



MONITORING GLOBAL PROGRESS ON ADDRESSING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Analysis report of the second round of results
of AMR country self-assessment survey
2018



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
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Executive Summary

The global tripartite self-assessment survey of country progress in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a component of a broader approach for monitoring and evaluation of the global action plan on AMR. This report analyses the results of the second tripartite self-assessment survey. It has been developed and run by the three Tripartite organizations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Health Organization (WHO))¹ and reflects progress in the human, animal (terrestrial and aquatic), plant, food safety and environmental sectors. 154 countries out of 194 WHO Member States responded to this round of the self-assessment survey – a response rate of 79.4%.

When they endorsed the 2015 Global Action plan on AMR, all WHO Member States committed to the ambitious target of developing a multisectoral national action plan within two years. By May 2017, 79 countries reported that they had a plan, with a further 50 having a plan under development. While the 2017 target is still unmet, the second Tripartite self-assessment survey shows that progress has been sustained. 93 countries reported that they had a plan, and a further 51 have plans under development. Some of the non-respondents have also made progress, and the Tripartite, through its respective regional offices, is aware of at least seven other countries having national plans, taking the total to 100.

The establishment of a multisectoral group or groups is vital to ensuring coordinated and sustained action to address AMR. In 2017, 20% of countries reported that they had no coordination mechanism at all – this year that number has fallen to 15%. The number of countries with functioning coordination mechanisms almost doubled from 29 to 53, with 79 having a multisectoral group, but not regular focused meetings. The survey results show that a broader membership of multisectoral working groups is associated with substantially more progress across a range of human and non-human indicators.

While the majority of the top 10 chicken-, pork- and cattle-producing countries that responded to the survey (9 out of 10) have at minimum developed a national action plan (Level 3–5; survey questions for all domains were on a scale from A to E (analyzed as 1 to 5)), the survey response shows that in almost all domains – surveillance, education, monitoring and regulating consumption and use – more activity can be seen in the human sector. There is an urgent need for resource prioritization and more action in the animal and food sectors. Only 64 countries (41.6%) have limited the use of critically important antimicrobials (human and animal) for growth promotion in agriculture.

Substantial data is also missing from the environment and plant sectors. This is an emerging area of concern, and the issues and agenda for action are less clear. These sectors are often not represented in the multisectoral working group in many countries.

For the human sector, 105 countries report that they have a surveillance system in place and 68 have a system for tracking consumption of antimicrobials at national level. Whilst this is encouraging, only 61 countries have enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System (GLASS) with only a proportion of these submitting data to GLASS on resistance, or consumption data to WHO.

Much more progress around animal, plant and environmental surveillance is required, although steady progress is being achieved on antimicrobial use data intended for use in animals. Research and policy efforts to tackle AMR may be compromised without these data from both human and non-human sectors. Both axes of monitoring are needed to better understand and inform AMR interventions and policies.

¹ The Tripartite refers to an official collaboration between the three organizations under the Memorandum of Understanding found here http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/zoonoise/concept-note/en/.

From the point of view of medicines safety, almost one-fifth of countries (18.2%) have no national policy or legislation regarding the quality, safety and efficacy of antimicrobial products, and their distribution, sale or use. Another 28 countries (18.2%) were unable to report whether they had these policies in place or not. Countries were not asked to report on the efficacy of regulation.

Progress with developing and implementing plans is greater in high-income than low-income countries but all countries have scope for improvement. No country is reporting established sustained capacity at scale in all domains, and only three countries are reporting level 3 or above in all domains (i.e. substantive action at scale). This survey does, however, show that there is action at scale on a wide range of domains in most countries. 103 countries reported that they were at level 3 or above in four or more questions, spanning more than one sector. Across all domains and sectors, there is less progress in low-income countries. Most countries now have national action plans but may require long-term development assistance to implement them at scale, together with measures to ensure long-term sustainability of these investments at national level.

As this is a self-assessment survey, it is possible that some countries reported progress in a very positive light. However, where joint external evaluations (JEE) have been held, scores have been compared and are broadly consistent with what has been reported in this survey. All countries' responses will be published in an open access database, offering scope for in-country review with civil society and other stakeholders.

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