Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam take multisectoral action against AMR

In Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, AMR is a growing concern due to the incorrect use of antimicrobial drugs in humans and animals, and lack of awareness among health workers, food animal producers and the public. Representatives from Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Trade and Environment of the three countries met for the first time, 18-20 January, to stress the need to increase collaboration between the human, animal and environmental health sectors as well as the need to mobilize resources for sustainable actions to translate policy into action. Noting that legal and regulatory frameworks and systems are currently insufficient, they called for greater policy coherence and concerted action across sectors.

The three countries have already laid the groundwork to fight AMR with national action plans in both the human and animal sectors already developed or in the process of finalization. As part of the meeting, representatives from the three countries undertook a field visit to a large hospital and a feed mill to learn first-hand about the challenges of dealing with antibiotic resistance in the human and animal health sector. The visit highlighted the difficulty in changing practices and behaviour and in improving processes at the operational level to prevent AMR.

The meeting was jointly organized by WHO, FAO and OIE and supported by the Fleming Fund.
Country self-assessment update and extension of deadline for submission

To date, 78 countries have completed their self-assessment. To facilitate the remainder, the deadline for completion of surveys has been extended to 15 February 2017. For more information, please email prakashpra@who.int

2nd African NAP Workshop, Harare, January 2017

An excellent and inspiring workshop that saw real intersectoral working and active support of the regional AMR team from HQ and the intercountry support team. Representatives from FAO, OIE and WHO worked with representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment of 13 Anglophone African countries on steps to develop NAPs.

The emphasis was on developing a one health approach. Zimbabwe showcased their approach that demonstrated the challenges of working with three different stakeholders. Malawi shared their perspective and experiences, which were beneficial to countries starting out. Namibia presented its exceptional zoonotic disease surveillance experience that will be used as a pillar to coordinate a one health AMR action plan.

A series of exercises followed each presentation of tools, allowing countries to discuss steps to conduct situation analyses, identify and prioritize goals, and how to translate these into activities. AMR core teams were formed. Each session ended with a presentation from two countries on the particular exercise. Budgeting and monitoring and evaluation were also covered and the workshop ended with all countries committing to undertake three activities within the next year. Two Francophone Africa workshops are planned in the near future as is a NAP Train-the-Trainer workshop for Regional Resource Persons in the African Region.

Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) Updates

Viet Nam is establishing a reference laboratory and AMR surveillance system as part of a Fleming Fund pilot project, in cooperation with WHO and the U.S. CDC.

Enrolment update: 41 countries have expressed interest in enrolling in GLASS, of which 30 are fully enrolled.

New Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to target AMR

The new Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was set to launch on 31 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Union’s Agenda 2063 lays out the arguments for an Africa-wide public health agency. These include AMR and increasing population movement across Africa, with increased potential for new or reemerging pathogens to fuel pandemics. The Africa CDC will work with member states, WHO, and partners to strengthen four priority areas: health-related surveillance, functional clinical and public health laboratory networks, support for emergency preparedness, and strengthened public health science for improved decision making.

The Africa CDC will operate as a network, with a headquarters in Addis Ababa and close linkage with five Regional Collaborating Centres in Egypt, Nigeria, Gabon, Zambia, and Kenya. It will also advocate and promote the establishment or strengthening of National Public Health Institutes in each member state, resulting in an African Public Health Network. More here.
21st Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines

The meeting of the 21st WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines will be held at WHO Headquarters, Geneva, from 27 to 31 March 2017 to revise and update the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines including Essential Medicines for Children. Applications for public comments are now online. Comments may be made until 24 February 2017 and will be published on the webpage, along with all other documents relating to the meeting of the Expert Committee.

Editor’s Picks

The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials Nov 2016

The OIE Strategy supports the objectives established in the Global Action Plan through four main objectives.

Drivers, dynamics and epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in animal production, FAQ 2016.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases editorial: A better pathway to approval of 21st century cures?

In this editorial, some important developments in the quest to find solutions to the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance during 2016 are reviewed.

WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of AMR (AGISAR) activities

AGISAR country pilot projects. These research projects seek to build national capacity to establish integrated surveillance of AMR through the provision of financial and technical resources. Since 2010, 26 country and focused projects have been developed supporting implementation of integrated surveillance of AMR. More than 70 applications were received following the last call for proposals in 2016 and 18 projects were selected for funding in 2017.

Laboratory capacity strengthening: Microbiology and epidemiology training for integrated surveillance of foodborne diseases and AMR using a “one health” approach. Laboratory techniques include isolation, identification, and characterization of foodborne pathogens as well as the use of Whole Genome Sequencing techniques and tools. Workshop training are continuous activities carried out in all six WHO Regions. The latest workshop was held in Oman in January 2017 for the Eastern Mediterranean region.

More information on other AGISAR activities and products can be found here.

Use of antibiotics in animals expected to nearly double in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa: Global trends in antimicrobial use in food animals

This study by Van Boeckel et al presents the first global map (228 countries) of antibiotic consumption in livestock and conservatively estimates the total consumption in 2010 at 63,151 tons. It projects that antimicrobial consumption will rise by 67% by 2030, and nearly double in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. This rise is likely to be driven by the growth in consumer demand for livestock products in middle-income countries and a shift to large-scale farms where antimicrobials are used routinely. The authors call for initiatives to preserve antibiotic effectiveness while simultaneously ensuring food security in low- and lower-middle-income countries.
Resources

• Antimicrobial resistance: A manual for developing national action plans 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.

• For information on antimicrobial resistance and the food chain, click here.

• For AMR activities at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, click here.

• For AMR activities at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), click here.

• Information on HIV drug resistance available here.

• Information on anti-malarial drug resistance and containment available here.

• For information on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), click here.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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<td>NAP Workshop for selected Caribbean countries (Bahamas, Haiti, Grenada)</td>
<td>Nassau, Bahamas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14-17</td>
<td>Meeting: Quality Assurance and Rational Use of Essential Medicines in Pacific Islands Countries</td>
<td>Nadi, Fiji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 7-9</td>
<td>Meeting to support NAPs under “One-Health” approach for Mercosur countries</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 23-24</td>
<td>Expert consultation meeting on health workforce education and AMR control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 27-31</td>
<td>21st WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines</td>
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<td>Mar 28-Apr 1</td>
<td>WHO/FAO/OIE NAP meeting</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 30-31</td>
<td>Workshop on Monitoring of Antimicrobial Consumption in the Western Pacific Region</td>
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