ReAct - a global network

Our vision
A world free from untreatable infections

Our mission
To enable collective action that ensures sustainable and equitable access to effective antibiotics for all

ReAct North America, based at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, United States of America, focuses on global strategic policy, organizes global student design sprints, and acts as the secretariat for the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC), comprising of over 27 civil society groups.

ReAct Europe, based at Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, specializes in translating scientific evidence and developing policy positions to inform global policy on global governance, financing, research and innovation. ReAct Europe is also the coordinating node for the whole network.

ReAct Latin America, based at the Child to Child Foundation in Cuenca, Ecuador, works to change behavior and practice with indigenous communities, school children and local authorities, by focusing on increasing awareness about resistance, and thereby changing how antibiotics are seen and used.

ReAct Africa, based at Pharmaceutical Systems Africa in Lusaka, Zambia, and supports sub-Saharan African governments, regional economic blocs, communities, students and professionals in the development and implementation of One Health regional and national action plans.

ReAct Asia Pacific, based at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, works to mobilize policy makers, healthcare providers, and the public, using a holistic, One Health perspective, by developing locally appropriate and innovative initiatives and models to address antibiotic resistance.
Antibiotics vs. Antimicrobials

Antimicrobials include antibiotics, and therefore antimicrobial resistance (AMR) also includes antibiotic resistance. ReAct focuses solely on antibiotic resistance. In the global landscape, while the focus is usually on antibiotics, the broader term of AMR is often used to ensure resistance to other antimicrobials (viruses, parasites, fungi) is not excluded or forgotten. As a result, much of our work in this report is described under the overarching term of antimicrobial resistance.
Despite being a period marked by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, over the last four years, clear progress has been made in global efforts to address antibiotic resistance. The enormous impact of the pandemic on society has raised global health on the political agenda. As such, the broader policy environment has fundamentally changed, and global collective action that previously seemed impossible to get off the ground – such as a global legally binding agreement in the global health space – is now being negotiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) through the pandemic accord.

On a practical level, our work in Africa to support countries in development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) became more challenging, as governmental efforts were redirected to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. However, progress on NAP implementation continued in the countries where ReAct had close collaboration. ReAct’s technical support continues to be sought after, particularly in the African region.

Several community initiatives have been piloted in the Asia Pacific Region. As part of the Antibiotic Smart Communities project, ReAct developed an indicator framework to measure the robustness of NAP implementation and identify context appropriate interventions to improve the antibiotic resistance situation in the community. Involvement of local stakeholders has been key to ensuring the project is grounded at the community level.

In Latin America, the educational program ‘Alforja Educativa’ has engaged more than 3500 children and 450 teachers from over 150 elementary schools across the region. The Alforja uses an approach that links children’s learning with taking action to promote the health, well-being and development of not only themselves, but also their families and the communities within which they live.

ReAct has expanded our work markedly into the environmental aspects of antibiotic resistance. At the global level, ReAct’s advocacy to include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) into the global governance structures paid off when UNEP was formally integrated into a new Quadripartite model of governance together with WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE). ReAct staff also served on the core writing group for UNEP’s first global report on the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Our work to advance gender equality within our core work on antibiotic resistance has also developed. ReAct published an overview report on how sex and gender interact with antibiotic resistance, and we have included content on gender mainstreaming within the ReAct Toolbox to help spread this knowledge amongst the wider AMR community.

As part of our mission to ensure access to effective antibiotics for all, ReAct published a report outlining how to prevent inequalities in the development of new antibiotics, outlining key options for policy makers. We also advocated for the inclusion of antibiotic resistance within the broader development agenda, and are therefore particularly proud of the adoption of an antibiotic resistance indicator into the monitoring framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our advocacy for action on antibiotic resistance has been shaped by the needs of LMICs. At ReAct we always strive to include the perspectives of the people and communities with whom we work. In the following report, we are proud to present our key achievements over the last four years and the contribution of ReAct to global efforts to address antibiotic resistance.
Key achievements 2019

Advising on AMR in Africa

- ReAct advised the African Union and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to advance their framework for AMR Control 2020 – 2025, with the support of African-based civil society organizations.

- ReAct was selected to develop a Framework for the Southern African Development Community for AMR NAPs Implementation.

Key achievements 2019

- ReAct advised the African Union and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to advance their framework for AMR Control 2020 – 2025, with the support of African-based civil society organizations.

- Two ReAct Staff were invited to be part of the United Nations (UN) Interagency Coordination Group on AMR. The group developed and presented a set of core recommendations on spurring global action on AMR to the UN Secretary-General.

- The Antibiotic Smart Communities project was launched in India with the aim to develop a conceptual framework to quantify the preparedness of a community in mitigating antibiotic resistance and develop contextually appropriate interventions to address shortcomings.

- ReAct hosted the second Latin American summit ‘Mother Nature, One Health’ which engaged a broad set of actors on antibiotic resistance including local governments, academia, health professionals, agriculture producers, social organizations, community leaders, indigenous groups, healers and practitioners of ancestral medicine, women associations, medical teachers and students.

- ReAct released a publication outlining antibiotic resistance as a global development problem. This was used to advocate for inclusion of antibiotic resistance within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at a side event at the World Health Assembly.

- Long term advocacy efforts to mobilize financial support for LMICs bore fruits when the initial financing structure for NAP implementation was created with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund on AMR, which was heavily advocated for by ReAct.
Under the Antibiotic Smart Farms project, ReAct produced a report on antibiotic use in food animal farming in Indonesia.

ReAct Africa expanded, opening its new head office in Lusaka, Zambia, hosted by Pharmaceutical Systems Africa.

The Global Leaders Group on AMR was established. ReAct sent an open letter to the co-chairs of the group to highlight the need for renewed global leadership, systems thinking, sustainable financing, and a clear roadmap on its priorities and goals to which it should hold itself accountable.

Kenya’s National Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines, developed with technical support from ReAct, were officially launched in July 2020.

Following several years pushing for the inclusion of antibiotic resistance within Agenda 2030, ReAct was pleased to see an indicator on AMR added to the SDGs framework.

ReAct continued to develop and spread the educational program the Alforja Educativa. Virtual workshops and trainings were held with professionals in the areas of education, school psychology and medicine. The Alforja was translated into English and shared with partners in Kenya for early implementation.

ReAct advocated for the inclusion of antibiotic resistance in broader health programs, publishing on the interlinkages between AMR and cancer, child health, sepsis and gender.

The Union for International Cancer Control created a taskforce on AMR and invited ReAct to become a member.

ReAct Impact Report 2019-2022
ReAct’s Antibiotic Smart Communities indicator framework was piloted in Kerala, India.

Ensuring sustainable access to antibiotics

ReAct published the report “Ensuring sustainable access to effective antibiotics for everyone, everywhere – How to address the global crisis in antibiotic Research and Development” which outlined an end-to-end approach to developing new antibiotics.

AMR and the environment

ReAct established a collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and developed a set of policy briefs targeting country-level policy makers. ReAct staff also served on the core writing group for the first global report on the environmental dimensions of AMR.

Supporting NAP implementation

A partnership was formed between ReAct and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) with the aim to develop and disseminate context-specific guidance and tools to support NAP implementation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Collaborating with Ministry of Health Zambia

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health, Republic of Zambia and ReAct Africa for supporting the implementation of Zambia’s Multi-sectoral NAP on AMR.

The Global Leaders Group on AMR made it an advocacy priority to include AMR in the newly proposed Pandemic Treaty. ReAct had previously developed a policy brief on AMR and the Pandemic Treaty and given a presentation for the Global Leaders Group.

2021 Key achievements

Piloting community projects

Through the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC), ReAct gave input to WHO’s Comprehensive Review of the Global Action Plan on AMR.

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ReAct’s long advocacy for UNEP to join FAO, WHO, and WOAH in AMR global governance, paid off as UNEP became an official partner in the formation of a new Quadripartite collaboration.

ReAct’s messages on the importance of a public health needs driven “end-to-end” approach to antibiotic research and development (R&D) were embraced and incorporated into the agenda of a high-level meeting on AMR during the Swedish presidency of the European Union.

The ReAct supported Zambia Strategic Program for Antimicrobial Stewardship, was launched with the aim to realize Zambia’s AMR NAP goals in antimicrobial stewardship.

ReAct organized the ‘Colloquium on state action plans for AMR in India’ in New Delhi, along with the Indian WHO country office and World Animal Protection, India. This meeting served to share learnings with representatives from 16 Indian states, experts from the Indian government, civil society, and others.

Together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ReAct hosted the Latin American & Caribbean Meeting of Empowered Communities to tackle AMR, resulting in the ‘Declaration of Empowered Communities’ which urges governments to strengthen effective community participation in AMR action plans.

Advocacy: governance

R&D viewpoints embraced

Establishing stewardship structures
Countries develop and implement NAPs with respect to sustainable access to effective antibiotics, that are inclusive of civil society, local community views and based on situational analyses with ReAct’s support.

National Action Plans on AMR

As a network present in low- and middle-income countries, ReAct has engaged and supported key actors in developing and implementing National Action Plans.

Countries across the globe face the daunting task of developing and implementing NAPs on AMR. In many LMICs, the lack of sector wide engagement and locally generated data makes the development and revision of plans a challenge and risks that plans are disconnected from the realities on the ground. Furthermore, limited political support and coordination, combined with a lack of funding creates structural barriers to successful implementation.

Over the last 4 years, ReAct has been working to build bridges between international and regional bodies, country governments, civil society, academia, and professional organizations to clear these hurdles and advance the implementation of NAPs, thereby strengthening the in-country response to antibiotic resistance. In provision of technical support in the development, mid- and end-term reviews of NAPs, we aim to ensure that countries take a holistic approach and prioritize interventions that tackle the local drivers of antibiotic resistance while ensuring sustainable access. To anchor the implementation of NAPs, ReAct’s strategy has been to promote integration of policies and initiatives into existing programs and to support antibiotic stewardship activities at the country level.

ReAct has supported more than 9 African countries and 16 Indian states in their work on action plans. We have played an important catalyst role, proactively engaging key actors to mobilize the needed support. Providing expert advice on the formulation and operationalization of action plans, we have advocated for a One Health approach and helped governments and local authorities to identify areas to strengthen mitigation efforts. Our expertise has been sought after by government ministries, regional institutions such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and regional offices of international organizations like WHO. Our track record for supporting antimicrobial stewardship at the facility level has established us as technical experts, particularly in the African region.
In Latin America, we have fostered a community-led approach to NAP implementation. By establishing an extensive network of academics, scientists, artists, and social leaders, we have capitalized on the power of civil society to raise the profile of antibiotic resistance and the need for action at the national level, as well as to advocate for transparent and inclusive governance. Partnering with PAHO, we have spurred dialogues between these diverse actors, governmental representatives, and international bodies at several co-organized meetings and events. ReAct has become a regional reference and meeting point. We are valued as a trusted partner due to our scientific rigor, capacity for communication and joyful, passionate and innovative approaches to addressing antibiotic resistance.

Implementation of NAPs is dependent on sufficient resources and funding must be mobilized. We have engaged global institutions and financing agencies that provide technical, financial and human resources. When government implementation of NAPs has lagged behind, we have catalyzed broad grassroots mobilization and advocacy to serve as a ‘watch’, to create accountability and ensure ownership of activities in NAP implementation.
ReAct Impact Report 2019-2022

Zambia Strategic Program for Antimicrobial Stewardship
This country-wide, all-inclusive and supportive program for antimicrobial stewardship is an adaptation of the Swedish STRAMA model. It is a result of targeted support from ReAct and strong engagement from the Zambia National Public Health Institute. Launched in 2022, this program aims to play an integral role in realizing the goals of Zambia’s AMR NAP through strengthening of antimicrobial stewardship, developing and utilization of evidence-based treatment guidelines, capacity building and a whole of society engagement, across the One Health spectrum.

Antibiotic Smart Communities in Kerala, India
To measure robustness of NAP implementation at the community level, ReAct developed an indicator framework to define and evaluate “antibiotic smartness” in community settings. The framework was developed in dialogue with local stakeholders and global experts. Objectively monitoring 15 antibiotic resistance-specific and antibiotic resistance-sensitive indicators from the human, animal, environment, and trans-sectoral domains, it can help policymakers and local stakeholders understand the impact of various antibiotic resistance policies, and identify opportunities for action.
• Piloted in a community of 11,000 people in Kerala, India.
• After baseline measurement, community dialogue was held to develop an action agenda of 12 context specific activities to address shortcomings.
• Activities implemented over 6 months, with the help of community members, including local women’s self-help groups.
• Follow-up measurement showed improvement within 2 indicators.
• To assess the framework in diverse socio-cultural contexts, it was also piloted in four other communities of India, where it was found to be feasible, valid, and reliable.

In 2019, an estimated 1.27 million deaths were a direct result of antibiotic resistant bacterial infections and 7.7 million deaths were found to be linked to bacterial infections.
Reducing the need to use antimicrobials in the food system

With support from FAO, ReAct organized regional policy dialogues, and youth engagement activities which explored the connection between AMR and the food system.

We gathered civil-society input into FAO’s campaign to reduce the need for antimicrobials in the food system.

We also explored how market signals may be leveraged to reduce the need for antimicrobials in food production, thereby reducing the environmental footprint of antimicrobial residues and AMR organisms.

Calling upon our extensive networks, we identified promising initiatives in this area and produced illustrative video documentaries to share as inspirational examples about Global Farmer Field Schools in Zambia, Biosecurity program for farmers in Indonesia, and Sustainable Shrimp Partnership initiative among Ecuadorian shrimp fisheries.

Empowered communities in Latin America

Encouraging participation and listening to the realities that communities face, has allowed us to build sustainable, consensual solutions between governments and civil society. In Latin America, ReAct has led a diverse set of programs to create spaces for social engagement and participation in the development of NAPs.

Declaration of Empowered Communities
A declaration urging governments to strengthen effective community participation in NAPs signed by 100 people from 11 countries.

Call to Latin American Governments to contain antibiotic resistance
Which contained 12 cross-sectoral proposals ranging from restricting the use of antibiotics in livestock to promoting healthy agri-food systems for humans and the planet, was signed by 174 researchers and social leaders.

Dancing with bacteria
A theatrical production combining traditional music together with modern dance to raise awareness about antibiotic resistance.

Let’s make history, telling our stories
An international call for stories written about antibiotic resistance-related issues such as universal health coverage, poverty, food justice and environmental sustainability. 34 stories from 9 countries were used to amplify the voices of communities in regional and national discussions.
Movement building

Coalitions, communities of practice and movements are strengthened and extended to address antibiotic resistance through narratives and action that contribute to universal health coverage, poverty reduction, food justice and environmental sustainability.

As the breadth of organizations working on antibiotic resistance has grown and started to formulate effective approaches to address the issue, governments, industry and international organizations have come under increased pressure to adopt solutions reflecting these inter-sectoral perspectives. This has been crucial to holding key stakeholders true to the adopted principles, perspectives and commitments despite the lack of strong global binding agreements. ReAct’s global presence through our five geographic nodes has helped us to engage partners and communities from LMICs. By listening to their needs and realities, it has helped us to ensure that the perspectives of people living in poverty are not only addressed in the settings where they live but are also amplified in national and global level discussions.

We have sought to engage the wide range of sectors which are tied to and impacted by antibiotic resistance to address this global threat within their own agendas and spheres of work. To engage non-traditional stakeholders, we have developed evidence-based narratives on how areas such as sustainable development, food justice, poverty reduction, gender, the environment and universal health coverage are intimately connected to antibiotic resistance. We have sought to use existing or create new forums that can facilitate the building of strategic connections and collective mobilization.

Historically, structural and systematic change across the health, agricultural and environmental sectors has only been possible with the global mobilization of civil society. For a long-term, effective response to antibiotic resistance, ReAct has encouraged and inspired movements, organizations, individuals, professional societies, and experts to engage in antibiotic resistance.

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Our strategy to engagement has been context specific. By identifying the needs in the settings where we work, we have identified appropriate target groups, and tailored ways
of working. In Africa, ReAct has placed an emphasis on engagement of professionals and experts on antibiotic resistance, providing a unique multi-sectoral platform for exchange of information and sharing of best practices. In Latin America, our work is aimed at the most impoverished groups of the population, including women, children, rural communities, and small and medium sized food producers. In addition, we collaborate with trade associations, healthcare professionals, academics and artists. In the Asia Pacific region, ReAct has brought together civil society and academia who are interested in community mobilization, advocacy for public health issues and agriculture, and created a virtual platform to support network building and for dissemination of information through a newsletter and podcast series.

Across all regions, ReAct has sought to cultivate the next generation of antibiotic resistance champions by inspiring students and youth to take action on antibiotic resistance regionally and globally. They are the next generation of public health professionals, the future antibiotic prescribers, users, stewards, and policymakers in their professional practice. ReAct has capitalized on the power of students to pass on health information to a wider audience, forming a link between the scientific community and the general public. ReAct has been targeting students from elementary to tertiary level through various initiatives ranging from basic awareness raising to community engagement activities and science-related events.
Alforja Educativa - Student Health and the Microbial world

2022 marked 10 years of the Alforja Educativa, an innovative educational initiative which aims to explain our complex relationship with bacteria and the importance of bacteria for life, health and well-being. Building upon the indigenous principles of Sumak Kawsay, the Alforja highlights the importance of using antibiotics with care to maintain the balance in the microbial world and limit the development of antibiotic resistance. Originating in Ecuador, ReAct has spread the Alforja across Latin America at international gatherings and by training numerous educators, health promoters and health professionals who in turn have trained children and adolescents.

The Alforja:
- Utilizes the Child-to-Child methodology in which schoolchildren play an active role in their own learning process through recreational, artistic and practical experiences.
- Children act as agents of change sharing new knowledge with their families and communities.
- Translated from Spanish to English and Portuguese, early stages of implementation in Kenya and soon to be piloted in Brazil.

Alforja Educativa engagement
3500 children
450 teachers
150 elementary schools
700 university students
30 university professors
50 civil society organizations
2 teacher trade union organizations

ReAct Africa Annual Conference
This annual gathering provides a platform to engage and build capacity within civil society and among government representatives across the health, agricultural, and environmental sectors in the Africa region. The sharing of best practices amongst participants has been instrumental in processes to take action at the country level, strengthen multi-country networks, and set regional priorities. The conference has grown over the years and now includes over 120 participants from approximately 30 African countries as well as representatives from regional and global organizations such as the United Nations Children’s...
Engaging students and youth to take action on antibiotic resistance

Innovate4Health and Innovate4AMR
Partnering with WHO and the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA), ReAct has organized an annual global design competition to encourage teams of university and graduate students to undertake innovative approaches to tackling antibiotic resistance that consider the needs of resource-limited settings. Teams received expert coaching while they gained practical experience, honing their approach to advocate and engage key stakeholders, and pitching their project ideas to an expert panel.

Antimicrobial Resistance Leaders Program for Tertiary Students in Africa
ReAct mobilized university students in Africa in collaboration with Students Against Superbugs - Africa. Students gained knowledge and skills for developing, implementing and supporting interventions on antibiotic resistance through a six-month program, and have since started various community outreach events. To date, 91 students from eight African countries have graduated from the program.

Antibiotic Stewardship and Prevention of Infection in Communities Clubs
16 Indian university student clubs have been formed with the aim to sensitize and engage students on antibiotic resistance and infection prevention measures in communities. Training sessions were held for primary and high school students. Photography, research proposal and scientific poster competitions on topics such as One Health, food safety, appropriate medicine use antibiotic resistance engaged students across India.

Antibiotic Smart Farms
ReAct has targeted farmers’ groups to sensitize them about antibiotic resistance and devising methods to help them transition away from unnecessary antibiotic use.

India – Organized various engagement activities with farmers and the Indian Veterinary Association to identify biosecurity measures for poultry and shrimp farms in low-resources settings. This resulted in a Poultry biosecurity and disease prevention toolkit.

Kenya – Engaged the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Agriculture Livestock and Research Organization, and WOAH to promote better farming practices to reduce the use of antibiotics in dairy farming.

Indonesia – Produced a report on antibiotic use in food animal farming, gathering information from consultations with civil society organizations, state agencies and international institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO.
Universal Health Coverage
To build political commitment for the need to manage antibiotic resistance within strategies for universal health coverage, ReAct developed a policy brief and distributed it to country officials ahead of the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage in 2019. Language on antibiotic resistance was successfully included in the political declaration on Universal Health Coverage.

Integration of antibiotic resistance within other health topics
ReAct has advocated for the inclusion of antibiotic resistance in a number of broader health programs at the national, regional and global level.

Cancer
To motivate the global cancer community to take up the topic of antibiotic resistance into their own agenda, ReAct has developed a policy brief on the negative impact of antibiotic resistance on cancer care outcomes including for LMICs. As a result of ReAct’s engagement, the Union for International Cancer Control invited us to be part of their newly established taskforce on AMR, and has adopted policy positions in line with ReAct’s views.

“Addressing antibiotic resistance is critical in improving cancer care outcomes globally and is a priority for UICC.

The time to address this issue is now, we therefore welcome ReAct’s work on highlighting the threat of antibiotic resistance in cancer care and look forward to working together in raising awareness on this issue and mobilize action towards change.

Furthermore, the lack of access in low resource settings and the excessive irrational use of antibiotics need to be addressed.”

Dr. Cary Adams, Chief Executive Officer, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Neonatal sepsis
To gain insight on challenges faced treating neonatal sepsis caused by resistant pathogens, ReAct surveyed over 400 doctors from 74 countries. The initiative and results garnered the interest of many organizations who are now keen on working with antibiotic resistance in their regions, networks and coalitions.

60% of physicians are very or extremely worried antibiotic resistance is threatening the effective treatment of neonatal sepsis.
Globally coordinated governance on antimicrobial resistance ensures a sustainable response that takes into account the needs, challenges and priorities of LMICs.

To ensure an effective response to antibiotic resistance, governance mechanisms must take a One Health approach, be transparent, inclusive and accountable, and address the needs, challenges and priorities of LMICs. To support this, we have explored and advocated for opportunities to establish globally binding agreements on antibiotic resistance. Through sharing data and shedding light on policy discussions amongst governments, foundations, and industry, ReAct has advocated for policy makers to take approaches that support the public interest, and account for LMIC concerns.

We have advocated for addressing antibiotic resistance within the SDGs and pandemic preparedness. Throughout the UN Interagency Coordination Group processes, we have called for increased transparency, independence and swift establishment of all components of a new global governance structure. In the establishment of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, we have emphasized the need for renewed global leadership, systems thinking, sustainable financing, and called for a clear roadmap on its priorities and goals to which it should hold itself accountable.

ReAct has campaigned for financing of antibiotic resistance to be informed by and support LMIC needs. Aware of the challenges to sustainable financing, we have engaged with country officials and UN country missions to advocate for antibiotic resistance as a development issue that needs investments to strengthen systems for healthcare, agriculture and food production. ReAct advocated for the establishment of a Multi-Partner Trust Fund on Antimicrobial Resistance which became a reality in 2020.

We have encouraged strategic partners and agencies to participate in global governance and to ensure representation and inclusion of LMIC perspectives in discussions and negotiations. For broader engagement across the UN, ReAct hosted a roundtable discussion with several agencies including UNICEF and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).
ReAct also advised the African Union and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to advance their framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control 2020 – 2025, with the support of African-based civil society organizations (CSOs). To ensure global perspectives are included in the European Union’s (EU) work on antibiotic resistance, ReAct has engaged with groups such as the EU Members of Parliament Interest Group on AMR, the European Investment Bank, and several EU Member States. As a result, ReAct has been invited to provide expert advice and has submitted responses to several EU public consultations.

**ReAct serves as the Secretariat to the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC),** an alliance of 27 CSOs working in the health, agriculture, consumer and development sectors from the global north and south as well as the South Centre which represents 54 developing country governments. The coalition advocates for policy change, action and accountability, lifting up concerns of civil society and the voices from LMICs, by sharing evidence from the work of its members and extended network of partners. ReAct’s policy efforts have been amplified by the ARC member organizations’ outreach to member state governments. Intergovernmental agencies have recognized the value of engaging with ARC, and have approached ARC to convene consultations on key issues.
**Antibiotic resistance-specific indicators adopted within the SDGs**

ReAct has long championed the inclusion of antibiotic resistance within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have published several papers on the connections between antibiotic resistance and the SDGs, and have advocated for antibiotic resistance specific indicators to track progress on the SDGs. As part of the UN Interagency Coordination Group on AMR, ReAct staff was involved in developing the recommendations which called upon the Tripartite agencies (FAO, WHO, and WOAH) to put forward an antibiotic resistance-specific indicator for the SDGs. ReAct then mobilized civil society support of the WHO-backed SDG indicator tracking antibiotic-resistant bloodstream infections. In 2020, this new AMR indicator was included in the monitoring framework of the SDGs. Following this, in 2021 the Tripartite agencies and UNEP announced in a paper that another indicator could also be seen as useful for tracking access to antibiotics.

**Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC)**

Initiatives undertaken by ARC have laid the groundwork to hold WHO and other components of global governance accountable for their work.

ARC provided comments regarding the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR.

When the five-year review of the Global Action Plan on AMR was overdue, the ARC called on WHO to take action. Subsequently, ARC held a consultation and developed a policy brief providing input that carried directly into WHO’s Comprehensive Review of the Global Action Plan.

ARC organized consultations on FAO’s proposal to reduce the use of antimicrobials in the food system, and SECURE, a WHO-backed initiative to make new and old antibiotics more accessible in LMICs.
Strengthening the environmental response to antibiotic resistance

Promising developments in the food and environment sectors have provided ReAct opportunities to advance a One Health approach to tackling antibiotic resistance, expanding our work markedly into the environmental aspects of the issue. ReAct supported UNEP, as they developed their foundational work on AMR.

- ReAct provided input through an expert consultation, developed a set of policy briefs targeting country-level policy makers, and served on the core writing group for the first global report on the environmental dimensions of AMR.
- UNEP took in significant input from ReAct, including how AMR influences the SDGs, particularly SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- Through policy briefs, social media advocacy and inputs to WHO, ReAct has long called for UNEP to become part of the AMR governance structure. In 2022, the environment and UNEP were formally integrated into a new Quadripartite model of AMR governance.

Inclusion of antibiotic resistance in the scope of a pandemic treaty

In exploring and advocating for opportunities to include antibiotic resistance in a globally binding pandemic treaty, ReAct’s opinion and analyses have been sought after by country governments, and the Global Leaders Group on AMR. ReAct developed a policy brief on the topic, gave a presentation for the Global Leaders Group, and participated in public hearings providing spoken and written contributions including to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for the pandemic treaty. ReAct has also engaged in various dialogues and meetings with academia and civil society organizations and provided input to recommendation frameworks. ReAct also published articles and other communication material on equitable access to antibiotics within the realm of pandemic preparedness. The Global Leaders Group has prioritized the inclusion of antibiotic resistance in ongoing discussion on the pandemic treaty and has established a Task Force on a Pandemic Treaty.
Public health driven innovation

A public health driven and end-to-end approach to innovation that enables sustainable access to effective antibiotics in LMICs is broadly supported.

We have worked with civil society partners to demand a public health driven research agenda that ensures equitable, sustainable and affordable access to effective antibiotics in LMICs. To achieve this, ReAct has sought to advance a R&D financing model that fully separates the cost of R&D of new antibiotics from the final product price and the volume of sales, and has published a set of public health principles to ensure sustainable access to novel antibiotics. We have advocated for our perspectives to be taken up by relevant actors such as the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), the AMR Action Fund, Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB-X), WHO, Wellcome Trust, European Commission, and the European Investment Bank. One key outcome of our efforts is the inclusion of equitable and sustainable access to antibiotics in the report from the UN Interagency Coordination Group on AMR.

ReAct conceptualized an “end-to-end approach” as a new model to deliver sustainable access to effective antibiotics and published a comprehensive report describing the approach, outlining key options for policy makers. This report was the first of its kind coming from civil society to provide a comprehensive overview of what an end-to-end approach means and how it can be achieved. To support the dissemination of these principles and viewpoints, we developed communication materials and published academic papers to help lay audiences, including students and policymakers, understand the various challenges related to antibiotic development and sustainable access across the entire R&D chain. Following on this work, we called for an “end-to-end approach” as Co-Chair of a technical
working group on aligning pharmaceutical incentives to ensure fairer pricing for the 2021 WHO Fair Pricing Forum.

When proposed policy options do not meet the needs of the public, such as the Transferable Exclusivity Vouchers Act, we have advised against them in favor of more holistic and targeted incentives. We have also contributed to the analyses of new policy options such as establishing pooled procurement mechanisms and regional and national antibiotic production capacity. In 2022, ReAct organized a workshop for leading experts to identify the main challenges in the early stages of antibiotic R&D and propose options for solutions. It generated valuable findings which will be used in ReAct’s future advocacy work to challenge the prevailing narrative of missing market incentives as the main barriers.

Knowing the importance of the EU’s role in access to effective antibiotics, also in LMICs, ReAct has engaged with several EU institutions and CSOs on new incentives for antibiotic R&D. Our advocacy has generated increased interest from CSOs and academics to engage with the topic. Furthermore, ReAct proactively approached the relevant EU presidencies to advocate for inclusion of antibiotic resistance within their agendas, with antibiotic R&D and access becoming a key topic for the 2023 Swedish presidency.
**Swedish High-level meeting on AMR**

In preparation of a high-level meeting on AMR during the Swedish EU presidency in 2023, ReAct participated in an expert advisory group to the Swedish government, provided perspectives to a commissioned background report and published a debate article with a call to action. ReAct’s messages on the importance of a public health needs driven “end-to-end” approach to antibiotic R&D were embraced, a testament to the influence of ReAct and our advocacy efforts on R&D over time.

**Ensuring global perspectives to European R&D**

ReAct has advocated for a novel approach to antibiotic R&D in several meetings and public consultations at the EU level to ensure that a global perspective, including sustainable access to antibiotics in LMICs is considered. Our advocacy efforts have contributed to widening the debate on key challenges in antibiotic R&D and increased support for a number of ReAct’s proposals for novel solutions. By early 2023, new EU policies and funding mechanisms supporting antibiotic R&D, show promising signs of adopting an “end-to-end” approach.

**Raising civil society awareness on challenges of antibiotic R&D and access**

ReAct has been raising awareness among European CSOs on the specific challenges to antibiotic R&D, and mobilizing a wider European coalition to seek more effective policy options to stimulate a wider end-to-end approach to antibiotic R&D. In the coming years, this coalition will be a primary partner, to help ensure sustainable access for all, when new pharmaceutical legislation and R&D incentives are negotiated in Brussels.
A world free from untreatedable infections