WHO Director-General speaks at global coordination meeting

In his role as co-chair of the Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on antimicrobial resistance, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros addressed the group’s 4th meeting held at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) headquarters in Paris on 16-17 October. “AMR is one of my priorities for the coming years at WHO,” he said. “If we do not address this urgent public health issue now, it will undermine many of the gains WHO has made in tackling infectious diseases.” The meeting brought together 21 of 28 IACG members to develop its work plan for the next 2 years. More than 80 comments from a web consultation were used to finalize the work plan. Members were divided into sub-groups to focus on specific issues and to develop recommendations on action needed at a global level and in countries. These recommendations will be submitted to the United Nations Secretary General in September 2018. A meeting report and the IACG’s workplan will go online in November 2017.

“Low- and middle-income countries should get ready to engage with the IACG so that their voices can be heard,” said Ms Martha Gyansia-Lutterodt, Ministry of Health, Ghana, and member of the IACG.

Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance

The first global call to action on AMR was hosted in Berlin, Germany, 12-13 October. Governments, industry and civil society leaders met to accelerate efforts to tackle drug-resistant infections. Organised by Wellcome and the UN Foundation in partnership with the UK, Ghanaian and Thai governments, the two-day event brought together over 40 countries to address the most critical gaps in tackling antimicrobial resistance and make global pledges to speed up action on superbugs. Issues considered included knowledge collaboration and idea sharing, inter-sectoral coordination and common definition of metrics for tracking progress. The Access to Medicine Foundation presented its AMR Benchmark methodology for mapping existing pharmaceutical initiatives on AMR and tracking their development against the consensus on where progress should be made. An event report will be available at wellcome.ac.uk/DRI.
From plan development to implementation: ReAct conference

The Action on Antibiotic Resistance (ReAct) Africa Annual Conference, themed ‘Moving beyond the development of National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance to Implementation’, gathered 60 AMR Champions from 14 African countries, India and Sweden, to Machakos, Kenya 18-19 September to share experiences and updates on Africa’s progress in developing and implementing AMR National Action Plans. Conference participants came from Ministries of Health, Animal, Agriculture and Livestock, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and faith-based organizations. The conference identified six gaps and seven key outputs to make implementation of AMR national action plans possible. The full conference report is available here.


3rd WHO workshop on antimicrobial consumption in the African Region

Representatives from 12 African regulatory and procurement agencies, regional economic communities of the African Union, and the Fleming Fund attended this workshop. Experiences in collecting antimicrobial consumption data were shared and future plans to strengthen national monitoring of antimicrobial consumption were discussed, including making the link between human and animal data. Participants agreed to continue monitoring antimicrobial consumption, to expand their activities on improving antimicrobial use, and to explore opportunities for multisectoral cooperation between the human, animal and agriculture sector.

European workshop on development and implementation of national action plans to contain AMR

The latest in a series of workshops hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe took place in Berlin, Germany 26-28 September. Attended by representatives from 11 Eastern European countries the workshop aimed to generate expert discussions and identify good practices in tackling strategic and practical challenges likely to emerge during the development and implementation of national action plans. Three important areas of an effective AMR response were highlighted; i) awareness, education and behaviour change; ii) infection prevention and control, and iii) antimicrobial stewardship.
Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) implementation training, Cairo

The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean held a training workshop on the concepts and methods of early implementation of GLASS, 24-25 Sept 2017 in Cairo, Egypt. It was attended by 20 national focal points and data managers from the countries enrolled in GLASS. The workshop was followed by WHONET training which gathered 16 experts from eight countries involved in AMR surveillance. The training, 26-28 Sept, enabled the creation of a pool of WHONET “super users” for the Region who can provide technical support to others. Staff from the GLASS Secretariat and WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance facilitated the workshops. Photo: Participants at the GLASS workshops, Cairo, Egypt, 24-28 Sept 2017.

Global workshop to strengthen integrated surveillance of AMR in the food chain

The objective of this workshop, held in Sapporo, Japan 12-14 September, was to strengthen the capacity of WHO Member States to conduct integrated surveillance of AMR with a One Health approach. The workshop was attended by 28 participants from 10 Member States, mainly Principal Investigators for the Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) pilot projects. In addition, FAO (Dr Emmanuel Kabali, Regional AMR project support officer based in Zimbabwe) and OIE (Dr Jing Wang, Regional Veterinary officer based in Tokyo) representatives highlighted the need for a multisectoral approach and strong tripartite collaboration. From the AGISAR group, John Stelling provided WHONET training to participants who will be collecting, inputting and analysing research data in the coming years.

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.

Editors’s picks

Reducing antimicrobial use in food animals

This study by Van Boeckel et al, published September 2017, estimates the global antibiotic consumption in farm animals and the projected increase by the year 2030. It also estimates the potential impact of three interventions that could reduce antibiotic consumption in the sector and provides a strategy for preserving antibiotic effectiveness.

Experts release U.S. policy roadmap to reduce antibiotic use in food animals

This roadmap proposes 11 core policy recommendations to help move the U.S. forward in addressing the contribution of livestock antibiotic use to the growing global threat of AMR.

Antimicrobial resistance: The major contribution of poor governance and corruption to this growing problem

The findings from this 2015 article by Collignon et al. have important policy implications. Just as a sizeable literature has convincingly demonstrated that the quality of institutions (governance) is the fundamental determinant of economic growth, their results suggest that improving governance could be similarly fundamental in confronting the issue of antibiotic resistance.

Call for data & Experts on foodborne AMR

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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>Utilizing data to spur action on antibiotic stewardship implementation in South America. Pew Charitable Trusts meeting</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
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<td>Oct 30-Nov 1</td>
<td>Monitoring antimicrobial consumption workshop</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td>Nov 6-7</td>
<td>WHO informal technical consultation on behaviour change.</td>
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<td>Nov 7-9</td>
<td>Western Pacific Region Tripartite high-level meeting on action plans to combat AMR</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
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<td>Nov 9-10</td>
<td>Member State consultation on the global framework for development and stewardship to combat AMR</td>
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<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>World Antibiotic Awareness Week launch</td>
<td>9.00-10.00, Executive Board Room, WHO</td>
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<td>Nov 13-15</td>
<td>Ad-hoc working group meeting on the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programmes in hospitals</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13-19</td>
<td>World Antibiotic Awareness Week</td>
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<td>Nov 23-27</td>
<td>Monitoring antimicrobial consumption workshop</td>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
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<td>Nov 29-Dec 2</td>
<td>Ad-hoc Codex (FAO/WHO) Intergovernmental task force on AMR (TFAMR) hosted by Republic of Korea</td>
<td>London, U.K.</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.

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