

To

**World Health Organization's Executive Board,
One Health Global Leaders' Group on Antimicrobial Resistance &
Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, World Health Organization**

As the World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing for its 148th Executive Board, we the undersigned, call upon WHO to create ring-fenced funding to establish '**A United Digital (online) Platform to Support Engagement of Young People on One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance**'.

Evidence on the crisis experienced as a result of increasing antimicrobial resistance across our planet is clearly documented with clear and significant impact on human, animal, environmental and planetary health. The WHO has taken a positive stance in being part of the Tripartite leadership with calls for a united, One Health Agenda. Implicit is the need for action across and within all sections of society and technology, and considerable investment has to be forthcoming. Since the launch of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, there has been increasing recognition of the value and capability of local campaign and action groups, in particular those formed by younger members in society. This reflects younger peoples' acceptance of greater 'people power' to bring about collective change within local populations and pushing boundaries in professional education and development.

Without doubt, **young people represent a massive asset to support citizen-led action on antimicrobial resistance**, through direct and indirect interventions. The number of groups operationalising students to engage local people about AMR is increasingly visible around the world, from single universities (e.g., University of Manchester Antimicrobial Student Society, University of Nigeria BIOSMERS) to collective country/regional-level networks (e.g., [ASPIC Clubs](#), Students Stopping Superbugs, [Students Against Superbugs Africa](#) to name just a few). Besides, there are several groups working to design tools and strategies to inform children and school students about Antimicrobial Resistance, AMR sensitive issues and appropriate use of medicines (e.g., [e-bug](#), [Alforja Educative](#), [Superheroes Against Superbugs](#) etc). The [Global AMR Youth Summit](#), organized by various students' organizations in 2020, is a wonderful example of student-led action on the issue.

Recently, an international ad-hoc working group identified the strengths of this work, reflecting numerous discussions with individuals and groups affiliated with over the past 6 months. The members of the working group had extensive experience in seeding youth-led movements on AMR in several Low-Middle Income Country contexts. Besides, all the members had also worked on piloting various strategies to increase awareness of AMR among young people. A significant weakness was noted based on the **lack of a central platform** to connect, communicate and co-create engagement and action on AMR with and for young people. Such a platform would help in utilizing the resources better and reduce redundancy; apart from aiding optimization of strategies to engage young people on AMR. We were expecting the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, as recommended by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group, to partly plug the gap, but it has not materialized yet.

Therefore, we propose the formation of a **united, global platform** that will **maximise assets for action** from our young people on AMR. It will do so by: -

- Leading training on key skills for youth led engagement on AMR to increase the quality and impact from their interventions, including approaches to the design and evaluation

- Taking a leadership on designing the structure of curricula for school children and young people at various ages, to increase their understanding of AMR and appropriate use of medicines.
- Increasing accessibility to tried and tested resources to share effective practice, whilst encouraging new and novel methods
- Providing a visible platform to raise the recognised global and local importance of this work, inspiring new and existing groups to continue and increase their impact
- Sharing innovations and practice to encourage local solutions for local community engagement
- Providing space and place for young people from multiple disciplines to be visible and accessible, as part of the One Health, and One Planet response to AMR

We call upon the WHO Director General, the Executive Board and One Health Global Leaders' Group to consider the following suggestions:

- 1- Establish a small, but necessary **ring-fenced investment plan** with a minimum 5-year term, to mobilize action to engage young people on AMR.
- 2- Appoint a **focal point** within the WHO's Department of Global Coordination and Partnership on AMR, to streamline all activities aimed at designing strategies to engage young people
- 3- Establish an **expert group on young people and AMR**, drawing on the expertise available at academia, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and inter-governmental agencies.
- 4- Continue the WHO support to programs and activities aimed at mobilizing young people on aspects of **innovation and research**.
- 5- Establish a program to develop '**AMR Champions**' among young people and support and train to become global ambassadors of the issue.
- 6- Provide aid for designing and rolling out a '**United Digital platform to Support Engagement of Young People on One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance**'



African Union of Medical Laboratory Students | Antibiotic Research UK | Antimicrobial Resistance Stewardship Uganda | ASPIC Clubs | Biomedical Students Mentorship and Research Society | Centre for Disease Dynamics Economics and Policy | Chennai Declaration | CHILDS Trust Medical Research Foundation | Community Engagement for AMR | e-bug Thanjavur | Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network | Health & Hygiene Outreach Trust | Indian Initiative for Management of Antibiotic Resistance | INES Ruhengeri | International Federation of Medical Students Associations | Oazis Health | ReAct-Action on Antimicrobial Resistance | Roger Harrison- University of Manchester | Roll Back AMR Initiative | Rwanda Community Pharmacists Union | Students Against Superbugs Africa | Superheroes Against Superbugs

Individual endorsements

Signatories	Organization/Institution	Country
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