



Side event in the margins of the 72nd World Health Assembly

Tackling antimicrobial resistance in low- and middle-income countries: Time to deliver context-specific solutions

Hosted by the Danish Ministry of Health, the World Bank, the Ministry of Health in Ghana and Wellcome Trust

Date and time: Wednesday, 22 May 2019, 8:00-10:00 am (breakfast included)

Venue: Delegates Restaurant (Restaurants de l'ONU, Avenue de la Paix 8-14,)

You are invited to attend an event hosted by the Danish Ministry of Health, the Ghanaian Ministry of Health, the World Bank and Wellcome Trust focusing on identifying solutions to address antimicrobial resistance in low- and middle-income countries.

Background

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest threats to health and economies worldwide with alarming rates reported in all countries regardless of income status. The Independent O'Neill Review in 2016 found that AMR already kills more than 700,000 people annually and predicted that 10 million people will die annually by 2050 – more than cancer currently kills – if sufficient action is not taken at global and national levels. Further work by the World Bank's 2017 report demonstrated that the greatest impact is, and will continue to be, in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). With predictions that by 2050 AMR could reduce GDP in low-income countries by at least 1.2% but as high as 5% and push more than 24 million people into extreme poverty by 2030.

The global community has recognised what needs to be done to address the challenge - the WHO, FAO and OIE endorsed the Global Action Plan published in 2015, 193 Member States agreed on an AMR Resolution (A/RES/71/3) at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2016, recently over 170 countries reported that they have a National Action Plan in place or one in development, and in April 2019 the ad hoc UN Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group (IACG) published its recommendations.

While the positive progress is recognised, the IACG report stresses that several LMICs face significant challenges in implementing their action plans. It also highlights a gap in operation and implementation research and the need to generate evidence and translate it into policy and effective interventions. It is clear therefore, that the global community needs to go further and faster together to implement these recommendations and work in collaboration with LMICs to identify evidence based solutions. If we do not, this escalating global crisis will continue to jeopardise modern medicine, agricultural livelihoods, global food security, and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda.

This event in the margins of the World Health Assembly is to highlight the recently published recommendations of the UN IACG, discuss challenges in national action plan implementation in LMICs, and identify opportunities to strengthen international partnerships to develop solutions taking a One Health approach.

RSVP: Sofie Rossen Møller, the Danish Ministry of Health, e-mail: srm@sum.dk

Target audience

Health-policy stakeholders; multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, including representatives from Geneva-based missions, funds and foundations; civil society organisations, including humanitarian organisations (50-100 people in total; key stakeholders are invited, others may register to attend).

Objectives

- Highlight IACGs final report recommendations, the WHA Resolution (EB144.R11), and raise awareness for the UN Secretary General's report to Member States ahead of the UNGA 2019.
- Progress the conversations from what needs to be done towards how to do it, and discuss ways to overcome challenges and deliver context specific solutions in LMICs.
- Raise awareness of initiatives to implement solutions in LMICs, for example ICARS (the new International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions).

Agenda

8:00-8:30 am	Breakfast and 'talks'
8:30-9:30 am	Panel debate and discussion with the audience
9:30-10:00 am	End of the event and time for networking

Moderator

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, UK

Speakers

- Dr. Søren Brostrøm, Director General, Danish Health Authority
- Professor Hanan H. Balkhy, Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial resistance
- Dr. Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt, Technical Coordination, Ministry of Health, Republic of Ghana
- Dr. Franck Cesar Jean Berthe, Senior Livestock Specialist, the World Bank
- Dr. Robert Leo Skov, ICARS Project Leader

Outcomes

- Increased awareness of UN activities on AMR and next steps (the IACG recommendations published in April 2019, the WHA resolution agreed, the report to be delivered by the UN Secretary General to Member States by UNGA 2019).
- A greater understanding of the challenges LMICs are facing in implementing One Health NAPs and specifically ways to overcome these challenges.
- Ideas for how the global community can work with LMICs to develop context specific solutions through supporting existing and new initiatives such as ICARS, and sharing knowledge and best practice to implement National Action Plans.

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