



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# MONGOLIA IN ACTION

“ACTION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF CODEX AMR TEXTS (ACT)” PROJECT

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global threat to humans, animals, plants and the environment



Livestock-based agriculture has long been a significant component of Mongolia's economy, with most of the population consisting of herders. Mongolia stands out as one of the least densely populated countries globally, boasting a livestock population that is 20 times greater than its human population. However, this low population density, coupled with households located in remote areas and an inadequate transportation infrastructure, poses challenges in delivering veterinary services effectively. Antibiotics and other antimicrobials are commonly used in humans, animals and plants to treat, prevent, and control diseases. The extensive and sometimes indiscriminate use of antimicrobials has led to a significant global concern - antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a situation where these drugs stop working or are less effective.

Managing AMR poses a significant challenge for the world. One way AMR can spread to humans is through food, known as foodborne AMR. International Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines, codes of practice (Codex texts) have been developed to assist countries in controlling foodborne AMR, and the “Action to support implementation of Codex AMR texts (ACT)” project is supporting these efforts in Mongolia.

## Strengths and opportunities to control AMR in Mongolia

To promote the proper use of antimicrobials and to prevent antimicrobial resistance in the country, various legal acts such as policies, laws, programs, plans and orders have been adopted in Mongolia. For example, Mongolia has enacted the State Health Policy, the Health Law, the Law on Medicines and Medical Devices, the Law on Livestock and Animal Health, the Law on Ensuring Safety of Food Products and the National Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for Combating Antimicrobials Resistance 2022-2025. Mongolia has also drafted a One Health roadmap under the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) project, which includes fifteen objectives aimed at AMR reduction by decreasing antimicrobial use and increasing AMR surveillance. In addition, Mongolia is using recent assessments of its laboratories in the food, agriculture and health sectors to develop a regulatory framework to address AMR. Despite these initiatives, additional national AMR policies and regulations are needed to limit the purchase of antimicrobials without a prescription issued by a licensed veterinary professional.

## Landscape of antimicrobial resistance and use in Mongolia

- Mongolia reported a total of 678 deaths attributable to AMR and 2 600 deaths associated with AMR in 2019. Mongolia has the 47th highest age-standardized mortality rate per 100 000 population associated with AMR across 204 countries ([IHME](#)).
- Mongolians have been identified to be among the world's most prolific users of antibiotics ([WHO](#)).
- Currently, antimicrobial susceptibility testing in the animal health sector is randomly performed in very few cases ([ScienceDirect](#)).



## What is being done in Mongolia under the ACT project?

- Developing a pilot surveillance study to gather AMR data in Mongolia for the first time.
- Supporting the implementation of the Codex texts on AMR.
- Increasing awareness of AMR and antimicrobial use in the field, especially among herders, veterinarians and veterinary pharmacists.
- Collaborating with the government to reinforce the efforts of the National Codex Committee and Multisectoral Coordination Group to advocate for the adoption of AMR regulations.
- Strengthening AMR surveillance, supporting pilot testing programs and working with the national laboratories.
- Collaborating with other projects such as the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), to deliver AMR-related activities aimed at raising awareness, increasing surveillance and adopting good practices throughout the country.

### Project target audience

The ACT project supports Mongolia in working with various AMR stakeholders, such as herders, dairy farmers, veterinarians, government representatives, food producers, veterinary technicians, students and consumers to reduce and contain foodborne AMR.

### Expected results

- Increased awareness, adoption and implementation of Codex AMR texts in Mongolia.
- Increased understanding of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use among relevant stakeholders and herders.
- Improved surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use.
- Adoption of relevant Codex AMR standards for the food production systems in Mongolia.

## Codex texts

The Codex Alimentarius, or “Food Code”, is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice (Codex texts) adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. When food producers and traders comply with Codex texts, consumers can trust the safety and quality of the products they buy and importers can have confidence that the food they ordered will meet the recommended specifications.



CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

For more information, please visit:



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