AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform

Call for Action Groups proposals

(Only for members of the Platform)

Do you have a topic idea that is relevant to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and which you would like to work on with other interested parties in a collaborative and results-driven way? Then team up with other Platform's members[1] to form your own Action Group or be part of many others.

The choice of topic is up to you - we call it a 'bottom-up approach'. You propose your idea of an Action Group based on your priorities and needs, look for like-minded members of the Platform to advance a joint proposal of an Action Group and, once it is approved, organize yourselves independently.

Within the Action Groups, you will be able to work with members of the Platform from different stakeholder clusters (civil society, academic and research organizations, governments, global and regional international organizations, the UN and its specialized agencies, global and regional financial institutions, and philanthropic donors, as well as the private sector), disciplines and geographies.

Together, you will have the opportunity to gain knowledge, discuss priorities, identify challenges, co-create solutions, share different perspectives and expertise, and build a common understanding and consensus around AMR topics. You will have the chance to promote your own work within the Platform, but also to contribute to the efforts of addressing AMR at the global level.

[1] To advance a proposal of an Action Group, you must team up with at least three (3) Members of the Platform, ideally representing two (2) or more Clusters.To identify interested parties, please use the Member's list and discuss the idea in the Virtual Hub for Members. If you want to be part of other Action Groups, we encourage you to join Member's discussions in the Virtual Hub for Members.

Objectives of the Action Groups

The Action Groups are the operational arms of the Partnership Platform; they aim to be a collaborative space enabling you to:

- Have a dialogue with actors from different stakeholder clusters, disciplines, sectors, and countries for consensus-building on AMR issues;
- Identify challenges and discuss priorities for collective action;
- Co-create solutions;
- Share and gain sector and discipline-specific expertise, context perspectives, best practices and lessons learned from your areas of work;
- Promote the outcomes of your work within the Action Groups through the Steering Committee, the Coordinating Team and/or the Plenary, as well as globally;

How can Action Groups be proposed?

Pic 1

| 1 Members propose Action Groups on the themes of their interest/priority, including possible leads | 2 Coordinating Team reviews the Action Groups' applications and presents them for approval by the Steering Committee | 3 If favourable, the Steering Committee informs the applicants and the Plenary of the new Action Groups established | 4 Action Groups commence their activities (develops workplan, targets, indicators, Monitoring and Evaluation system) in a self-organized manner | 5 Action Groups report annually to the Steering Committee, the Plenary and the Coordinating Team | 6 Steering Committee and the Coordinating Team support the resource mobilization for the Action Groups, where necessary |

The process of the Action Groups' formation is presented above in the picture 1.

A call for Action Groups proposals is launched on the Platform's web page to enable all members to come up with ideas and proposals of potential Action Groups. As Action Groups should be proposed by a team of at least three Members of the Platform, ideally representing two or more Clusters, you can consult the Membership List to identify potential partners. We encourage you to use the Virtual Hub for Members to connect with other members, discuss and exchange your idea of a topic for an Action Group or join the ongoing discussions on Action Groups initiated by other members. Additionally, the Coordinating Team can help with connecting you to other members of the Platform.

With this preparatory work done, you can submit your proposal via the online form by 17 September 2023.

Key criteria for a successful proposal

Before submitting your Action Group proposal, make sure it includes:

- A clear and well-formulated objective with a description of sectors, stakeholders involved, as well as the geographical scope;
- A description of expected results and deliverables;
- A justification about how this Action Group complements, contributes to or is aligned with the ongoing activities or similar initiatives at the global or regional level;
- A justification on how the proposed Action Group aligns with the Global Action Plan (GAP) and other international frameworks and mechanisms;
- A list of proposed activities and key performance indicators;
- A proposed timeframe (could be from one to multiple years);
- A proposal of a lead and co-leads to be considered.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

The Coordinating Team of the Platform will review your proposal; it may also propose amendments and/or suggest merging it with a proposal on a similar topic. The Steering Committee will approve the proposals[1].

[1] Given the Steering Committee should be composed of members of clusters and Action Groups, the approval of the first Action Groups will exceptionally be done by the Coordinating Team (ref. Platform's Operational Rules, point b of Transitional arrangements, page 6).
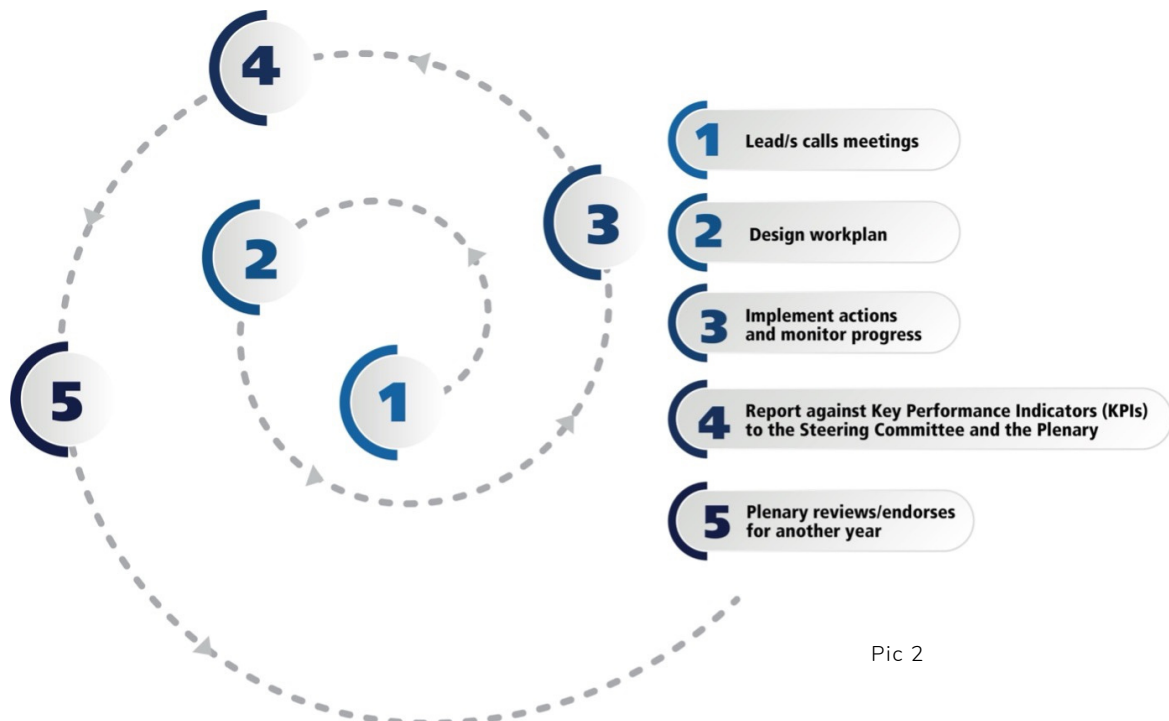
Establishment of Action Groups

As a member of the Platform, you can lead one or several Action Groups and/or participate in many other Action Groups of your interest. For this, you should designate one or more people from your entity as alternates who will participate in the meetings and activities of Action Groups.

You can express interest in joining one or many Action Groups and share the list of your nominated people with the Coordinating Team by filling in the online form (the link will be available once the Action Groups are formed).

Once the proposals of Action Groups are approved, the Coordinating Team will support the process of their establishment by:

- Announcing the new Action Groups to all the Platform members via the Virtual Hub for Members and the Platform's webpage;
- Calling all the members of the Platform from each cluster to express interest in joining the newly established Action Groups; interested members can be incorporated at any time;
- Asking members to disclose any potential conflict of interest they may have in relation to the work of the Action Groups upon their joining of the Action Groups;
- Helping to organize kick-off meetings of the new Action Groups.

Work process within Action Groups

1. Lead/s calls meetings
2. Design workplan
3. Implement actions and monitor progress
4. Report against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to the Steering Committee and the Plenary
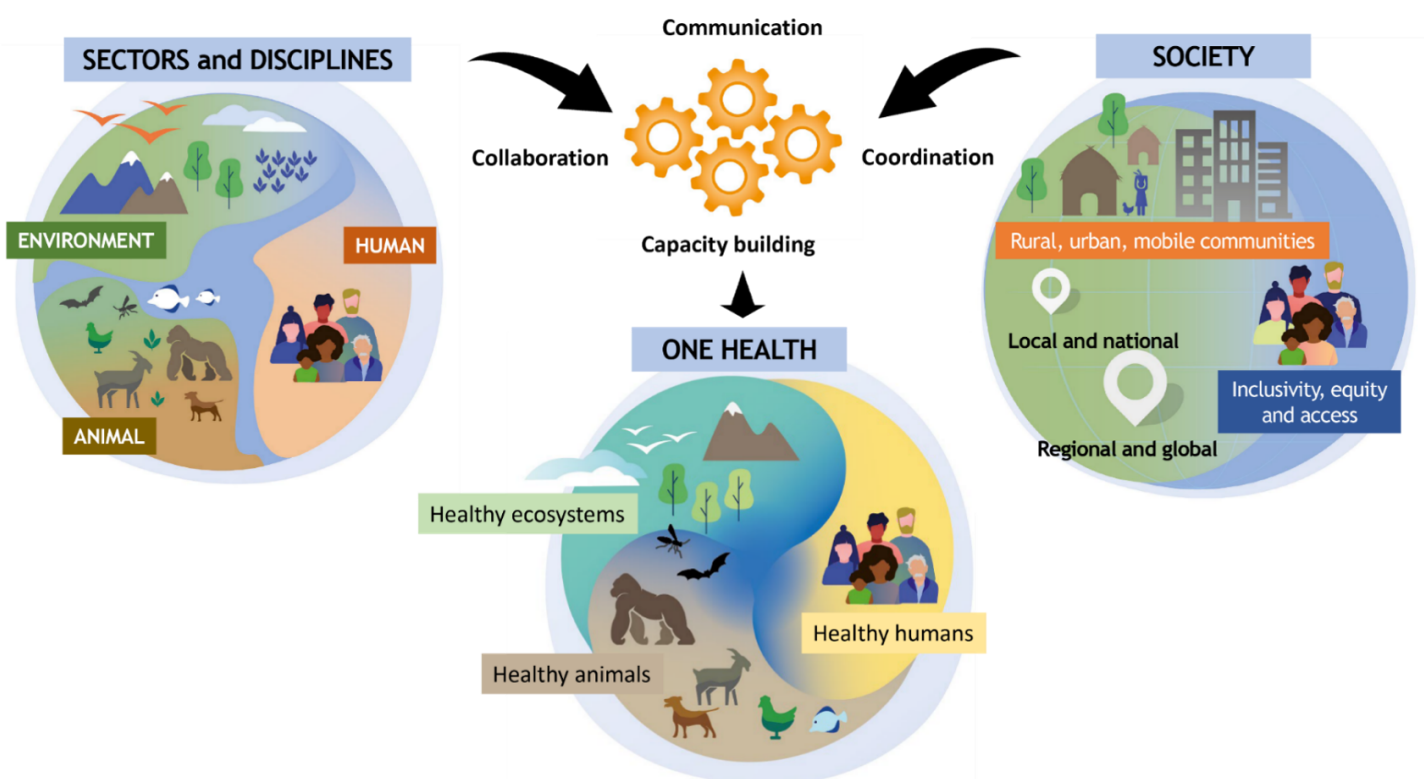5. Plenary reviews/endorses for another year

Pic 2

Each newly established Action Group should elect its lead and propose two representatives to the Coordinating Team for appointing one of them as Steering Committee member.

Together with other members of your Action Groups you can define the format and the frequency of your meetings, start designing the workplan, activities, expected outcomes, etc. (ref. picture 2).

We encourage you to use the Virtual Hub for Members as the main Platform for this collaborative work, enabling you to initiate discussions, share documents and publications, connect and exchange views with other members of the Action Groups. If you are a member of the Platform, but do not have the access to the Virtual Hub for Members yet, please contact the Platform's Coordinating Team by email: amr-platform@fao.org or access it via the following link (by creating your profile and password).

Action Groups will cease their functions upon completion of their objectives in accordance with their work plan.

The Coordinating Team will support the work of Action Groups, facilitate the cross-pollination and exchange between the Action Groups and stakeholder clusters. For any questions about the process, please feel free to reach out to the Coordinating Team by email: amr-platform@fao.org and consult the Platform's Terms of Reference and Operational Rules – Action Groups sections.

This list of examples of relevant topics for Actions groups should be regarded as an attempt to inspire and stimulate you as Platform member to form Action Groups. It should be noted that the list is not exhaustive, other topics may also be subject to the work in an Action Group. The list of examples is based on a synthesis of the priorities of the Global Leaders Group's action plan, the recommendations of the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance's, the objectives of the Global Action Plan, the recent Muscat Ministerial Manifesto and on consultations with various stakeholders. Action Groups can prioritize one or many topics being guided by your priorities and shared interests (bottom-up approach).

- Advocacy for high level attention and resources: Global attention to AMR is generally weak and national and international investments in mitigating AMR continue to be relatively low. There is a need to galvanise public opinion particularly focusing on youth, media, and policy makers (including parliamentarians) in order to make AMR both better known and better supported. These groups can play a major role as advocates for AMR. Opportunities for such high-level advocacy include the High-Level Meeting on AMR at the United Nations General Assembly in 2024; the next Ministerial Conference on AMR in 2024, and other high level global events. An Action group focused on advocacy could work with such defined constituencies to create and maintain pressure on decision-makers in favour of greater investments in AMR while also communicating key messages from other action groups of the Platform.

- Therapeutic, vaccine and diagnostic innovation. Currently, there are weak, if any, financial incentives to finance development of antibiotics. That is because the market for new antibiotics will be small as these new drugs targeting specific resistant bacteria will only be used as the last resort for humans. One particular dimension of this topic is the imbalance in vaccine and diagnostic development for infections, in humans as well as in animals, that are important in low-income countries, but not present in high-income countries. So new business models or funding mechanisms that mobilize resources and enables innovations in the above-mentioned areas are dearly needed.

- Integrated surveillance – AMU/AMR. On a global level there is the GLASS modality managed by WHO for surveillance of use and resistance in the health sector. In the animal health sector WOAH has since 2015 been monitoring antimicrobial use (AMU) in animals and recently launched an improved web based global ANIMUSE system for monitoring AMU in animals. The coverage of surveillance programmes for AMU/AMR varies a lot between countries or regions in the world; in some regions both the AMU and AMR aspect are systematically surveyed, whereas in most parts of the world one has to rely on scattered scientific reports on the topic. Generally, there are also differences among data from the health sector, the livestock sector and the environment (in the latter case AMR). Reliable and publicly available AMU and AMR data are important for providing general recommendations on the use of relevant antimicrobials and for monitoring progress or failures of actions to combat the emergence of AMR on local as well as global level.

- Mitigation of AMR transmission via the environmental pathway. There is growing evidence that the environment plays a key role in the development, transmission and spread of AMR. The environmental dimensions of AMR are complex and characterized by interactions, cyclic interrelationships, complexities and multiple causalities in a multi-dimensional medium that impact global planetary health. While the relationship between environmental pollution and AMR and the reservoir of resistance genes in the environment has been established, the significance and its contribution to AMR globally is still unclear, particularly is proper risk assessment for different transmission pathways needed. Even so, there is enough knowledge to implement measures to reduce the factors that influence AMR from an environmental perspective.

- Infection prevention and control – human, animal and food systems sectors. Reducing the need for antimicrobials by disease prevention has both a technical and a behavioural arm and is relevant for all sectors. Prevention of infections without antimicrobials comprise IPC and WASH interventions for humans and good husbandry practices and biosecurity for animals, the latter also applies for plants. There is extensive knowledge globally about the technical arm of this topic. However, there is a challenge to bring this knowledge down to the local level and implement these practices. This is very much a behavioural issue, and to tailor these practices so they become cost-effective and attractive and thereby applied on the ground is key in this topic.

- Promoting responsible antimicrobial use in human, animal, and plant health. The goal for responsible AMU is to use antimicrobials as specific and restrictive as possible to protect human, animal and plant health - that is to stop the mis- and overuse of these pharmaceuticals. Regulations restricting the use of antibiotics is prevalent in the livestock and aquaculture sectors; banning the use of antibiotics as growth promoters or other non-veterinary use such as regular use of antibiotics to compensate for bad husbandry practices/biosecurity measures or use of antibiotics critically important for humans. Regulations need compliance and capacity to be enforced in order to be effective. Positive incentives for farmers and health professionals may therefore be a relevant complement. Such incentives are often context specific, but there are options for sharing best practices. Professionals' (physicians, veterinarians and pharmacists) knowledge and attitudes about how to use antibiotics do also vary around the world and is an area where actions for behavioural change is needed.

- Laboratory capacity development. The access to accredited laboratories with accredited and validated microbiological diagnostic methods including susceptibility testing of bacteria is unevenly distributed around the world and between sectors. Still, it is a key component for optimizing responsible and rational antimicrobial use. Besides the access to, and the capacity of, competent laboratories as such, good stewardship is crucial. Such stewardship comprises for instance provision of adequate response time, affordable diagnostic costs and thought trough sampling-diagnostic guidelines. The stewardship may be highly context specific, but there are good options for sharing best practices.

- Behavioural change for curbing AMR emergence. There are practices available that enables restrictive and prudent use of antimicrobials, thereby curbing the emergence of AMR. However, these practices or behaviours are not always applied. Obviously, strong economic incentives or enforced regulations may change behaviours, but may not always be feasible options. Another option, to change behaviours and practices by recommendations and education, is intrinsically hard, as complicating matters are the differing motivations and possibilities for action of each stakeholder group, including their surrounding environment, their socio-economic and political realities, and a range of other factors that powerfully influence behaviours. Thus, there is a need for evidence-based methodologies for multi-component interventions anchored in local settings and realities that help people make the right decisions.