Briefing: Protecting mothers and newborns from AMR

This year, World Antibiotic Awareness Week will be held from 14 to 20 November.

Under the campaign Antibiotics: Handle with care, the week aims to improve understanding of antibiotic resistance and change the way antibiotics are used.

World Antibiotic Awareness Week is a joint initiative of WHO, FAO, and OIE.

To subscribe to updates, email waaw@who.int

Share your AMR story

Antibiotic Resistance has become one of the biggest threats to global health today.

As part of the Antibiotics: Handle with care awareness campaign, we are looking for patients and health workers to share how they have been affected by antibiotic resistance.

If you would be willing to share your story—in the form of a photo and quote—to help people understand the seriousness of this problem and what can be done about it, email waaw@who.int.

A final report and recommendations of the Review on AMR, led by Lord Jim O’Neill, was presented in New York on 6 June 2016 at a briefing to raise awareness on how AMR is affecting mothers and newborns.

More than 30,000 women lose their lives each year globally due to birth-related infections, and even more newborn babies—more than 400,000 yearly—die as a result of severe infections. This situation will only deteriorate if and when antibiotics which treat infections become less effective.

Every Woman Every Child, the ReAct Network, and the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation co-organised the briefing entitled “Meeting the Multi-sectoral Challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance”, co-hosted with the Permanent Missions of Argentina, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

Lord Jim O’Neill gave the keynote address and Ambassador Juan José Gomez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, delivered a video message, and encouraged political commitment to fighting AMR.

• About the briefing
• AMR Review report
• AMR and protecting mothers and newborns
Developing a National Action Plan: Thailand’s experience

Thailand is keeping its commitment made at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May last year to have a national action plan on AMR in place by May 2017.

In 2015, Thailand set up a multi-sectoral AMR coordination and integration committee (AMR-CIC) to develop their national action plan.

At the same time, an AMR agenda was proposed to the National Health Assembly (NHA) by colleagues from civil society organisations, supported by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation and the Infectious Disease Association of Thailand.

The NHA enables people from the government, private sector, academia and the general public to participate in formulating public policy and engage in drafting resolutions. In 2015, the NHA adopted an resolution on AMR.

AMR-CIC (acting as a top-down mechanism) and NHA (acting as a bottom-up approach) are now collaborating to strengthen the AMR policy movement in Thailand.

This year the AMR policy movement is pursuing a two-pronged approach: (i) to get the National Action Plan endorsed by the Cabinet and co-signed by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, and (ii) to advocate that AMR be included in the national agenda to ensure the sustainability of resource allocation.

A strategic plan that draws a roadmap for the implementation of tailored nation action plans in the Gulf Cooperation Council States is now ready.

In 2005, these countries – including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and the Kingdom of Bahrain - established the Gulf Cooperation Council Center for Infection Control (GCC-IC) to align infection prevention and control programmes in the region.

To address AMR, a multi-stakeholder workshop was held in January 2015, and in April that year the Center finalised its GCC AMR strategic plan.

The plan is now ready for implementation and each country must identify an accountable body to oversee this phase.

Annual AMR workshops will be held to enable countries to share their implementation experiences.

Countries can also publish their achievements through the Journal of Infection and Public Health (JIPH).

Read the full journal article here.

**Developmental of national action plan on AMR 2016-2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MOH Leadership</th>
<th>AMR Coordination &amp; Integration Committee (AMR-CIC)</th>
<th>National action plan* (MOH &amp; MOA)</th>
<th>National agenda* (Political commitment) (MOH, MOA &amp; NHA (AMR-CIC))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Know your landscape</td>
<td>National Health Assembly (NHA)</td>
<td>AMR-CIC &amp; NHA collaboration</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• WHA 67: Develop GAP</td>
<td>• WHA 66: Adopt GAP</td>
<td>• Alliance of Champions</td>
<td>• UNGA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NHA - social mechanism to facilitate public policy making with inclusive participation: government, academia, private and people sectors across all 77 provinces of Thailand.

* Oneone activities

**Draft strategic framework of national action plan**

In the following diagram (next page), strategic issues 1-5 are content-based and aim to resolve AMR problems at the system level whereas strategy 6 focuses on how to implement the plan and to evaluate the implementation itself.
India’s Red line campaign for antibiotic packaging

India’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a campaign aimed at stopping the misuse and irrational use of antibiotics in February this year.

The campaign, ‘Medicines with a Red Line’, illustrates that antibiotics should never be consumed without a doctor’s prescription.

The Red Line campaign was cited in the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, launched in May 2016, as a model that could be used globally to counter the rising threat of antibiotic resistance.

Screening test to detect antibiotic resistance

Medical microbiologist Professor Tim Inglis, from the University of Western Australia (UWA), has been awarded US $100,000 to develop a screening test that will detect antibiotic resistance in remote and low-resource settings and ensure the right antibiotics can be prescribed.

The grant comes courtesy of Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE), an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which funds individuals to explore ideas that can break the mould in how we solve persistent global health and development challenges.

More information here.

Thank you!

Thank you for taking our survey to help improve this newsletter. We heard that you want to read more stories from countries and to receive info on what WHO & partners are doing to tackle AMR. You will see these changes take place in the issues to come.
Resources

• Antimicrobial resistance: aide-memoire. Click here

• Antimicrobial resistance for policy makers. Click here

• Antimicrobial resistance: A manual for developing national action plans and supporting documents and tools. Click here.

• Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). For information on criteria and procedures for enrolment in GLASS and for the GLASS manual, click here.

• For information on infection prevention and antimicrobial resistance, click here.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Jun 29 - Jul 1  “A One Health approach to building AMR national action plans in middle and low income countries” meeting. Information here. Wilton Park Sussex, U.K

July 21-22 RIMSA 17, 17th Inter-American Ministerial meeting on Health & Agriculture: One Health and the SDGs. Information here. Asuncion, Paraguay

Sept 4-5 G20 Summit Hangzhou, China

Sept 11-12 G7 follow-up Health Ministers meeting Kobe, Japan

Sept 20-26 UN General Assembly - High Level Week UN New York, USA

Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in this newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, contact the Secretariat at whoamrsecretariat@who.int.

Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat.

Director: Marc Sprenger | Editor: Breeda Hickey, Samantha Chapman

Members of Technical Coordination Group: Work stream leads HQ - Carmem Pessoa da Silva, Gilles Forte, Benedetta Allegranzi, Peter Beyer, Kate Medlicott, Awa Aidara-Kane, Martin Friede, Francis Moussy, and Karin Weyer; Yahaya Ali Ahmed, AFRO; Pilar Ramon Pardo, AMRO; Ali Mafi, EMRO; Danilo Lo Fo Wong, EURO; Sirenda Vong, SEARO; Sarah Paulin, WPRO (interim).