

Antimicrobial Resistance

A MANUAL FOR DEVELOPING
NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

Version 1

February 2016



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Published by

the World Health Organization

and

the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

and

the World Organisation for Animal Health



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Organization of the
United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Antimicrobial resistance: a manual for developing national action plans.

1. Drug Resistance, Microbial. 2. Anti-Infective Agents. 3. Infection Control. 4. Health Planning. 5. National Health Programs. I. World Health Organization. II. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. III. World Organisation for Animal Health.

ISBN 978 92 4 154953 0

(NLM classification: QV 250)

ISBN 978-92-5-109071-8 (FAO)

ISBN 978-92-95108-23-3 (OIE)

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FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through Publications-sales@fao.org

Publications of the World Organisation for Animal Health are available either on the OIE web site (www.oie.int) or can be purchased through the OIE online bookshop (www.oie.int/boutique).

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Table of contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Abbreviations.....	iv
Preface.....	1
Guiding principles	3
Process for development and implementation	7
Governance	8
Core components of a NAP	14
Annex: Selected support tools and other sources of information.....	19

Acknowledgements

WHO would like to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to the development of this manual.

In particular, WHO would like to thank the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the World Organisation for Animal Health for their collaboration on this publication. Throughout its development, the manual has been subject to extensive review by a wide range of colleagues at WHO Headquarters, in WHO regional offices. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who gave their time to read and provide comments and input to earlier drafts of this manual.

We would also like to thank the Governments of Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji and Turkmenistan who provided assistance and guidance during the piloting of earlier drafts of this manual.

WHO also expresses its appreciation for the financial support provided by the Governments of the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and the United States of America.

Abbreviations

AMR	antimicrobial resistance
AMU	antimicrobial use
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MCG	multisectoral coordinating group
NAP	national action plan
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
STD	Sexually transmitted disease(s)
UN	United Nations
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

Preface

This manual for developing national action plans to address antimicrobial resistance has been developed at the request of the World Health Assembly to assist countries in the initial phase of developing new, or refining existing national action plans in line with the strategic objectives of the Global Action Plan. It proposes an incremental approach that countries can adapt to the specific needs, circumstances and available resources of each individual country. Details of actions to be taken will vary according to national contexts.

A series of supporting tools have also been developed by WHO, in collaboration with FAO and OIE, to accompany this manual. These include sample terms of reference for suggested coordination mechanisms, a generic template for a national action plan, a sample plan for monitoring and evaluation, and a checklist. Other tools will be added as the needs arise.

It is expected that countries' experiences in developing national action plans, particularly during the initial phase in 2016, will become a valuable source in helping to refine and adapt this manual. It is therefore anticipated that this manual will be revised in 2017 in order to reflect this experience and better serve the needs of countries.

Background

For the past few decades, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been a growing threat to effective treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi. AMR results in reduced efficacy of antibacterial, antiparasitic, antiviral and antifungal drugs, making the treatment of patients difficult, costly or even impossible. The impact is felt particularly by vulnerable patients, as it can result in prolonged illness and increased mortality. The magnitude of the problem worldwide and its impact on animal and human health, on costs for the relevant sectors and in wider society are still largely unknown.¹

In continuing the response to this serious public health issue, a global action plan on antimicrobial resistance was drafted,² and, at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015, Member States adopted a resolution to implement the plan. Notably, Member States agreed on the importance of developing national action plans (NAPs) aligned with the global plan and incorporating the same five strategic objectives. One objective of the resolution is to ensure that all Member States have a national action plan in place by May 2017:

¹ Antimicrobial resistance. Global report on surveillance. Geneva: WHO; 2014.

² Global action plan for antimicrobial resistance (World Health Assembly document A68/20, 27 March 2015) (http://www.who.int/drugresistance/global_action_plan/en/).

(3) to have in place, by the Seventieth World Health Assembly, national action plans on antimicrobial resistance that are aligned with the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance and with standards and guidelines established by relevant intergovernmental bodies;

The resolution also noted the importance of Member States working together to ensure synergy in attaining the five strategic objectives of the global action plan:

*3. INVITES international, regional and national partners to implement the necessary actions in order to contribute to the accomplishment of the five objectives of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance;*³

The World Assembly of Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), also held in May 2015, adopted a resolution for Member Countries to follow the guidance of the global action plan by developing national action plans in respect of the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and ensuring their close collaboration with public health officials.⁴ In June 2015, the Thirty-ninth Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted a resolution and status report on AMR. The FAO resolution urges members to 'develop or strengthen national plans, strategies and international collaboration for the surveillance, monitoring and containment of antimicrobial resistance in food, agriculture and the environment, in close coordination with related plans for human health'.⁵

Purpose, aim and intended readership

The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance to countries in preparing NAPs that are aligned with the global action plan, thereby contributing to combating AMR worldwide. This manual is intended primarily for national policy-makers, programme managers and partners responsible for strategic planning, development and implementation of national plans and AMR activities in all relevant sectors. The readers may include government and ministry representatives, intergovernmental partners (such as FAO, OIE and WHO) and other public and private associations and foundations working in the field. The "One Health" approach, in which human and animal health, agriculture and food production

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