CHALLENGES

- Though multisectoral steering committees have been formed in most Member States of the Region, they are not necessarily functioning optimally. Keeping in view the cross-cutting nature of the subject, a multidisciplinary approach is required and it is important to strengthen linkages among various programmes.

- Despite the fact that all SEA Region Member States have developed national action plans, their implementation is at various stages. Implementation needs the commitment of high-level policy-makers, annual allocation of funds and, of course, technical expertise.

- Although GPW13 aims to reduce the bloodstream infections (BSIs) due to AMR organisms by 10% in countries, but baseline data for BSIs is not available. There is a need to have a proper coordination between clinicians and laboratories in reporting BSIs to obtain not only baseline data but also achieving the target of GPW13.

THE WAY FORWARD

- **SUSTAIN**
  - The commitment to control antimicrobial resistance in SEA Region.
  - Continue to support Member States on their NAP implementation and monitoring.

- **ACCELERATE**
  - Implementation of multisectoral actions to combat antimicrobial action.
  - Support Member States in sharing AMR data to GLASS and participating in a standardized approach to the collection and analysis of AMR data at a global level.

- **INNOVATE**
  - To explore comprehensive implementation of the five AMR Strategic Objectives in line with country settings in the Region.

IMPACT

The AMR control programme is already implemented in all Member States as per countries NAP in line with the five Strategic Objectives of the GAP. By the end of 2023, the bloodstream infections due to selected AMR organisms would be reduced by one-tenth.
BACKGROUND

In early 2014, antimicrobial resistance was identified as a Regional Flagship Priority launched by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. Combating antimicrobial resistance is also linked to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work also targets tackling antimicrobial resistance to contribute to the goal of a healthier population: 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, which is one of WHO’s triple billion objectives.


PROGRESS

Status of AMR control at a place in member states of WHO South-East Asia region.

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1. KST—Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; GLASS—Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System; M&E—Monitoring and Evaluation; NA—Not Available

Source: http://amrcountryprogress.org/

AECHIEVEMENTS

As of 2018, 10 of the 11 Member States have enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). A regional EQAS to support GLASS has been established.

As of 2018, 10 of the 11 Member States have national surveillance systems in place for consumption and residual use of antimicrobials in human health while some Member States need to develop such a monitoring system.

All 11 Member States of the Region have their AMR national action plans (NAPs) in place.

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Ten of the 11 Member States have multisectoral working group or coordination committee(s) on AMR established with government leadership.

Nine of the 11 Member States have national monitoring systems in place for consumption and residual use of antimicrobials in human health while some Member States need to develop such a monitoring system.

Ten of the 11 Member States have guidelines in place for infection prevention and control. The level of implementation of these guidelines vary from country to country.

Relevant policies and regulatory frameworks for antimicrobial resistance are in place in all 11 Member States.

It is estimated that if no proactive action is taken now to slow down the rise of AMR, 10 million people die by 2050 due to the rise in drug-resistant infections.

TARGETS

There are no specific targets defined for AMR under the Sustainable Development Goals. The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work targets to reduce the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected AMR organisms by 10% by 2023.

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The South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) annually discusses action to be taken by NRAs to improve regulation to optimize antibiotic use and ensure access to quality-assured antimicrobials.