Consultation on a draft Global action plan to address antimicrobial resistance

The questionnaire is divided into four sections. The questions are broadly framed and intended to give you the opportunity to enter into some depth and explain your organization's viewpoint. While only questions marked with * are mandatory, we would appreciate answers to as many as possible. Where a choice of answer needs to be selected please highlight your answer.

Before answering the questions, please refer to our list of supporting documents.


About you

1. Name of individual respondent*
   Anita Janelm

2. Email address* (preference for official email addresses)
   Anita.janelm@gov.se

3. Are you authorised to represent your organization or interest group?* Y_ x ___ N ___

4. Organization Name*
   Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in Sweden

5. Address of the organization*
   SE 103 33 Stockholm

6. Organization website (if available)

7. Country*
   Sweden

8. Type of Organization*
   • Government department, ministry or agency X
   • Development or aid agency, foundation, trust or other funding authority
   • International developmental organization
   • Academic institution
• Civil society
• Private sector
• Other non-governmental organization (NGO)
• Other (please specify)

9. Main sector of interest
• Human health  x
• Animal health
• Finance/economics
• Agriculture or food
• Environment
• Communication, education and community
• Other (please specify)

10. Would you like to be added to our mailing list to receive updates on the development of the global action plan?*  Y_ x_ N ___

General questions

1. From the perspective of your organization, what are the most important areas of concern in AMR?

Research and development. a) New antibiotics and other treatment options, including improved knowledge on use of neglected antibiotics. b) A model for controlled distribution and use of new antimicrobial substances. c) New diagnostic methods. d) Behavioral science as well as the knowledge regarding the interrelation between epidemiology and socioeconomic factors.

Surveillance and structured follow-up - the lack of data as regards resistance patterns and antibiotic consumption from all parts of society effects the possibility to measure the need for and the effect of measures.

Economic impact assessments, i.e. the cost for the society of the current and future effects of AMR

Human resources. a) Knowledge development and build-up. b) Basic training in clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and infection control, c) Scheme for refresher training d) Intra- and intersectorial training.

Effects on the environment. Sewage system control and the transmission of antibiotic resistance.
Food production and the transmission of antibiotic resistance.

The lack of knowledge in regard to measures being most effective and how to tailor them to different countries and contexts.

2. Is your organization currently involved in work related to AMR? Y__ N __

If Yes, How?

The national work is coordinated through an intersectoral mechanism established through a Government decision. All relevant agencies are part of this mechanism and hence working together. The local work at county level is supported by special network called Strama. This Strama network was initiated in 1995 and is characterized by multisectoral collaboration on local and also national level. Important elements are, apart from multi-disciplinary interaction and networking, local implementation where the local Strama groups play an important role.

Sweden is actively participating in work within EU and WHO on AMR.

During the Swedish EU Presidency in autumn 2009 a successful conference was held on Innovative Incentives for Effective Antibacterials.

Sweden has adopted a strategy for our cooperation with the WHO during the period 2011-2015. Serious health threats focusing on antibiotic resistance is one of five priority areas.

Sweden has seconded an expert on antibiotics to WHO HQ. The secondment started in 2012.

Before the WHA resolution was adopted, two WHO AMR Strategic Technical Advisory Group (STAG) meetings were held in anticipation, which included members plus a large number of representatives from other organizations. These meetings identified key issues, concerns and led to the development of a draft outline.

As this consultation progresses and stakeholder meetings are held, the secretariat will harvest and incorporate the input into the draft global action plan.

1. How would you rate your understanding of WHO’s intention in the development of a global action plan to address AMR?

   Very good _X_   Good __   Fair __   Poor __

   Additional comments

2. From the perspective of your organization, are the major issues relating to AMR outlined in the draft global action plan? Y_ X_ N __

   If No, what additional issues need to be addressed?
Questions on the ‘Building blocks’ described in the draft outline.

You will notice, the global action plan has been constructed around “building blocks” in recognition that different countries will have different starting points. In this situation, countries can choose building blocks to concentrate upon. Each building block specified has been identified as a key area where specific attention, planning and work are needed to achieve progress in addressing AMR. Through questions in this section, we would like to hear your opinions on these building blocks in more detail.

I. Building block-1: Increasing awareness and understanding about AMR and of the actions and changes needed

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?

Even if awareness is high among many professionals and politicians within the health-field there remains a need to increase this among decision-makers from other areas. There is a need to in a coordinated manner increase the understanding of the actions needed among health-staff and the public/patients. There is a special need to increase the awareness among actors in the food-chain to lower the risk for spread of amr.

b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo?

A lot has been done and actions are ongoing. It is important to continuously work on increasing awareness and further develop effective messages. This is a responsibility for all relevant actors/stakeholders at all levels. An important key message is the effects on the economy and the health consequences of doing nothing

c) What steps have already been taken to address this priority? (Please provide references where possible)

This question is unclear and too wide to be answered properly in a questionnaire.

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

Agreement at international level amongst all states on a key set of interventions is needed, the political will to implement them and system to follow up the implementation and the effects. These will need to be specified, and agreed upon, on a more concrete level.

II. Building block-2: Identifying the most important approaches for preventing development of infections and the steps needed to move beyond guidance to more effective implementation of such approaches

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?
The main issue is the lack of good data on the effects of different interventions especially how the context will affect them. This will be needed to be able to prioritise what measures to use. Furthermore we need to better understand how they can be adapted and implemented in countries with scarce resources.

We have little knowledge of the role of the environment in development of AMR and how this can be prevented.

The role of the food/animal sector in AMR needs to be further investigated to understand better what measures need to be taken especially in low and middle income countries.

We need new and better measures (vaccines) to prevent the spread of infections in the community and in the hospital setting

b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo?

There is a need for action and implementation oriented research and development both in academia and in public agencies. The research needs to focus on new methods but with a special emphasis on the implementation and evaluation aspects.

An example could be to develop state of the art, evidence based guidelines and implementation models, similar to the WHO “SAVE LIVES: Clean your hands”. Launch and implement these in global networks and collaboration. The WHO hand hygiene collaboration could be used as a starting point.

c) What significant work has already been done to address this? (Please provide references where possible)

Much is done but little is known about effects and cost-efficiency in what we are doing

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

A set of agreed measures and how they can be adapted linked to support for implementation and evaluation.

III. Building block-3: Optimizing the use of existing antimicrobials for human and animal health and in agriculture

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?

We do know that decreased use of antibiotics will have effect on AMR. However, we have limited knowledge on how the use could be adapted in other ways to minimize the risk for AMR. Furthermore we need measures to support proper prescription of antibiotics including efforts to address the problem with OTC sales.

We also need to measure the consumption of antibiotics.
b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo? See above. Regulatory authorities are need as well as other national agencies for further development and research.

c) What steps have already been taken to address this priority? (Please provide references where possible)

This question is unclear and too wide to be answered properly in a questionnaire.

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

A set of measures agreed by all and how to implement and follow-up the implementation and its effects.

Proportion of countries that can report reliable statistics of sales of antibiotics in the human and animal sector.

Proportion of countries with OTC-availability of antibiotics.

Proportion of countries where antibiotics are allowed as animal feed additives.

IV. Building block-4: Identifying and closing critical gaps in knowledge needed to address AMR

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?

In addition to what has been mentioned above there is major gaps as regards surveillance of AMR. It is essential to know the type of surveillance needed for the possibility to implement and share information at an international, national and regional level.

Agreed strategies for the use and monitoring of new antibiotics coming on the market will be needed.

Evidence-based indicators of possible side-effects of diminishing antibiotic use are needed.

Knowledge and tools to improve diagnostics to better focus antibiotic use where it is needed.

b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo?

Establishing a research agenda with clear targets and identifications of main problems to solve

Drafting and agreeing on standards and protocols for surveillance.

Drafting and agreeing on contracts describing the responsibilities of participating countries and data-managing organization.
c) What steps have already been taken to address this priority? (Please provide references where possible)

This question is unclear and too wide to be answered properly in a questionnaire.

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

That a set of main gaps have been identified and strategies to solve them established and in the longer term solutions been found

How many countries in each region that are participating in the global surveillance programme.

V. Building block-5: Developing an innovative and sustainable approach to develop and distribute critical products and technologies needed to address AMR

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?

Finding model for providing incentives for the development of identified products and making them available in all settings including resource-poor countries

Develop and improve models for rapid approval of new antibiotics and a model for controlled distribution and use of new antimicrobial substances

b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo?

Important actors are the research-community and pharmaceutical companies for discussions about models accepted by all; but other relevant actors will also be necessary.

c) What steps have already been taken to address this priority? (Please provide references where possible)

This question is unclear and too wide to be answered properly in a questionnaire.

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

Needed products are identified and put on the market in a controlled manner.

A model for incentives (ref answer under 5a) is found and implemented

VI. Building block-6: Assessing the long term economic, developmental and social costs and implications of AMR as a basis for sustainable investment and action

a) What do you consider to be the main issues under this priority?

As mentioned before a clear and accepted way of measuring present and future cost of AMR will be needed.
b) What are the main actions that needs to be done -- and who are the main actors/stakeholders who need to take action -- to go beyond the status quo?

Development of a model of the cost today and a set of scenarios for the future

c) What steps have already been taken to address this priority? (Please provide references where possible)

This question is unclear and too wide to be answered properly in a questionnaire.

d) What are concrete and measurable indicators of progress for this priority? (Including, for example, global and national goals to be achieved within 2, 5 and 10 years)

A model is identified and the needed data is collected and used. The model has a wide acceptance and leads to action

Concluding questions

3. What contribution would your organization be able to make in implementing the global action plan?

Sweden will contribute through specific actions in relation to the development and implementation of a global surveillance system.

4. Additional input that you feel would be facilitate development of the GAP.