

Building a Cross-Sector Platform for a One Health AMR Approach

Pioneers

Zambia National Public Health Institute

Countries



Zambia

Project Overview

The different priorities and mandates across sectors is a frequent challenge when implementing One Health solutions to address AMR.

To build cohesion, the Zambia National Public Health Institute created a new platform where every sector nominated a dedicated focal point who would spearhead activities on AMR. These individuals however have other responsibilities. The ideal would be to have the role as a dedicated job with a functional secretariat, rather than the position forming part of a wider remit.

Representatives from across human health, animal health, environment, food, drug, and agriculture sectors were brought together through the initiative to understand respective challenges and opportunities for change across sectors.

Impact

Through their collaborative One Health approach, the Zambia National Public Health Institute was able to prioritise and maximise resources – identifying sustainable and effective solutions that could be embedded into the country's National Action Plan on AMR.

Awareness materials have been developed for children, farmers, and healthcare professionals, and journalist engagement has also been conducted to encourage information dissemination. Another successful awareness activity has been university debates on AMR. This has in turn created an organisation called Youthful AMR Ambassadors for Zambia and garnered momentum against AMR.

Surveillance sites have expanded, which have seen benefit from surveillance infrastructure necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A draft policy document has been developed and piloting of stewardship measures has begun in selected healthcare facilities. Political will is no equivalent to financial commitment, but pushing AMR up the political agenda is vital to the cause.

