



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



## AMR in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

At the 64th Regional Committee meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean, October 2017, EMRO became the first WHO region to endorse [resolution EM/RC64/R.5\(D\) on AMR](#). We also welcome the new regional advisor for AMR and infection prevention and control (IPC), Dr Maha Talaat. In addition, WHO has designated



the IPC Department at King Abdulaziz Medical City Hospital in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the WHO Collaborating Centre on AMR and IPC for four years. The Collaborating Centre,

under the leadership of Dr. Hanan Balkhy, will work with WHO to support implementation of WHO core components on IPC; AMR surveillance; and research in the field of AMR & IPC. This is the first such Collaborating Centre from the Eastern Mediterranean region. Photo: Dr Maha Talaat, new regional advisor for AMR and infection prevention and control, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

## AMR & WHO Regional Office for Africa

The WHO Regional Office for Africa held its 55<sup>th</sup> Regional Programme Meeting, 27-28 October in Geneva, ahead of the 9th Global Meeting of Heads of WHO country offices. In a special session on AMR Dr S Fall, Regional Director HSE, provided an update on progress, followed by discussions on the impact of AMR on health system resilience, and how AMR must not be treated as a vertical programme but mainstreamed with other disease control efforts.

## World Antibiotic Awareness Week



During World Antibiotic Awareness week, 13-19 November 2017, WHO and partners reached out to the general public, health professionals, governments, farmers, veterinarians, the food

and feed industry and others via a social media campaign using infographics, quizzes, and success stories to raise awareness of the need to act on antibiotic resistance and what kinds of steps we can take. The WHO, FAO, OIE World Antibiotic Awareness Week [interactive online platform](#) takes you on a unique experience to learn about antibiotic resistance. You can add your events and activities to our global map and share social media cards from all three organizations. The global campaign map will be available **year round** for people, communities and organizations all around the world to share their activities relating to antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance. New infographics on [“Did you know that superbugs can be found in food”](#) were also made available in English, French & Spanish. In addition, [“Guidelines for the prevention and control of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, Acinetobacter baumannii and Pseudomonas aeruginosa in health care facilities”](#) were also released.

## WHO recommends that farmers and the food industry stop using antibiotics routinely to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals

WHO has launched [new guidelines](#) on the use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals,

recommending that farmers and the food industry stop using antibiotics routinely to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals. These guidelines aim to help preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics that are important for human medicine by reducing their use in animals. In some countries, approximately 80% of total consumption of medically important antibiotics is in the animal sector, largely for growth promotion in healthy animals.



## Community of Practice discussion series

Our second online discussion on the topic of **“Situation Analysis for national action plan development: Basic or comprehensive?”** generated another very good discussion. Contributors illustrated the many and diverse data sources that can be used for the situation analysis as well as the need for a dedicated person “who runs around” to collect the information. Other points included the need to engage key stakeholders from the beginning to ensure long term sustainability. It was noted that teams leading and coordinating the process need to find ways of appropriately packaging AMR information for different audiences to encourage participation and enhance understanding of future roles. To read the full discussion and to follow upcoming discussions, click <https://ezcollab.who.int/amr-nap>.

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to our colleague Dr Socorro Escalante, Team Leader (Health Systems), WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, who received a Director-General’s reward “for her application of innovative approaches to her technical and managerial work, namely to curb the rise of antimicrobial resistance in Viet Nam, and a commitment to the implementation of WHO’s reforms in the country”.

## Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) update

**Enrolment update: 56** countries have expressed interest in enrolling in GLASS, of which **47** are fully enrolled.

## Country progress of multisectoral AMR national action plans



Data source: Country self-assessment questionnaire (2016) and other updated information received by WHO - some of which are not validated (as at 8 November 2017)

## WHO informal technical consultation on behaviour change

The inaugural consultation with behaviour change/AMR experts took place 6 – 7 November in Geneva. There were 16 regionally diverse, multidisciplinary experts with substantial country level implementation experience, including participants from FAO and OIE. The objectives of the meeting were to identify priorities and target audiences for behaviour change; and propose preliminary products and tools that may be developed by the WHO/AMR Secretariat within the AMR-behaviour change scope. The AMR Secretariat’s perspective at the meeting was to encourage discussion from multisectoral perspectives. Identified target audiences were “The Four P’s” – policy makers, public, pharmacists, and prescribers. There was extensive discussion as to potential roles, activities and tools which are still being distilled. A draft report of the meeting will be shared with the experts and once approved, will be shared on the website. In early 2018, a WHO regional office consultation will be organized to review and discuss the priorities put forth by the expert consultation. Following this, a second in-person meeting will bring together our experts and regional colleagues involved in AMR behaviour change work along with wider stakeholder engagement with a focus on country level implementation.

## Strategic and Technical Advisory Group

The Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on antimicrobial resistance membership has been renewed. Current members are: Rima Khabbaz (Chair), Otto Cars, Shailendra Kumar, Olga Perovic, Jae-Hoon Song, Visanu Thamlikitkul, Joseph Domenech, Line Matthiessen, Fernando Otaíza O’Ryan, Pascale Salameh, Rumina Hasan, Helen Lambert, Massoud Mardani, Mirfin Mpundu, Iruka Okeke and Yongning Wu.

## Editors's picks

### AMR and universal health coverage

This [paper](#) by Bloom et al argues that neither the global action plan on AMR nor universal health coverage is likely to succeed in isolation from the other and that policy goals should be to both provide access to appropriate antimicrobial treatment and reduce the risk of the emergence and spread of resistance by taking a systems approach.

### IPC interventions effective at all levels

A systematic [review](#) of twenty-nine studies in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* found that infection prevention and control (IPC) interventions are effective at both national or subnational levels. The review also stated that the best quality evidence was from multimodal interventions and surveillance, monitoring, and feedback. The researchers highlight the need for improvements in the quality of evidence from low-income countries.

### Anti-Microbials in Society (AMIS) Hub

This [new online hub](#) and resource from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, U.K., brings together research relevant to AMR from across different social science disciplines. Aimed at those designing and implementing AMR policy, as well as researchers from the life sciences, the AMIS Hub introduces readers to relevant social research on AMR. The AMIS research team will explore four key thematic strands across two countries - Thailand and Uganda.

### Call for data & Experts on foodborne AMR

FAO and WHO have issued a [call for data](#) and a [call for experts](#) on foodborne AMR for the work of the Codex Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR). The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2017.

## AMR dataset on the European Health Information Gateway

The [AMR dataset](#) is now live on the European Health Information Gateway: it describes AMR data from the WHO European Region gathered through the Central Asian and Eastern European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (CAESAR) network and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net).

## Tanzania School AMR ambassador programme



The Tanzania Pharmaceutical Students Association (TAPSA) launched a campaign in September 2017 to enlist secondary school students as "AMR Ambassadors". TAPSA's aim is to raise awareness of AMR in the wider community. *"We are imparting early knowledge to the young generation .....we believe Secondary school students will help us to send the AMR message to their parents and the whole society."* A total of 122 students have registered to spread the message *"TOKOMEZA USUGU WA DAWA"* (Kiswahili for *"Eradicate antimicrobial resistance"*) during their holidays. Since its launch on 2nd September 2017 at Msalato



Girls Secondary in Dodoma, the campaign has reached 109 secondary schools in 22 Regions on the Tanzanian mainland and in Zanzibar. To reach the community at large, TAPSA has held talks on AMR on 18 radio stations and three television stations in different regions of Tanzania, as well as using its social media accounts to spread the message. TAPSA is also conducting research in two areas with the aim of ascertaining the gaps in understanding and the common practices contributing to AMR in the community. Photo: Secondary school student AMR Ambassadors, Tanzania

## AMR at G7 Health Ministers meeting

At the G7 Ministerial Meeting on Health in Milan, Italy, 5-6 Nov, G7 Health Ministers expressed support for the development of evidence-based strategies, tools and interventions to fight AMR, and sustain research related to the Strategic Objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan. As well as to promote R&D for new antimicrobials, alternative therapies, vaccines and rapid-point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for WHO-defined priority pathogens and tuberculosis.

## Resources

- For information regarding national action plans on antimicrobial resistance and supporting documents and tools, click [here](#).
- Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) [documents and tools](#).
- For information on infection prevention and control, click [here](#).
- Surveillance of antimicrobial use. Resources available [here](#)
- To access the WHO/UNICEF WASH in Health Care Facilities knowledge portal, click [here](#).
- For information on antimicrobial resistance and the food chain, click [here](#).
- For AMR activities at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), click [here](#).
- For AMR activities at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), click [here](#).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Nov 23-27	Monitoring antimicrobial consumption workshop	Brunei Darussalam
Nov 29 - Dec 2	Ad-hoc Codex (FAO/WHO) Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR (TFAMR) hosted by Republic of Korea	Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
Dec 14-18	UK-India Newton-Bhabha Fund Workshop on AMR and Resistant TB. Contact: <a href="mailto:vasan@phe.gov.uk">vasan@phe.gov.uk</a>	Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, Bengaluru, India
Jan 18-19 2018	WHO Expert consultation meeting on AMR: Health-economic burden estimation	Geneva, Switzerland
Jan 25-26 2018	InterAgency Coordination Group on AMR face-to-face meeting	Bangkok, Thailand
Feb 5-7	WHO AMR Surveillance & Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
Feb 26-27	AMR Strategic & Technical Advisory Group meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
Feb 27-28	AACTING International Conference on Quantification, Benchmarking and Stewardship of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption. Information <a href="#">here</a> .	Ghent, Belgium

Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, please contact the Secretariat at [whoamrsecretariat@who.int](mailto:whoamrsecretariat@who.int). Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger.

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