Drivers of AMR highlighted at AFRO NAP workshop, 21-23 March

The 3-day National Action Plan workshop, held in Harare Zimbabwe, identified the drivers of AMR in Africa as including: weak laboratory capacities for antibiotic susceptibility testing; weak or absent medicines regulatory mechanisms; limited surveillance of AMR in most countries; inappropriate prescribing and dispensing; and, indiscriminate use of antibiotics in human health, and the veterinary and agricultural sectors.

Participants came away with a set of tools and resources to facilitate the process of NAP development and implementation. The importance of multi-sectorial ownership at country level at all stages of NAP development was emphasized. Good practices in establishing surveillance systems, forging closer public-private collaborations, conducting situation analyses and economic impact assessments, designing effective awareness campaigns, and fostering cross-border cooperation on AMR prevention within the region were shared.

Participants were urged to advocate for the creation of an in-country task force to enable NAP development and implementation by May 2017. All focal points committed to a plan of action that will be discussed at country level. Further workshops are planned and dates will be communicated.

Jim O’Neill’s Independent Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Fundamental changes are needed to better prevent and monitor the spread of drug-resistant infections globally, according to this new report, published March 22 2016. Addressing the root causes of infections by improving access to water and sanitation reduces the demand for antibiotics as well as the opportunities for bacteria to become drug-resistant. Prevention is the most permanent, sustainable solution to slow down the rise of superbugs.

The report highlights three areas where decisive action has the potential to ‘shift the demand curve’ for antibiotics and other antimicrobials:

a) Improved access to clean water and sanitation.

b) A greater focus on infection prevention and control in healthcare settings.

c) Substantial improvements to the global surveillance of emerging drug-resistant infections.

2016 will be critical in making this happen with the G7, G20 and UN General Assembly all gearing up to discuss the global response to this challenge. The report can be viewed here.

Jim O'Neill’s Independent Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Fundamental changes are needed to better prevent and monitor the spread of drug-resistant infections globally, according to this new report, published March 22 2016. Addressing the root causes of infections by improving access to water and sanitation reduces the demand for antibiotics as well as the opportunities for bacteria to become drug-resistant. Prevention is the most permanent, sustainable solution to slow down the rise of superbugs.

The report highlights three areas where decisive action has the potential to ‘shift the demand curve’ for antibiotics and other antimicrobials:

a) Improved access to clean water and sanitation.

b) A greater focus on infection prevention and control in healthcare settings.

c) Substantial improvements to the global surveillance of emerging drug-resistant infections.

2016 will be critical in making this happen with the G7, G20 and UN General Assembly all gearing up to discuss the global response to this challenge. The report can be viewed here.

Drivers of AMR highlighted at AFRO NAP workshop, 21-23 March

The 3-day National Action Plan workshop, held in Harare Zimbabwe, identified the drivers of AMR in Africa as including: weak laboratory capacities for antibiotic susceptibility testing; weak or absent medicines regulatory mechanisms; limited surveillance of AMR in most countries; inappropriate prescribing and dispensing; and, indiscriminate use of antibiotics in human health, and the veterinary and agricultural sectors.

Participants came away with a set of tools and resources to facilitate the process of NAP development and implementation. The importance of multi-sectorial ownership at country level at all stages of NAP development was emphasized. Good practices in establishing surveillance systems, forging closer public-private collaborations, conducting situation analyses and economic impact assessments, designing effective awareness campaigns, and fostering cross-border cooperation on AMR prevention within the region were shared.

Participants were urged to advocate for the creation of an in-country task force to enable NAP development and implementation by May 2017. All focal points committed to a plan of action that will be discussed at country level. Further workshops are planned and dates will be communicated.

Jim O’Neill’s Independent Review on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Fundamental changes are needed to better prevent and monitor the spread of drug-resistant infections globally, according to this new report, published March 22 2016. Addressing the root causes of infections by improving access to water and sanitation reduces the demand for antibiotics as well as the opportunities for bacteria to become drug-resistant. Prevention is the most permanent, sustainable solution to slow down the rise of superbugs.

The report highlights three areas where decisive action has the potential to ‘shift the demand curve’ for antibiotics and other antimicrobials:

a) Improved access to clean water and sanitation.

b) A greater focus on infection prevention and control in healthcare settings.

c) Substantial improvements to the global surveillance of emerging drug-resistant infections.

2016 will be critical in making this happen with the G7, G20 and UN General Assembly all gearing up to discuss the global response to this challenge. The report can be viewed here.
**Editor’s picks: AMR articles**


**World Consumer Rights Day Fiji:**

**AMR tops the agenda**

The theme for this year’s World Consumer Rights Day in Fiji on 15 March was ‘Stop Misuse of Antibiotics’. This annual global event provided Fiji with a sound platform to empower consumers, medical practitioners, food industry personnel and policy makers to find ways to control the spread of AMR. WHO has partnered with the Consumer Council of Fiji and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to further Fiji’s National AMR Action Plan 2015. Among its aims is raising awareness of AMR among Fijians. Currently, many Fijians still lack basic information about the dangers of misusing antibiotics and continue to purchase them over the counter for colds, flu, coughs and headaches.

**Makarere University to take the lead in AMR surveillance in Uganda**

Uganda has been selected by AGISAR to implement a two-year project entitled “Movement pathways of antimicrobial agents and occurrence of antimicrobial resistance in humans, food producing animals and retail foods in Uganda”. The College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (CoVAB) from Makerere University will be at the forefront in the implementation of this project. “This project is very important because we lack data from developing countries that can inform policy. We therefore need a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary approach generated from different stakeholders against antimicrobial resistance. That is why WHO is giving seed money to Uganda and our wish is that work in this area will continue even after the 2 years come to an end. This pilot project must raise awareness through evidence based data so that the government will feel the need to tackle this problem more systematically,” said Dr. Aidara-Kane, WHO representative. WHO has since 2011 been funding pilot projects of this nature across the world. In Africa, similar projects were conducted in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Kenya. More information [here](#).
Meet your colleague  Dr Ali Ahmed Yahaya is the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa’s representative on the Technical Coordination Group. Ali oversees WHO’s function in strengthening public health laboratories through the framework of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) strategy and the International Health Regulations (IHR). His priority in the near future “is to support Member States, in close collaboration with relevant WHO programmes and partners, to develop and implement comprehensive AMR plans including building laboratory capacity for testing AMR and sharing information on AMR across networks of laboratories”.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>WHO-Civil Society AMR meeting</td>
<td>WHO HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Asia Ministerial meeting on AMR</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr tbc</td>
<td>SEARO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Bali, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 26-27</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust meeting “Integrating science and policy for decisive action on AMR”</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2-4</td>
<td>AMRO National Action Plan workshop</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Nordic Health Summit “Antibiotic resistance—are we responding too late?”</td>
<td>Oslo, Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17</td>
<td>AMR breakfast side event at “Women Deliver” conference</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 23-28</td>
<td>Sixty-Ninth World Health Assembly</td>
<td>WHO HQ (Palais)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26-27</td>
<td>G7 Summit</td>
<td>Shima, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Netherlands Public Health Institutes active in GHSA-AMR</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-3</td>
<td>DRIVE-AB conference on new business models for AMR</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 27-28</td>
<td>GHSA meeting</td>
<td>Bali, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 29-Jul 1</td>
<td>Wilton Park AMR meeting</td>
<td>Sussex, U.K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Members of AMR Steering Group**: Keiji Fukuda, Chair; Bruce Aylward, Flavia Bustreo, FWC; Marie-Paule Kieny, HIS; Ren Minghui HTM; Ibrahima-Socé Fall, AFRO; Marcos Espinal, AMRO; Jaouad Mahjour, EMRO; Nedret Emiroglu, EURO; Takeshi Kasai, WPRO; Roderico Ofrin, SEARO. **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, Olivia Lawe-Davis and Karin Weyer; Yahaya Ali Ahmed, AFRO; Pilar Ramon Pardo, AMRO; Ali Mafi, EMRO; Danilo Lo Fo Wong, EURO; Sirenda Vong, SEARO; Klara Tisocki, WPRO