



SUPPORTING GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE USING A ONE HEALTH APPROACH

The availability and use of antimicrobial drugs in terrestrial and aquatic animals and in plant production is essential for both health and productivity and contributes to food security, food safety and animal welfare, and in turn, the protection of livelihoods and sustainability of food production systems. However, there are growing global concerns about resistance to antimicrobial drugs, including antibiotics, and that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will reverse these benefits. Developing countries are expected to bear the greatest burden of this problem. In this context, it is critical that countries' food and agriculture sectors are equipped to address AMR and ensure that antimicrobials are regulated and used in a responsible manner. To this end, the project aimed to support the engagement of the food and agriculture sectors in selected countries in the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAP) on AMR, focusing on several key factors such as regulatory platforms, legislation, and capacity to collect data on antimicrobial use (AMU), among others.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The food and agriculture sectors were actively engaged in the development of NAPs in over 30 countries, and in the implementation of NAPs in 12 selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia. This was achieved through reviews and reforms of legislation relevant to the governance of antimicrobial use in the sector; data collection to monitor progress and changing practices along the food production chain; and pilot interventions aimed to minimize the risk of development and transmission of AMR through the food chain. The project focused on setting up an enabling environment for the generation of data on AMR and AMU in project focus countries, selected regions and at the global level, within the food and agriculture sectors. This included capacity assessments to generate laboratory-based data related to AMR, which was extended to the capacity to generate data on AMU and antimicrobial residues to a limited extent. With regard to laboratory capacity building, the project provided support towards standardizing testing capacities in selected laboratories. In all cases, countries successfully aligned approaches for testing and laboratory capacity building, using the FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS). The project also laid the foundation for supporting countries in their data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination through the development of the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) system. At global level, the project supported the initiation of critical interventions that have evolved into multipartner initiatives on AMR.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 12 767 826

Duration
September 2016-December 2022

Resource Partners
Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Department of Health (DH)

Partners
World Health Organization (WHO),
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

Beneficiaries
Stakeholders in food and agriculture production, including farmers, fishers, veterinarians, extension workers, food processors, and regulators; relevant regulatory authorities for food and agriculture in the beneficiary countries; designated laboratories within beneficiary countries responsible for residue monitoring and surveillance of resistance as well as the coordinating or oversight structure for such laboratories; operators in the key value chains of concern for AMR within a country

IMPACT

It is expected that the project interventions will contribute to reducing the emergence of AMR, and to minimizing the adverse impacts of AMR on the food and agriculture sectors, food safety, and public health.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week activities supported in all focus countries and regions, comprising over 60 activities and at least ten high-level annual events at global level.
- Legal review supported in all focus countries, applying legal assessment tool developed at global level.
- 18 ATCLASS assessment missions conducted in all focus countries; as well as ATCLASS assessments missions in 26 other countries across five continents, using other FAO resources.
- 70 laboratories assessed in focus countries.
- 130 experts trained as ATCLASS assessors from 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.
- Over 10 050 samples collected from various production systems and food products in several project focus countries.
- Farmer field school (FFS) interventions applied in four focus countries to run pilots in poultry production; and 40 FFS facilitators trained to support implementation of pilots.
- 21 FFS completed in the four project focus countries in Africa, through which 500 farmers successfully completed FFS.



Project Title

Engaging the food and agriculture sectors in sub-Saharan Africa and South and South-East Asia in the global efforts of combat antimicrobial resistance using a One Health Approach

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/710/UK
Donor: 2016/003b FAO

Contact

Keith Sumption (Budget Holder)
CVO@fao.org

Partnerships and Outreach
For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

