bangladesh	1
Ethiopia	2
India	1
Indonesia	2
Israel	1
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	1
Kyrgyzstan	4
Liberia	2
Pakistan	1
Philippines	1
Tanzania	1
Uganda	2
Uzbekistan	1
Vietnam	2
Total	23

- 23 respondents are from MoH or NTP
 - 6 MoH
 - 17 NTP
- 14 of them belong to their national TB research committee or working group
- 10 of them have more than 6 years of experience
- 11 of them have less than 5 years of experience



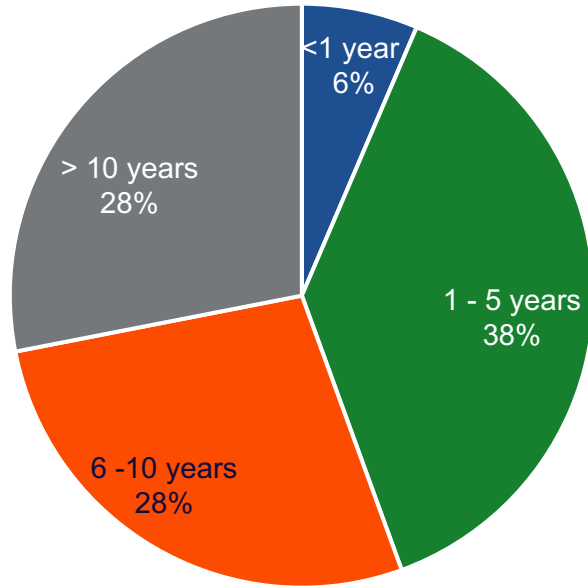
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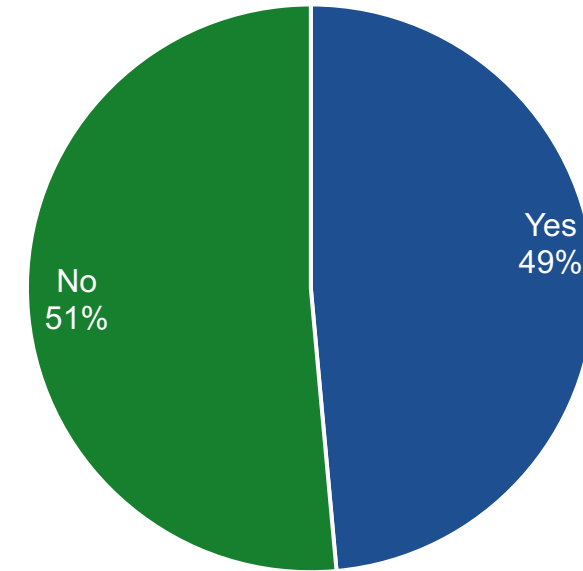
Respondents other than USAID and MOH/NTP (partners)

Year of Service



N=171

Belongs to TB research committee working group

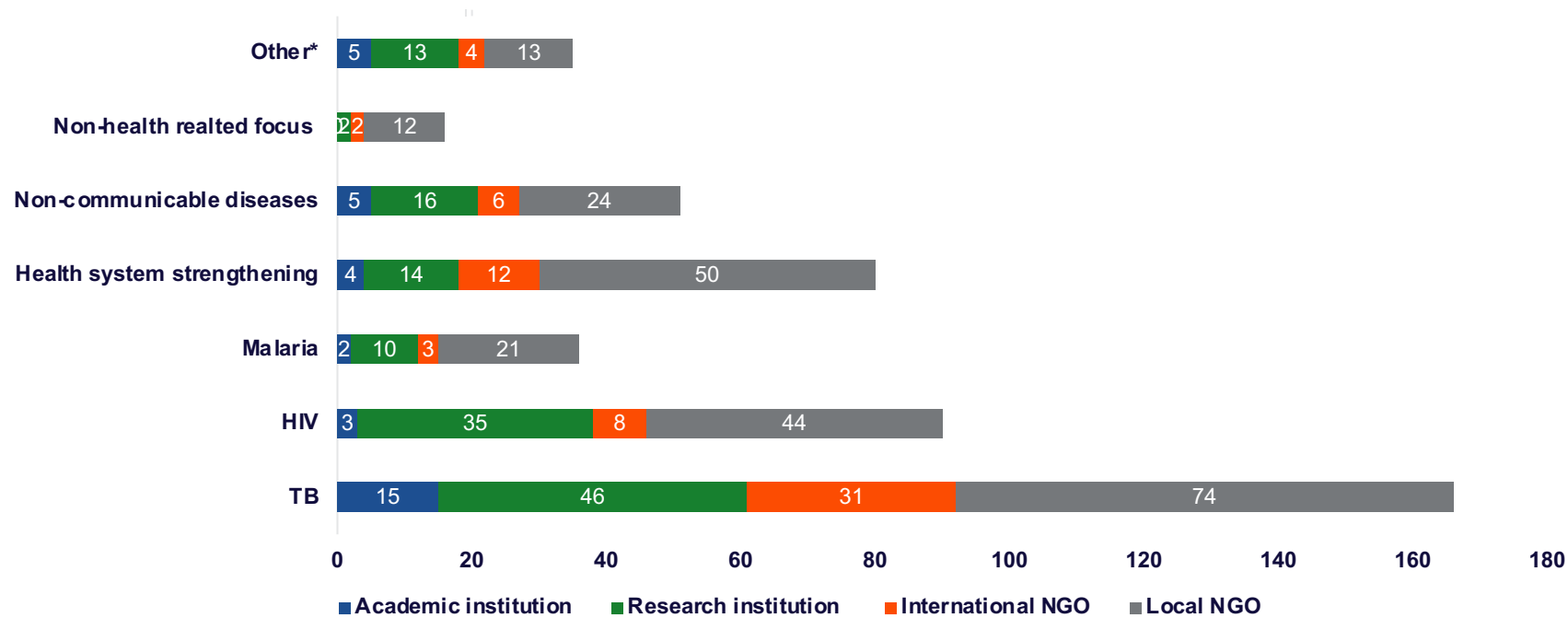


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Focus areas of partner respondents



Total respondents: 171

- 97% of the respondent said TB is their organization's focus
- 52% and 46% stated HIV and Health system strengthening is their organization's focus

Other*:
Community-based health response, Primary care, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Emerging infectious diseases, education, STDs, community engagement, capacity building, COVID-19, Dengue, Viral hepatitis

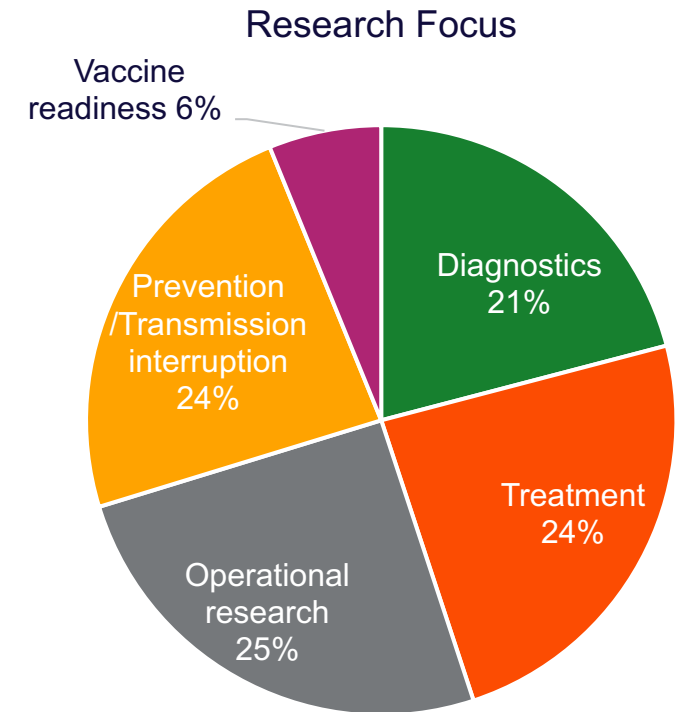
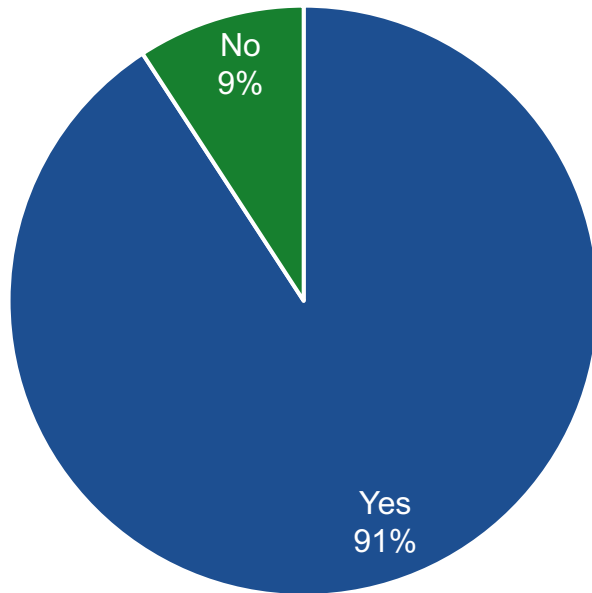


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Research as part of the organizational objective

Is research part of organization's objectives



- 91% of the respondents stated that research is part of their organization's objectives
- Only in 6% of the responses, vaccine readiness was stated as part of their organization's research focus



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Challenges and Capacity Building Needs and Priorities

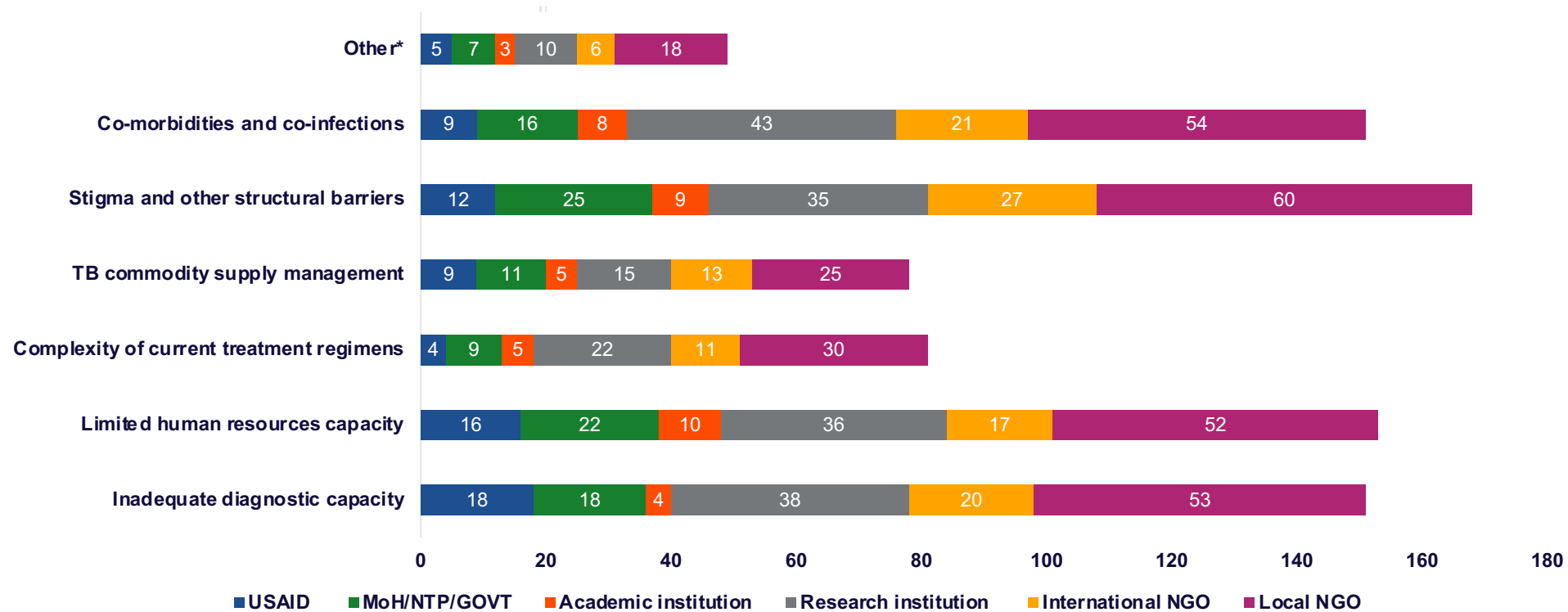


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Commonly mentioned challenges in addressing TB



- ***Stigma and other structural barriers*** is the most mentioned challenge, followed by ***Limited human resources capacity***, ***Inadequate diagnostic capacity***, and ***Co-morbidities and co-infections***



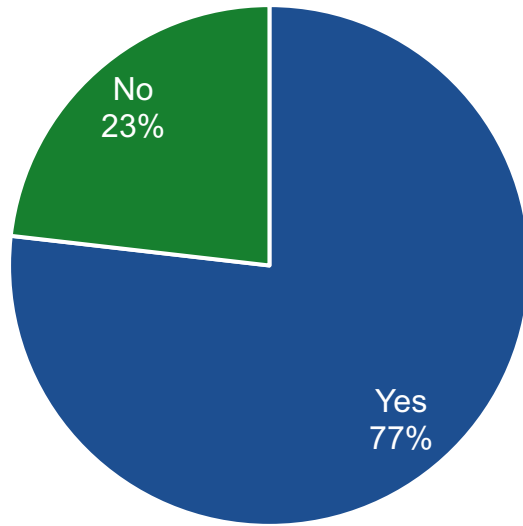
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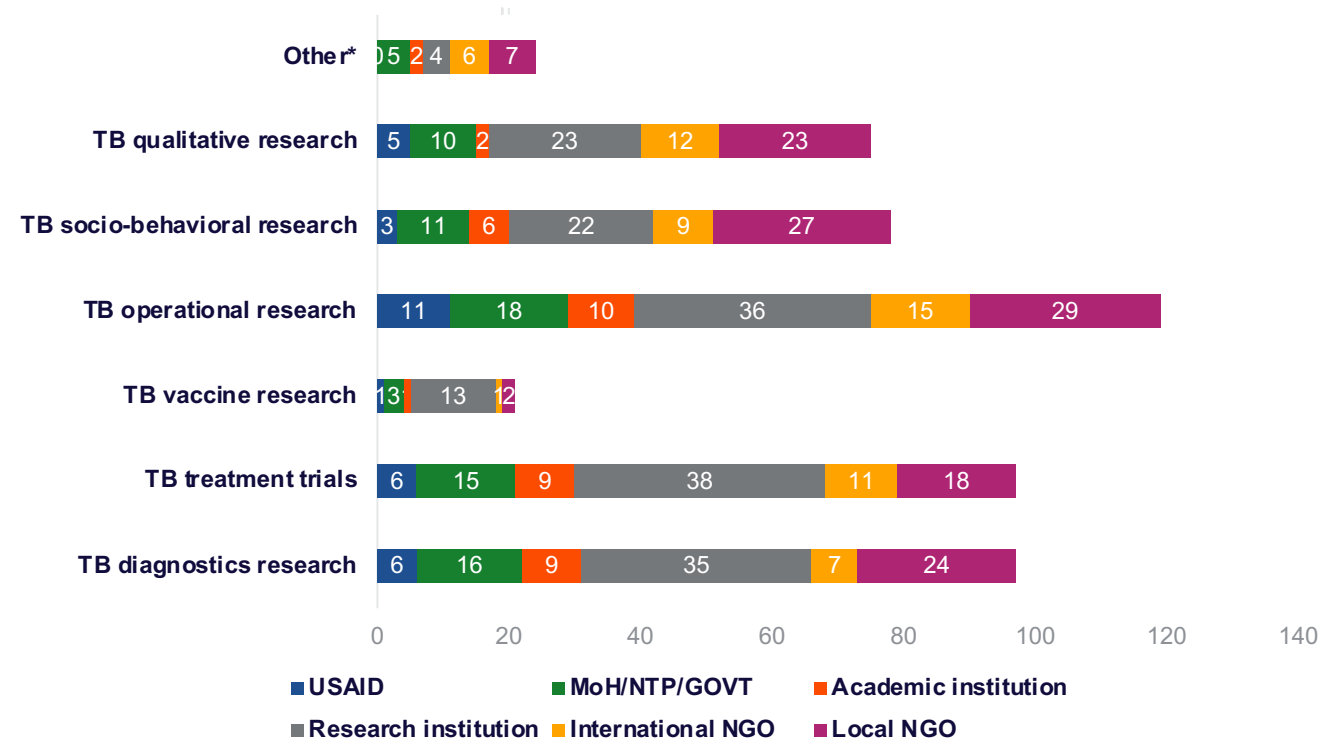


TB research experience

Has your institution already conducted research on TB?



Previous TB research



* Artificial intelligence, TB and Forced Migration; Molecular diagnostic validation, TB prevention, DAT, TB/DM, Mapping of DOTS centers (2012), Mapping of Hotspots and vulnerable populations, ;The NTP in Cambodia conducted research on barriers to childhood TB case detection and TPT implementation; TB case finding research, Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence, LTBI diagnostics and treatment research in RK, Stigma Assessments, TPT strategies, National survey, Immunological research, Health Economics, Immunological research; Needs assessment of people with TB in the Kyrgyz Republic; TB and diabetes

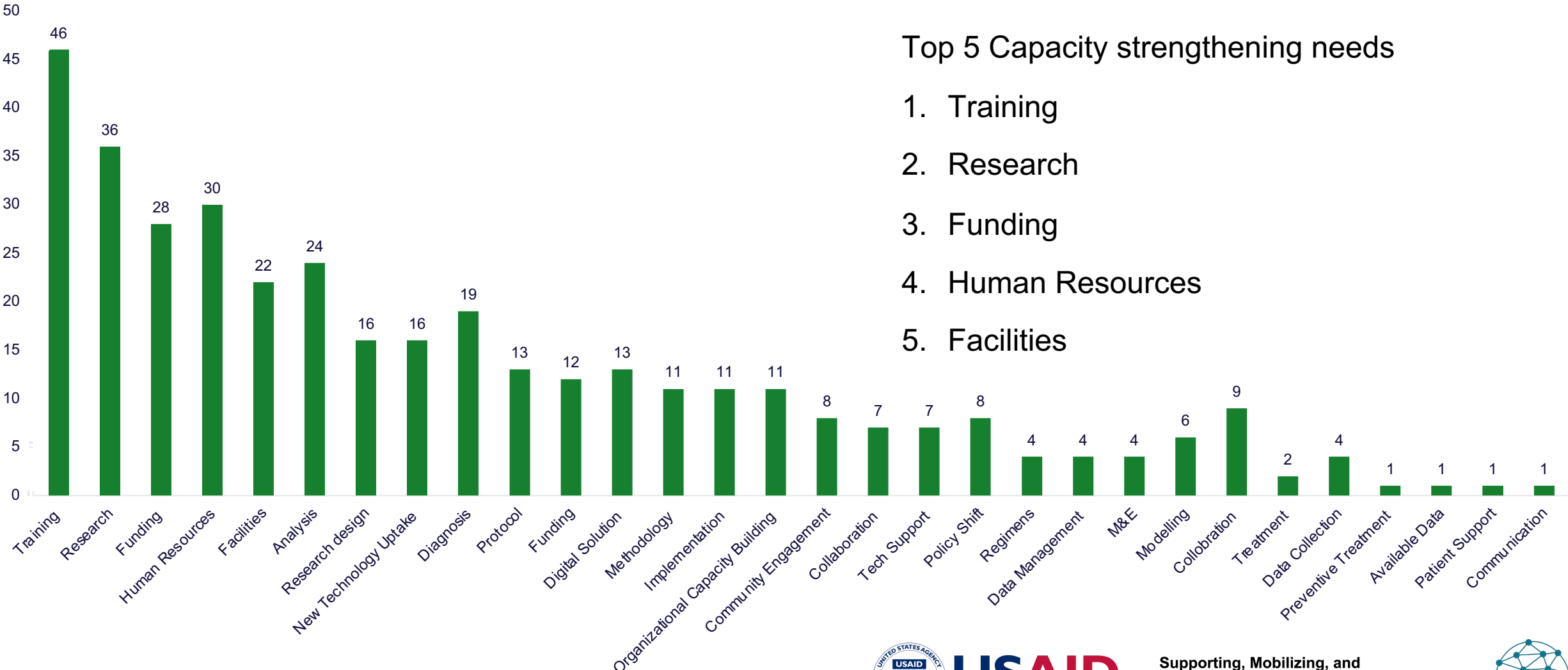


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Capacity strengthening needs to conduct high quality TB research



Top 5 Capacity strengthening needs

1. Training
2. Research
3. Funding
4. Human Resources
5. Facilities

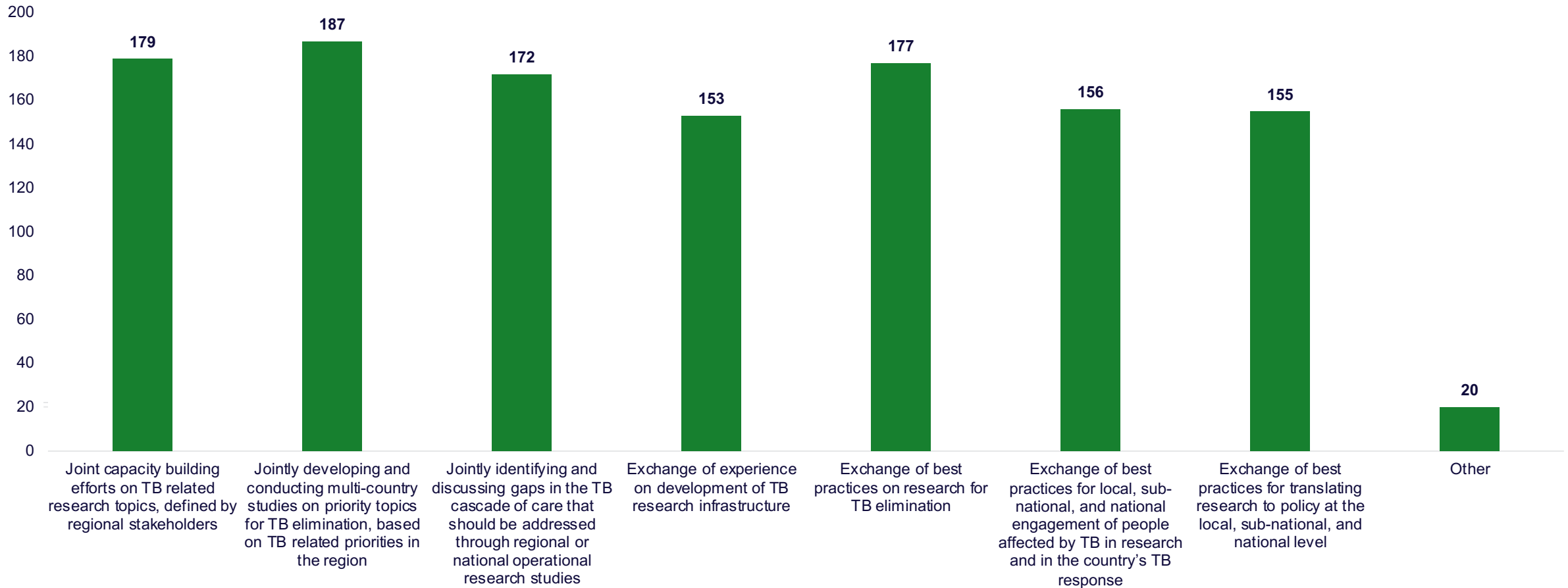


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Suggested role for regional collaboratives



Total no. of role mentioned: 1199

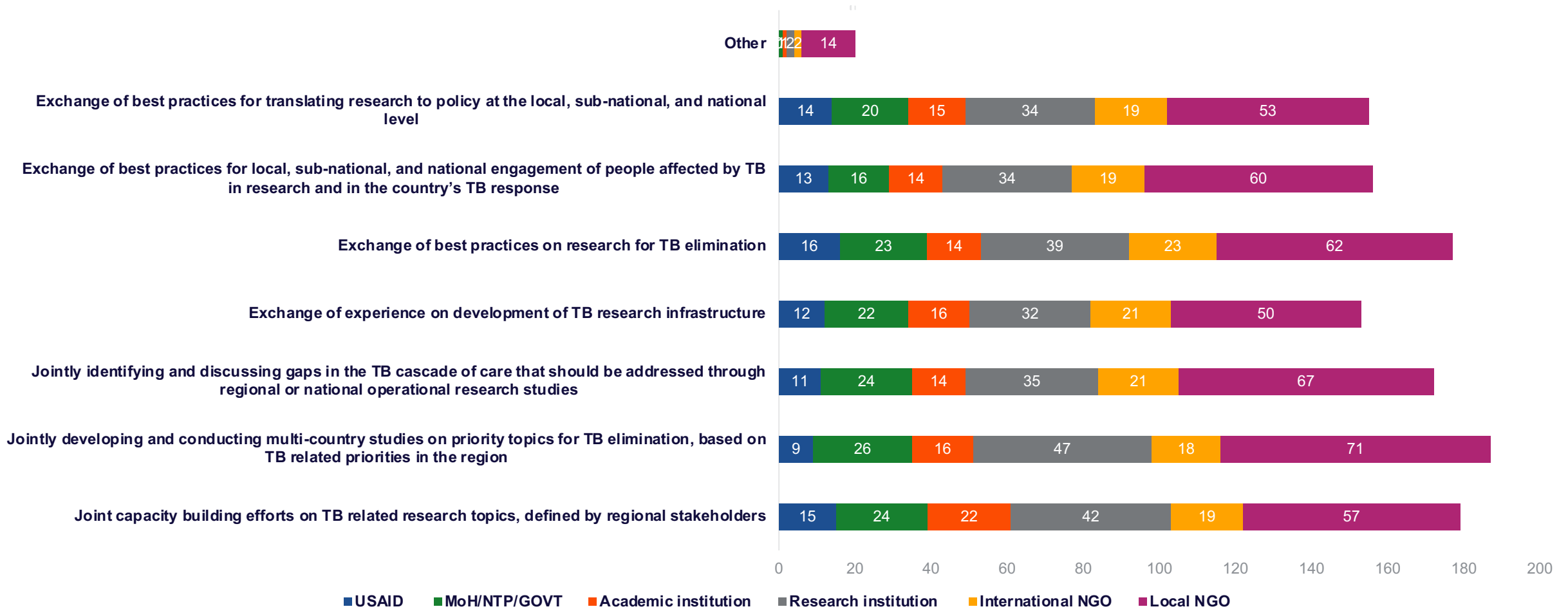


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Suggested role for regional collaboratives

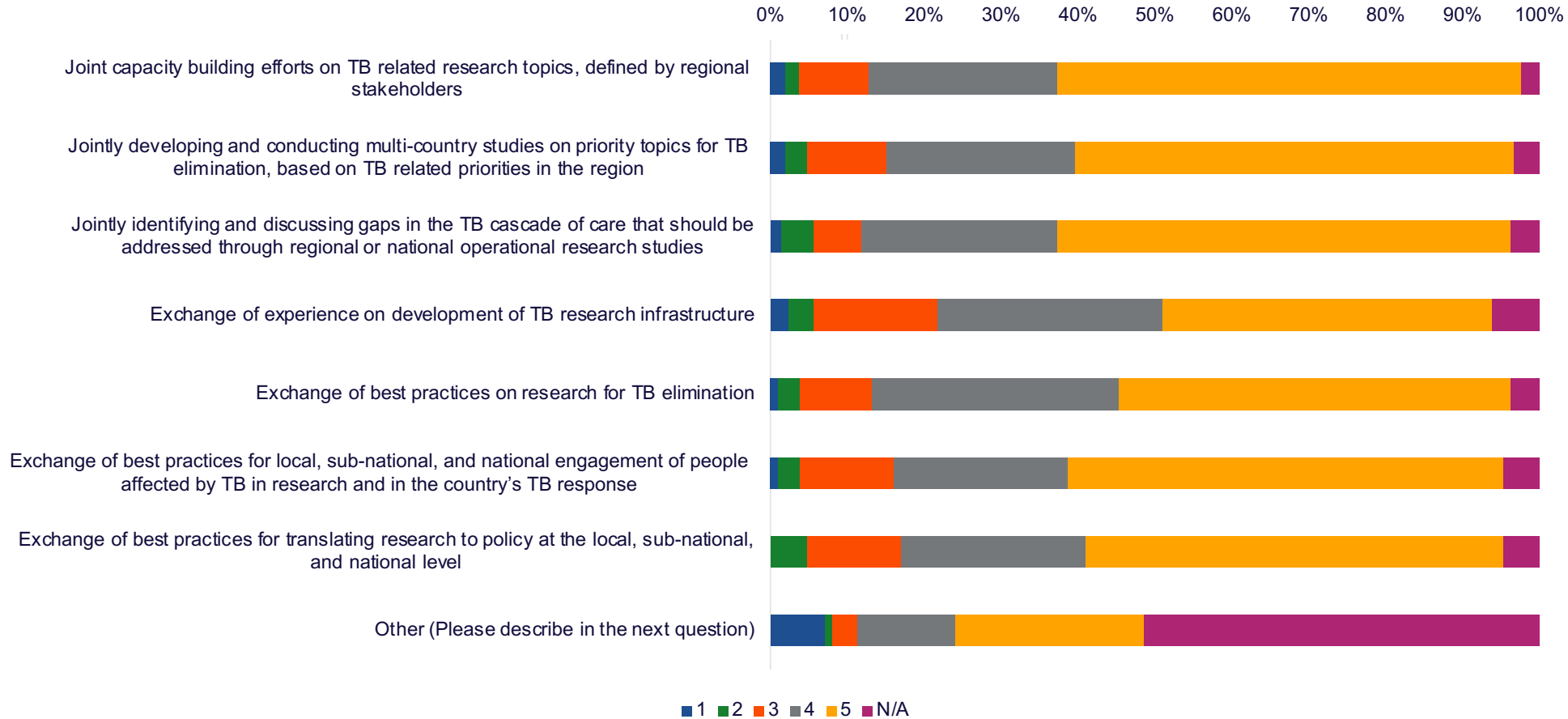


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Services that would be a priority for regional collaboratives



Other Services	
Adherence	2
Capacity building	8
Clinical Trial	3
Collaboration	8
Community Engagement	8
Diagnostic	13
Digital solution	1
Funding	2
Health care system strengthening	1
Identification	4
Mentorship	3
New regimen	1
Other	2
Patient Care	4
Policy influence	4
Research	48
Technical	1
Technology	2
Training	3
TBT	3



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84% of the respondents are willing to contribute to the regional collaboratives

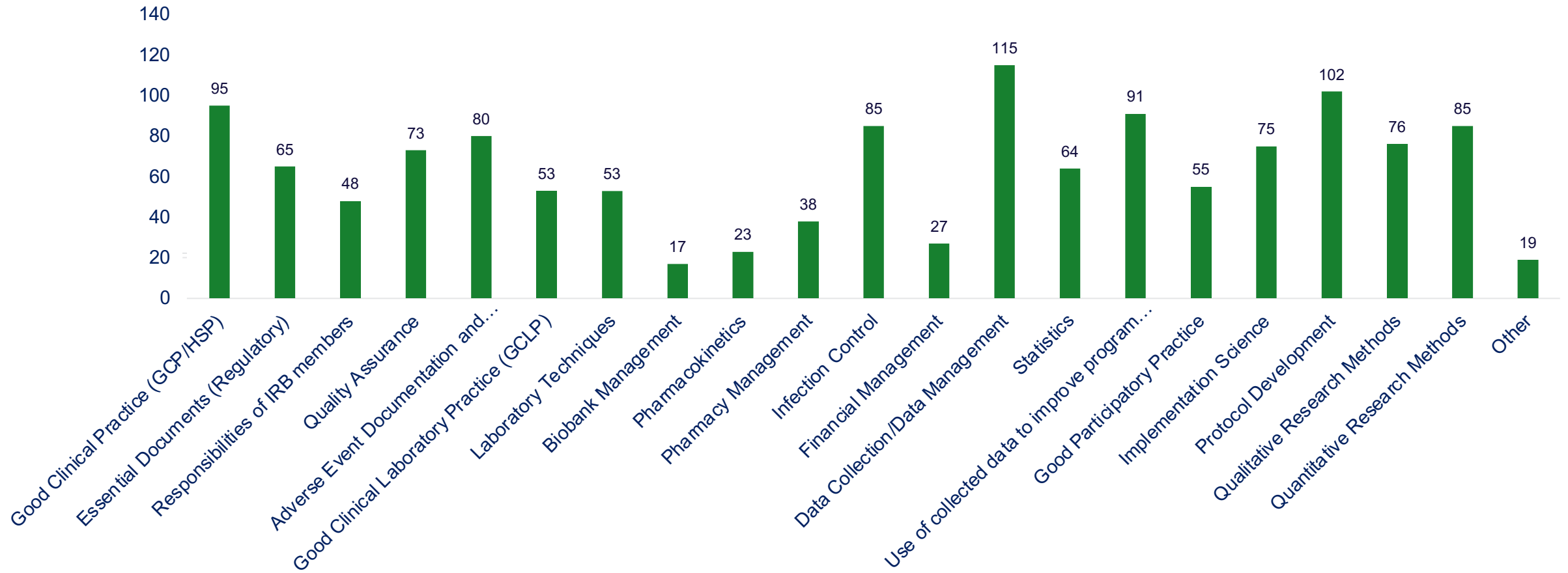
	No. of respondents	No. willing to contribute	%
USAID Mission	18	11	61%
USAID Regional Office	2	1	50%
Ministry of Health and its agencies	6	6	100%
National TB and Leprosy Control Program	17	15	88%
National Public Health Research Institute	6	4	67%
Other government agency	4	4	100%
Academic institution	18	16	89%
Research institution	44	40	91%
International NGO	29	25	86%
Local NGO	76	63	83%
Total	220	185	84%



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Topics to contribute to regional collaboratives



Top 5 topics

1. Data collection/ management
2. Protocol Development
3. GCP/HSP
4. Statistics
5. Infection control



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Operational Research Priorities

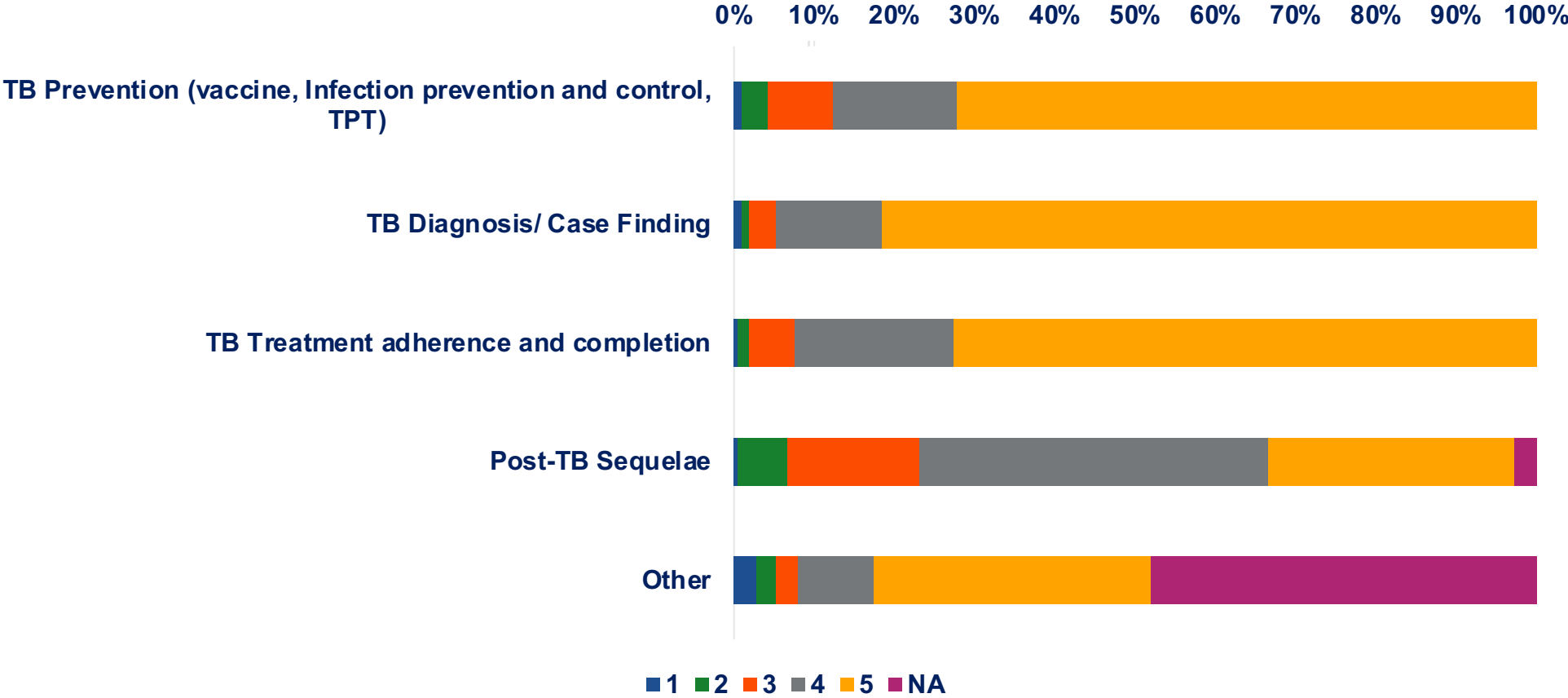


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Priority research areas suggested by the respondents



In a scale of 1-5, least priority (1)-highest priority (5)

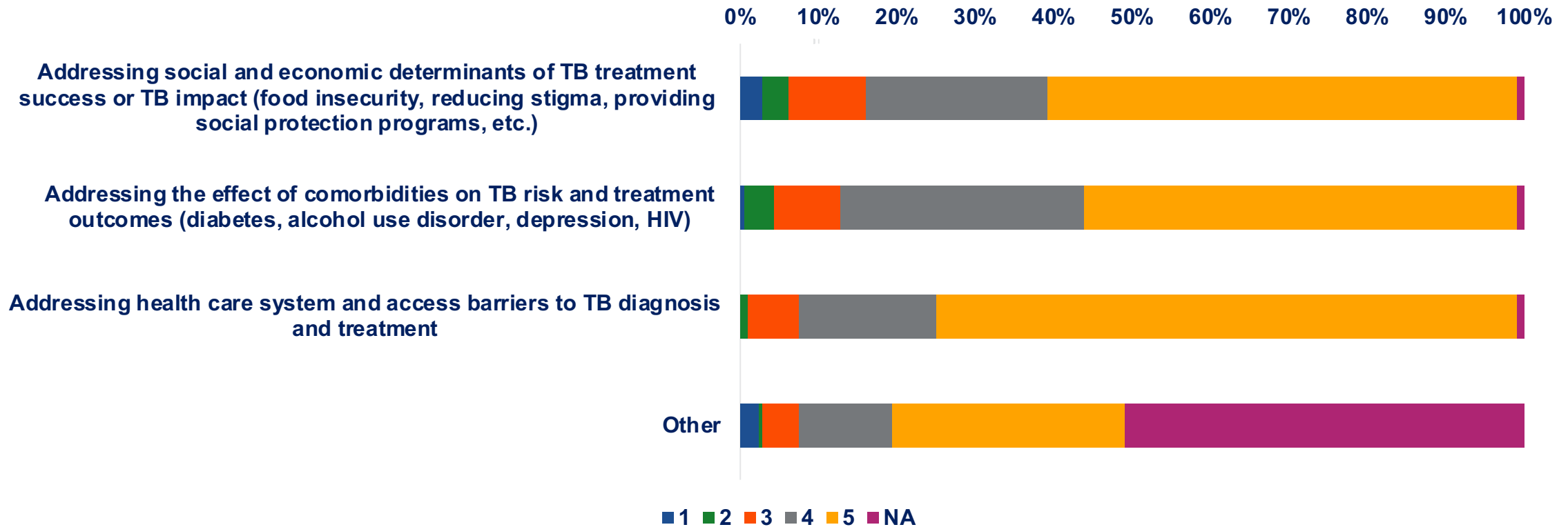


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Priority research topics suggested by the respondents



In a scale of 1-5, least priority (1)-highest priority (5)

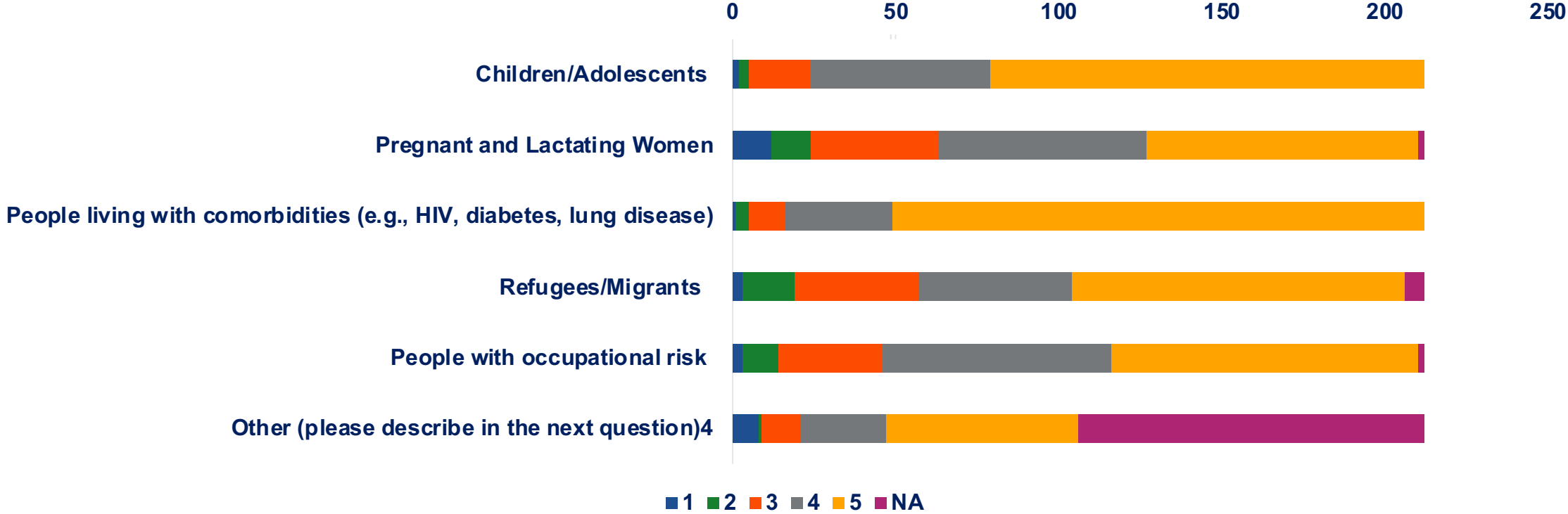


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Suggested operational research priorities by target group



In a scale of 1-5, least priority (1)-highest priority (5)



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Conclusions and Recommendations



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Conclusions

- The survey result shows that SMAR4TB activities will be addressing many of the areas identified as challenges by the respondents
- It also shows strong support for the regional collaboratives with more than 70% of respondents supporting each of the proposed regional collaborative roles
- More than 80% willing to contribute to the RCs in one capacity or another
- Top priority areas identified for OR included TB diagnosis/ Case Finding, TB Rx adherence and completion, and TB prevention in decreasing order
- Addressing health system barriers and socio-economic determinants was ranked highest among research topics



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Recommendations

- Utilize the findings to prioritize local capacity strengthening under TA3/TA6 and other technical areas
- Bottom-up preparation urgently needed (in Year 1) in priority countries as the priorities are now clear and well aligned with SMART4TB strategies
- Additional strategies are needed for NTP engagement (as their participation is low)
- Regional workshops needed for prioritization of regional/multi-country research agenda
- Discuss with missions to commence OR agenda in year 2



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Thank you!



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Survey respondent demographics

	USAID Mission	USAID Regional Office	Ministry of Health and its agencies	National TB and Leprosy Control Program	National Public Health Research Institute	Other government agency	Academic institution	Research institution	International NGO	Local NGO	Total
Bangladesh	4			1				2		7	14
Cambodia					1			4	3	2	10
Canada									1		1
Congo {Democratic Rep}	1									2	3
Haiti										1	1
Ethiopia	2		1	1					3	4	11
India	1		1			3	4	9	2	8	28
Indonesia	1		2				2	3	1		9
Israel				1							1
Kazakhstan		1		1		1			8	1	12
Kenya				1					1	4	6
Kyrgyzstan			1	3		1	3	1	1	6	16
Liberia				2					2	1	5
Malawi	2							1	1	4	8
Mexico										1	1
Moldova								1			1
Mozambique	1							1		1	3



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Survey respondent demographics (cont.)

	USAID Mission	USAID Regional Office	Ministry of Health and its agencies	National TB and Leprosy Control Program	National Public Health Research Institute	Other government agency	Academic institution	Research institution	International NGO	Local NGO	Total
Nepal										2	2
Nigeria									1	1	2
Pakistan	2			1						2	5
Peru										1	1
Philippines				1			6	2			9
Russian Federation									1		1
South Africa	1				2	1		4	1	1	10
Tajikistan								1	1	1	3
Tanzania	1		1					4		3	9
Uganda		1		2		1	1	8	2	11	26
Ukraine										1	1
United States	1						2				3
Uzbekistan				1							1
Vietnam	1			2				3		1	7
Zambia										4	4
Zimbabwe										6	6
Total	18	2	6	17	6	4	18	44	29	76	220



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