



# Antimicrobial Resistance NEWSLETTER

Achieving FAO's Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan



June 2021 - Issue #3

## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The [FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) 2021–2025](#) has been approved by the 166<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO Council. The Council also appreciated the inclusive and transparent consultation process that contributed to its development.

The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021–2025 was developed through a multidisciplinary working effort coordinated by the Joint Centre for Zoonotic Diseases and AMR in collaboration with all regions and relevant divisions represented in the FAO AMR Inter-Departmental Working Group. The approval of the new AMR Action Plan is the culmination of this collaborative process, which was followed by discussions during the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG27) and the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI34) and by several informal consultations with Members before and after the 130<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programme Committee (PC 130).

This Action Plan will guide FAO's support to its Members to build capacity to minimize and contain AMR in food and agriculture sectors. The plan will follow a collaborative One Health approach by creating synergies with partner organizations (World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP)). With guidance from the latest developments in science, as well as international guidance and standards on AMR, the implementation of the AMR Action Plan will provide flexibility to respond to Members' needs and requests.

**The indicator on AMR for the 2020–2021 biennium** was noted by the Programme Committee (PC 130),

### Tripartite collaboration & the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund

The 5<sup>th</sup> AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund Steering Committee meeting took place on 14 April 2021; FAO took over the rotational steering committee chair from OIE.

The steering committee approved three country proposals, one each from Ethiopia, Peru and Tajikistan.

The resource partners demonstrated positive feedback towards the Tripartite's (FAO/OIE/WHO) efforts to address AMR from a One Health approach and agreed to further strategically scale up the fund.

which recommended that the Council endorse it as proposed for FAO's results framework 2020–2021. The indicator reflects the progress in the overall level of implementation related to the food and agriculture sectors of the National Action Plans on AMR, within the set of members where FAO provides AMR support on those sectors; its measurement will be based on the self-reporting results of the Tripartite Country Self-Assessment Survey, which reflects FAO's progress in supporting Members on AMR in the food and agriculture sectors.

An [evaluation of FAO's role and work on AMR](#) was published in March 2021, covering FAO's entire work on AMR up to early 2020 and its role in the global AMR architecture. It examines FAO's organizational and institutional set-up for AMR work. With its strong mandate to work on AMR, FAO has implemented activities in 45 countries and provided far-reaching support on AMR National Action

Plans. The evaluation highlighted that although the Organization has a strong mandate to work on AMR and is well positioned to deliver, FAO needs to develop its own long-term strategy to guide its work on AMR. A comprehensive strategic and programmatic approach would increase the likelihood of achieving results in combating AMR. In order to further enhance its work on AMR, FAO will also need a strengthened multidisciplinary approach supported by a strong coordination and management structure with dedicated core funding and links with the Regional Offices and scientific partnerships.

**An FAO-European Union preparatory meeting for the FAO-European Union strategic dialogue** was held at the end of March. AMR is one of the subjects within the One Health context. The European Union Commission currently has the 2017 AMR Action Plan, which is due to be revised. EU Regulation 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products and EU Regulation 2019/4 on medicated feed, both approved in January 2019 and entering into force on 28 January 2022, will provide support to reduce AMR, as highlighted in the Farm to Fork Strategy.



## REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Asia and the Pacific

The [FAO-USAID AMR Project](#) is a collaborative effort with the OIE. [The second consultation virtual meeting](#) was held on 27-29 April 2021 to finalize the “*Regional guidelines on antimicrobial resistance monitoring and surveillance*” volume 5 (monitoring antimicrobial use (AMU) at the farm level). Inputs from invited international and national AMU experts and partners were sought to further refine the drafted guideline document towards its finalization. These guidelines are defining AMU monitoring objectives, developing data collection plans, analysing and reporting data, and operationalizing AMU monitoring at the farm level.

## FAO Reference Centres for AMR

**FAO Reference Centre for AMR in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Animal and Plant Health Agency)** has been involved in a project to promote a One Health approach to the aquatic food system in Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FAO Reference Centre in France (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety)** co-organized an international course on prevention of AMR that took place on 15-26 March, presenting the FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS), setting up working sessions on appropriate practices against AMR, and identifying gaps in National Action Plans. Attendees were from Hong Kong SAR China, Eswatini, Gabon, Malaysia, Philippines and Senegal.

**FAO Reference Centre in Mexico (Integral Unit of Services, Diagnosis and Verification; National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA))** participated in the virtual seminar on AMR organized by the Danish Embassy in Mexico and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, and gave a presentation on “Activities on AMR-SENASICA 2020”.

## Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements go to the AMR focal points and team at FAO headquarters, and regional and liaison offices, who have provided valuable inputs to this edition. Thanks go to Domingo Caro, Isabel Denis, Alejandro Dorado Garcia, Francesca Latronico, Jing Xu and Lina Yu. Extended thanks go to the supervising group and newsletter task force: Claudia Ciarlantini, KiJung Min, Cecilia Murguía, Huyam Salih, Junxia Song and Antonio Valcarce.

Contact information:  
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)  
Antimicrobial-Resistance@fao.org | [www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance](http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome - Italy



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence.