Developing priorities for WHO activities on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the environment

WHO and KWR Watercycle Research Institute Netherlands convened global experts and WHO regional advisers in the Netherlands 5-6 July, to examine evidence and develop WHO priority actions on AMR and the environment. The meeting considered health care settings and the relative contribution of human, livestock and environmental drivers of AMR as well as the effectiveness of existing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, management of waste from antibiotic manufacturing, surveillance and the research agenda. Key conclusions were that:

(i) Existing WASH interventions in health facilities and communities offer significant co-benefits for combatting AMR and these investments need to be accelerated through AMR National Action Plans;

(ii) Action is needed to improve the treatment of wastewater to reduce the release of antibiotic residues during the manufacturing process; and

(iii) Additional research is needed on the impact of resistant bacteria in sewage on human health and effective surveillance and management strategies.

Addressing the challenge of AMR in the Islamic Republic of Iran

At this meeting, held 3-4 July, Dr Seyed Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Minister of Health and Medical Education expressed his commitment to implement the national action plan for AMR. The importance of AMR, and a multi-sectoral approach to addressing it, was reinforced by Dr Mahmoud Fikri, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director as did the Head of the Veterinary Organization from the Ministry of Agriculture-Jahad. Iran has a strong public health and primary care system. Work has started on raising awareness, education in schools and universities, and piloting stewardship programmes. Enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System, six laboratories are submitting data and there are infection prevention and control programmes in all major hospitals. This was an international meeting with active engagement from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, who reported progress in addressing AMR in their countries.
World Antibiotic Awareness Week

Save the date! This year, World Antibiotic Awareness Week will be held 13 - 19 November. WHO is encouraging all Member States, health partners, and the public to join our campaign to raise awareness of antibiotic resistance. Building upon the established “Handle With Care” theme, core messages are under development to encourage the public to seek qualified professional guidance, when possible, before using antibiotics. In reviewing the outcomes from the last two World Antibiotic Awareness Weeks, regions and countries have stressed that the overall understanding of AMR and its root causes are minimal, and the need to influence behaviour to seek authoritative and qualified guidance for antibiotic use is great. It’s not too late to reduce the impact of antibiotic resistance - we all have a part to play in preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics.

World Bank says containing AMR is a smart investment in global public health and wealth

New analysis from the World Bank shows that action on AMR constitutes one of the highest-yield development investments available to countries today. It points out that building core human and veterinary public health and infectious disease management capacities in all countries is the critical step in confronting the AMR threat. Recommendations for country action are structured by sector, including: (a) health; (b) agriculture; and (c) water, sanitation and hygiene. The World Bank Group will review its own investment lending policies and instruments to support the AMR agenda across relevant sectors. It views the consolidation of core human and animal public health capacities; the creation of health systems resilient to emergencies; and the AMR fight as largely convergent and mutually-reinforcing agendas. The World Bank will expand its action to help countries capitalize on these synergies.

Sudan National Stakeholder Workshop on AMR and One Health

Building on earlier stakeholder consultations, in-depth research and collaborative workshops, this workshop developed Sudan’s draft AMR national action plan. The workshop was the result of close collaboration between the WHO/FAO/OIE Tripartite and the Sudanese Ministries of Health (FMoH), Agriculture, Forestry (FMoAF), and Animal Resources and Fisheries (FMoARF). 70 experts from different sectors and States were invited to attend the workshop which took place in Khartoum, Sudan, 24-27 July 2017. Photo: Participants at the Sudan National Stakeholder Workshop on AMR and One Health, Khartoum, Sudan, 24-27 July 2017.

New AMR Secretariat Awareness & Behaviour Change (ABC) team

The AMR Secretariat’s new ABC team, led by Mrs Karen Mah, is focused on finding innovative and effective ways of increasing awareness of AMR around the world and working towards Objective 1 of the Global Action Plan. In addition to World Antibiotic Awareness Week, the ABC team will be liaising with a range of stakeholders to increase advocacy efforts at country and regional levels; and will convene an informal expert working group in November to guide WHO activities on behaviour change activities across the animal and human health sectors. More updates to follow.

Human resources estimates and funding for antibiotic stewardship teams are urgently needed

Pulcini C, et al., Clinical Microbiology and Infection (2017)

Despite the importance of antibiotic stewardship (AS) teams, they remain understaffed or non-existent in most countries, and when they do exist, they tend to be focused in hospitals, even though the vast majority of antibiotics are prescribed in the community. This article (in press) highlights two main actions required to meet the human resource needs for stewardship across countries. The authors recognize the fact that as standards are put in place, they must take into account different models of stewardship delivery; where both traditional role players and others such as non-specialist pharmacists, nurses and community health workers can be part of AS teams. They call for the development of global estimates of funding needs for basic and core antibiotic stewardship activities across all healthcare settings.
Cambodia: applying One Health mapping and analysis to NAP preparation and implementation

This workshop was held to consolidate the Cambodia One Health National Action Plan (NAP) on AMR and to develop a road map for implementation. With support from FAO and the University of Minnesota (UMN), participants mapped key stakeholders and identified gaps and discrepancies in communication and coordination between sectors, using the One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART™). Action steps were fused into road map activities to ensure that mechanisms for multisectoral communication and coordination were captured in the implementation plan. A high-level meeting, between the WHO/FAO/OIE Tripartite and key Ministers is planned for early November to consolidate Cambodia’s One Health NAP in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR. Attended by 56 regional and national experts from the government sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and WHO, the workshop took place 16-19 May 2017 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.

Photo: Participants at the Cambodia One Health National Action Plan workshop, Sihanoukville, Cambodia, 16-19 May 2017

WHO integrated surveillance of ESBL E.coli - training workshop

The ESBL Ec Tricycle Project is an initiative of the Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) and covers six countries. The project aims to establish a method for the integrated (human, food chain and the environment) surveillance of AMR using a “One Health” approach by focusing on one indicator: ESBL-producing E. coli (ESBL Ec). The 3-year plan includes protocol development, with piloting and implementing of the protocol in six countries, with funding from the Fleming Fund and USAID. A workshop was held in Utrecht, Netherlands 31 July–4 August 2017, with delegates from Ghana, Pakistan and Indonesia. Also in attendance were the AMR focal points from the WHO Regional Office for Africa and the WHO Ghana and Pakistan country offices. The workshop was facilitated by the Utrecht University and National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and 10 AGISAR members and experts provided expertise and advice. The next step of the project will be its implementation in the three countries trained and delivery of a second workshop for the three remaining countries.
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.
- 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

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<td>Aug 24-25</td>
<td>India National Consultation to Operationalise Action against AMR</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
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<td>Aug 22-24</td>
<td>3rd Workshop on Antimicrobial Consumption</td>
<td>Maputo, Mozambique</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>G20 Pledging event for Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<td>Sept 5-6</td>
<td>DRIVE-AB Final Conference. Further information <a href="#">here</a></td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>World Sepsis Congress Spotlight: Maternal &amp; Neonatal Sepsis. A free online congress by WHO and Global Sepsis Alliance</td>
<td>To view the program and register, click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td>Sept 21-22</td>
<td>7th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multisectoral Collaboration on the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses, to include AMR</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
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<td>Sept 24-25</td>
<td>Training workshop for national focal points on the Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS)</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<td>Sept 26-28</td>
<td>Training a pool of WHONET “super users” from Eastern Mediterranean Region countries</td>
<td>Cairo, Egypt</td>
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<td>Oct 9-13</td>
<td>Regional hands-on training in standard laboratory methods</td>
<td>Christian medical College, Vellore, India</td>
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<td>Oct 15-17</td>
<td>World Health Summit. Information <a href="#">here</a></td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13-19</td>
<td>World Antibiotic Awareness Week</td>
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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. Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger.

Newsletter editor: Breeda Hickey.