International Centre for **Antimicrobial Resistance** Solutions

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The need for intervention and implementation research

As highlighted by the Tripartite, Inter Agency Coordinating Group and the World bank there is an unmet gap in AMR mitigation. Although most countries have a national Action Plan – implementation of these plans are challenging for most countries not the least for LMICs.

To advance implementation there is an urgent need for the development of sustainable context specific solutions.
ICARS’ Scope

ICARS is an international One Health partnership, initiated by Denmark, with the aims to tackle AMR by:

• Supporting implementation research for the development of interventions to tackle AMR, in partnership with LMICs

• Supporting the translation of evidence and policies into practice - closing the existing knowledge gap on what solutions work nationally and locally

• Advocating globally for intervention and implementation research as an important area to tackle AMR

• Supporting capacity and capability building through training and nurturing AMR champions in LMICs
ICARS Core Principles

Country Ownership
- Country-owned and led
- Priorities defined by the countries based on needs and challenges

One Health Sensitive
- A collaborative, multisector and holistic approach, involving human and animal sciences, environmental sciences, social sciences and economics.

Partnership
- Delivering in partnerships with countries and key stakeholders

Solution(s)-focused
- Providing policy-relevant evidence-based solutions
- Translation of national action plans and international policies into practice on the ground

Sustainability
- Cost-effective solutions
- Laying the foundation for change and supporting initial implementation
- Capacity and capability building in country (supporting leaders and local champions)
- Alignment to other agendas and priorities (e.g. SDGs, Universal Health Coverage)
ICARS - National Level

- Priorities set by and with LMICs – preventing as well as controlling AMR
- Working with countries at government level (ministries), AMR Coordinating Committees and other stakeholders
- LMICs leading the activities, co-development with ICARS
- Aligning with existing national activities and initiatives
- Output co-owned by LMICs and ICARS

**Demonstration projects in development:**
- AMR in aquaculture and pig industry in Vietnam - MARD
- AMR stewardship in Georgia – NCDC/NFA/WHO
- Initial discussions with African countries
- Open invitation to partner with LMICs – currently finalised
ICARS - Global Level

• Platform with activities in various locations around the world

• Working with global policymakers to advocate for implementation research

• Produce independent evidence synthesis, assessments and reports highlighting evidence gaps

• Aim at making the evidence and solutions generated nationally available in open repositories
Potential Partnerships

• Partnering countries either as donors or recipients

• International Organizations: WHO, FAO, OIE, UNEP, EU, WB, ReAct, UNICEF

• National and International Networks: SEDRIC, APUA, INAMRSS, FAIRR, CGIAR

• Existing AMR initiatives: UK Fleming Fund, GAMRIF, GARDP, Joint Programming Initiative for AMR

• Research Institutions: ILRI, Radboud University, Imperial College London, INSERM

• Private sector: Diagnostics, food industry
AMR and COVID-19

• COVID-19 already challenges health systems worldwide and may continue to do so for a considerable time!

• Increase pressure on AMR due to antibiotic usage and breakdown of IPC

• Research areas of mutual interest – prevention (such as WASH, stewardship, physical distancing) and control (surveillance both in HCS and communities)

• ICARS approach to develop interventions in partnership with LMICs will not only impact AMR directly but will benefit the response to pandemics such as COVID-19

• One-health approach is crucial and therefore strengthening cross sectorial collaboration is imperative for preparedness for future pandemics
Partnering with LMICs - process

PHASE 0
- Expression of interest from LMIC ministries
- ICARS forwards framework for country engagement

PHASE 1
- Concept note from LMIC
- ICARS reviews concept note

PHASE 2
- Pre-project proposal
- Co-development of the pre-project proposal (country with support from ICARS)
- Country submits final project proposal for assessment

PHASE 3
- Final project proposal
- Project implementation

- Technical Advisory Forum
- ICARS Steering Committee for approval
- MoU with ministry