

# Integrating gender & equity in AMR intervention and implementation research projects in LMICs

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## 01 Introduction

- There are limited intersectional perspectives in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research.
- To date, AMR research has failed to consider that complex socio-cultural behaviours and roles can hinder implementation research outcomes (e.g. uptake, acceptability, and sustainability).
- Therefore, **AMR research requires insight into the interplay of social and cultural factors** (e.g. gender and other intersectional characteristics).
- These factors can influence aspects such as antimicrobial use patterns, treatment-seeking behaviours and experiences of disease across One Health and in sector specific settings.<sup>1</sup>
- To address this, ICARS and IDRC developed a **resource for AMR researchers to integrate a gender and equity lens in AMR innovation to implementation research**<sup>2</sup> (hereafter *Practical Pathways* document).
- We aim to pilot the **Practical Pathways document** to integrate gender and equity strategies into AMR intervention and implementation research projects.

## 02 Methods

- Five existing human and animal health AMR intervention and implementation research projects** (see figure 1) will integrate a gender and equity lens.
- Projects were selected from existing ICARS and IDRC research portfolios based on criteria such as:
  - Willingness, feasibility, team resourcing capabilities, technical suitability, suitability of project stage.
- Apart from providing **financial support** to project teams, a roster of **Subject Matter Experts** (SMEs) in gender and equity was established.
- Projects will **pilot the Practical Pathways document**, while receiving one-on-one support from a SME.

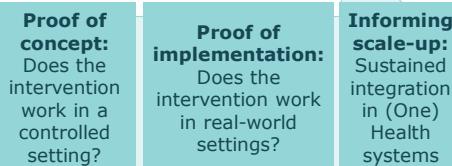


Figure 1: Intervention and Implementation Research continuum. Selected projects fit within proof of concept and proof of implementation.

## 03 Results

- Grants and SME support for 5 AMR research projects (launch in late 2024).
- Teams and SMEs will:
  - Convene in-person for co-learning
  - Learn how to conduct an intersectional gender analysis
  - Develop an analysis for their project context
  - Use the *Practical Pathways document* and other resources to develop a workplan based on context and research stage (see figure 2)
- Teams will implement workplans to address gender and equity factors in their research projects
- Ongoing SME support
- Projects will meet virtually once a quarter to share experiences and support each other
- Process learnings will be extracted to understand how other AMR research projects can integrate a gender and equity lens
- Barriers and enablers to implementation will be assessed

## 04 Results cont.

We anticipate that projects will adopt gender sensitive and/or gender responsive approaches in their workplans.

For example:

- Refining data collection approaches to improve where and how data is collected e.g. informal and formal health facilities based on the likelihood of representing people with different gender and equity characteristics (**gender sensitive**).
- Developing community participatory approaches to inform intervention design to support equal decision-making opportunities (**gender responsive**).

Gender transformative solutions are encouraged to address harmful norms and power inequalities, but this may be ambitious as projects are already underway.



Figure 2: Research cycle to provide conceptually distinct entry points for integrating gender and equity considerations

## 05 Conclusion

This initiative brings a novel and practical perspective to current AMR research in LMICs and will:

- Pilot the **Practical Pathways document**.
- Inform how a **gender and equity lens can improve the implementation of context-specific AMR interventions** to enhance project uptake, acceptability, and sustainability, and to support equity.
- Help to **demonstrate the social and cultural complexities** when developing and implementing AMR intervention research.
- Document and communicate lessons learned** to help understand how a gender and equity lens can be integrated into AMR research in human and animal health settings.
- Results of the studies will **inform further scale-up** of the *Practical Pathways* document.

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- We thank Jive Media Africa for preparing figure 2, which is part of the *Practical Pathways* document.

## Related literature

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