



ReAct Africa Annual Report 2024

**Strengthening Africa's action against
antimicrobial resistance: Highlights from 2024**

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Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the governments, partners, health workers, communities, and intergovernmental organizations who stood by ReAct Africa in 2024 as we continued to champion the action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Your collaboration and unwavering commitment were instrumental in driving progress across the sub-Saharan region and beyond. We are also grateful for the support from our funders who believed in the approach and work of ReAct Africa.

MESSAGE
FROM
CO-FOUNDER**Professor Mirfin Mpundu**

Co-founder
ReAct Africa

As we conclude another remarkable year, I am proud to share the progress we've made in combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Our activities, driven by strategic partnerships, innovation, collaboration and evidenced-based, reflect our unwavering commitment to safeguarding Africa's health and voicing our priorities.

AMR National Action Plan support:

ReAct Africa has been actively engaged in providing support to African countries in implementing their AMR National

Action Plans (NAPs). This includes capacity building, knowledge sharing, and the provision of technical guidance, tools and resources. In Rwanda, for instance, we have collaborated with the Government in revising their Phase 1 AMR NAP to develop the Phase 2 by providing technical support and resources. By working closely with national stakeholders, we aim to accelerate the implementation of effective AMR mitigation efforts to safeguard public health in Africa.

Strengthening Healthcare Systems:

We intend to highlight the key challenges unique to Global South such as weak health systems, inadequate Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategies, poor access to existing and novel antibiotics and limited enforcement of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) measures in the region. In this regard, substantial contributions towards strengthening healthcare systems and improving AMS practices were made by ReAct Africa, this year. Through capacity- building initiatives, we have trained healthcare providers on appropriate antibiotic use, IPC and antimicrobial consumption surveillance. By implementing standardized guidelines and promoting data-driven decision-making, we advocated for enhanced quality of care through prudent use of antibiotics.

Innovative Approaches to AMR Mitigation:

Innovation has been at the forefront of our work, as we explore newer solutions to tackle AMR. This year, we piloted Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbots and digital applications that were designed to assist both healthcare practitioners and the general public in making informed decisions about antibiotic use. By integrating One Health principles into these initiatives, we have fostered cross-sector partnerships that would enable holistic approach in addressing AMR.

Empowering Communities and Youth:

We have actively engaged with communities to raise awareness about AMR and promote preventive measures. Through community outreach programs, health education campaigns,



ReAct Africa has been actively engaged in providing support to African countries in implementing their AMR National Action Plans (NAPs). This includes capacity building, knowledge sharing, and the provision of technical guidance, tools and resources

and collaborative workshops especially with those involving Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), we have empowered individuals to make informed choices and take action to protect their health. Moreover, our youth engagement initiatives have been instrumental in driving change. By providing young people with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities through initiatives such as Antimicrobial Resistance Leaders Programme for tertiary students in Africa (AMRLEP) and African Youth Antimicrobial Resistance Alliance – Taskforce (AYARA-TF), to become champions in AMR mitigation, we are building a sustainable pipeline of future health professionals.

Gender-Sensitive Approach:

We are in the process of integrating a gender-sensitive approach into all our activities, recognizing the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women and girls. By addressing gender disparities in access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, we can enhance the effectiveness of our AMR interventions.

Looking Ahead:

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of combating AMR. In the coming year, we will continue to:

- Expand our community engagement programs to reach a wider audience.
- Strengthen our youth engagement initiatives and provide additional opportunities for young leaders.
- Integrate gender-sensitive approaches into all our programs and activities.
- Invest in research and innovation to develop new tools and strategies to combat AMR.
- Advocate more for greater inclusion of and identifying context specific solutions for Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff, partners, and funders for their unwavering support. Together, we can build a healthier future, free from the threat of AMR.

Professor Mirfin Mpundu

Co-founder
ReAct Africa



ReAct Africa – South Centre Conference

The ReAct Africa – South Centre (RAN – SC) conference 2024 took place in Livingstone, Zambia from 9-11 July 2024. With a participation of more than 150 experts and scholars from all over Africa and other parts of the world, it was truly an intensive three days of knowledge sharing, information dissemination, networking, and collaboration among both global and local experts in AMR. The theme for this year was Global Accountability for AMR response: Investing in priorities for Africa, and there were extensive deliberations on the priorities of the continent from the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR during United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) 2024.

This year we brought out the [impact report](#) which evaluated the RAN - SC conferences over the past 8 years, reviewing the various conference themes to assess how it had contributed towards the development of AMR NAPs in the African region.

The conference has evolved to become the most important convening on AMR in the continent, and has contributed extensively to advancing the AMR agenda, sensitization of regional policymakers and resource mobilization for partners. This year, there were participants from 38 African countries, showing the wide reach and impact.

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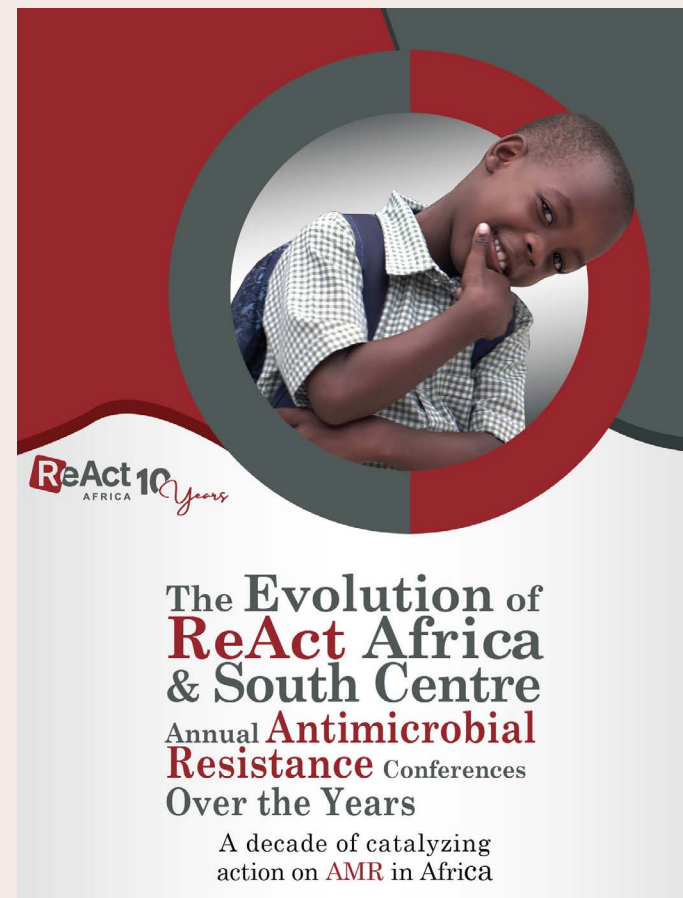
The ReAct Africa - South Centre Conference has helped to put AMR as a priority issue in Africa. It has regularly convened experts with policy makers and a broad range of stakeholders from across sectors of human health, animal health, agriculture and environment, to develop and advance implementation of National Action Plans on AMR. The yearly convening is a landmark event for accessing technical assistance, engaging with potential funders, and expanding a network of peers in the continent. It has grown each year, and gained recognition by multiple international and regional agencies, reflecting the value added it brings to participants.”

Dr Viviana Munoz-Tellez
Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme (HIPB), South Centre



156 Physical Participants
38 Countries (29 African, 9 international)

136 Virtual Participant
67 Countries (registrations)



ReAct Africa – South Centre Conference 2024



"It has been an exciting journey of antimicrobial stewardship at AAR Hospital. Sometimes we do imagine that we do not have a problem or we do not know the problem. Thank you, React Africa, for holding our hands and helping us to peel the onion that is antimicrobial use in AAR, every layer peeled has revealed not only the gap but a solution too. We cannot wait to see what AMS will be at AAR when all the layers are peeled!"

Dr. Grace Wanjohi

Pharmacy Manager, AAR Hospital, Kenya

Advancing antimicrobial stewardship

For over a decade, ReAct Africa has provided technical assistance to countries and organizations, championing AMS across the region. Through capacity building, policy support, and innovative strategies, we have empowered stakeholders to implement sustainable AMS programs at the national and facility levels. From advancing NAPs to fostering community awareness and health system strengthening, our collaborative efforts have significantly enhanced AMS practices, ensuring the responsible use of antimicrobials in the region.



ASPIRE Project

Antibiotic Stewardship Programme through Innovation, Research, and Education (ASPIRE) project is our flagship program which leverages our experience in implementing stewardship initiatives in the region and aims to optimise antibiotic use in Zambia and Kenya by integrating innovative digital solutions with targeted stewardship interventions. ASPIRE focuses on empowering healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools to implement AMS principles effectively, leading to improved patient care and a reduction in antimicrobial resistance. Through targeted research, innovative solutions, comprehensive education, collaborative engagement, use of local data in facility guideline development and leveraging strategic partnerships, the project aspires to establish new benchmarks for sustainable antibiotic

stewardship in LMICs. Several large healthcare facilities, together serving tens of thousands of patients a year, are already a part of the project. We are in the process of developing AI-based chatbots to help providers access evidence-based treatment protocols and standard treatment guidelines on their phones. Centres-of-excellence are also being developed in both countries to serve as future hubs for capacity building in other facilities.

Continued support to healthcare facilities in Kenya and Zambia

We have been supporting several healthcare facilities in Kenya and Zambia to develop AMS programs and train their staff. In 2024, we strengthened our collaboration through targeted capacity-building and collaborative initiatives. In Kenya, healthcare workers across four hospitals were trained on AMS strategies and tools, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) AMS assessment tool and Infection Control Assessment Tool. Baseline studies were conducted in these facilities to gather critical data on AMS governance, laboratory capacities, and adherence to treatment guidelines. In Zambia, we supported Lusaka Trust Hospital in reviewing antibiotic treatment guidelines through a multidisciplinary team approach, fostering collaborative decision-making to enhance AMS practices.



Inauguration of ASPIRE project in healthcare facilities at Zambia and Kenya



"ReAct Africa has been really very helpful in the whole journey to update the Rwanda National Action Plan 2.0 (2025-2029) where the AMR National coordination centre organized three different workshops including intervention prioritization using Smart Choice Process (SCP), Monitoring and Evaluation framework as well as costing and budgeting using WHO costing tool which has been supported both financially and technically by ReAct Africa. ReAct has been also advising the Rwanda technical working group (TWG) to adding objective six (6) on the NAP 2.0 namely Governance following the gap highlighted in the technical discussion within the TWG"

Gashegu Misbah

Director of One Health Unit
National AMR Focal Point
Rwanda Biomedical Centre
(RBC), Kigali



Julian Nyamupachithu
(ReAct Africa)
During Costing Workshop,
Rwanda, 2024

Strengthening national and sub-national action plans on AMR

ReAct Africa has played a vital role in advancing NAP development across the region. Through the provision of practical tools, direct support to countries, and fostering knowledge exchange, ReAct Africa has empowered African nations to effectively prioritize, implement, and monitor their NAPs, ultimately enhancing their capacity to address AMR. Besides, several countries and organizations have been using the ReAct Toolbox, an online repository with curated information on AMR, for essential guidance and tools for conducting comprehensive situational analyses, prioritizing critical NAP activities, and effectively reviewing existing programs.

Rwanda National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2.0 – Revision and Costing

In October 2024, ReAct Africa collaborated with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), WHO Country Office for Rwanda and WHO Africa Regional Office to revise and cost the Rwanda AMR National Action Plan (NAP) 2.0 using the WHO Costing and Budgeting Tool. The workshop, held in Musanze, brought together 40 participants from human health, animal health, agriculture, and environmental sectors, including a ReAct Africa youth champion from the University of Rwanda.

Key Outputs:

- A comprehensive and costed Rwanda AMR NAP 2.0 for the period 2025–2029, which aligns resources with prioritized AMR activities and actionable implementation plans.
- Strengthened capacity among participants from various sectors to address AMR using a One Health approach.
- Enhanced collaboration between ReAct Africa and RBC, focusing on partnership and synergy to advance AMR interventions.



Photo of participants during the Costing workshop

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“The collaboration so far has supported the County revamp AMS teams, elevated their momentum and contributed significantly in charting the way forward towards implementing planned AMS activities.”

Dr Sarah Kibira

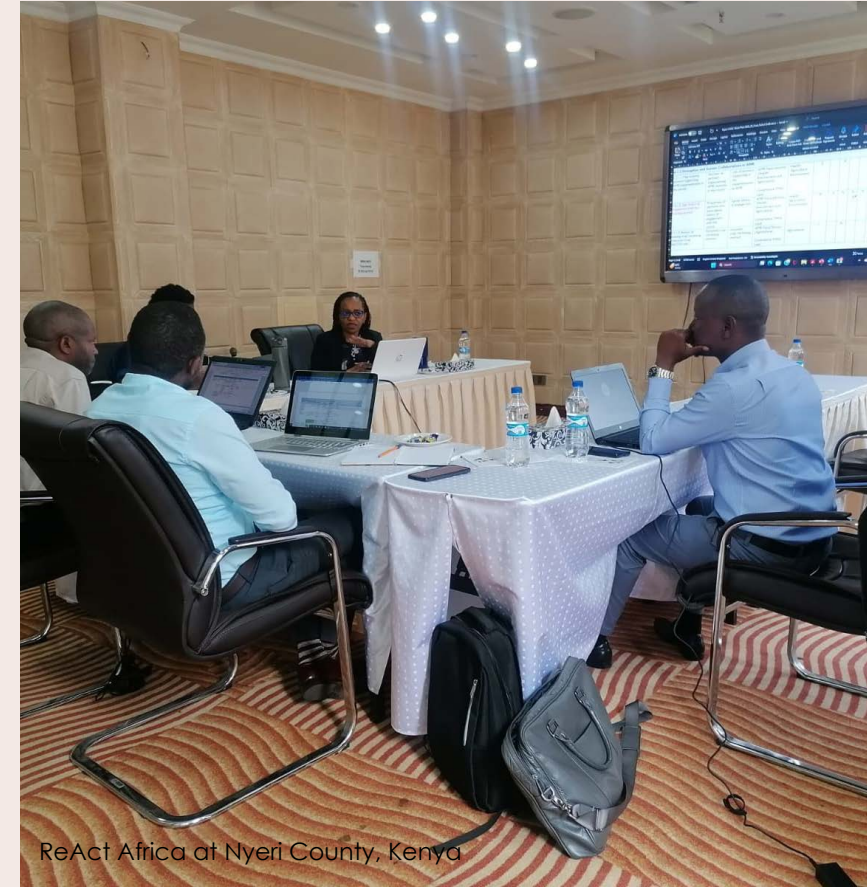
Clinical Pharmacist & AMS Facility focal person at Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Nyeri CASIC member.

Support for the National Action Plan Implementation in Nyeri, Kenya

ReAct Africa facilitated the midterm review of the implementation of the Nyeri County's County Antimicrobial Stewardship Interagency Committee (CASIC) 2023- 2025 AMR One Health work plan, as part of the World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2024 support. In addition to extending financial support, ReAct Africa co-facilitated the oversight of an in-depth evaluation of the progress made towards the six strategic goals outlined in the plan. The review aimed to identify the activities that were on track in achieving the expected outcomes, and provide solutions to address gaps in the implementation process.

Supporting WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional office for NAPs

ReAct Africa has supported WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) to develop National Action Plans in the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. ReAct Africa supported the two-day national multi-stakeholder consultative meeting for finalising Pakistan AMR NAP 2.0 held at Islamabad. The meeting focus on developing a comprehensive approach to AMR that aligns with One Health principles and WHO's People centered approach, ensuring a safer, healthier future for all.



ReAct Africa at Nyeri County, Kenya



ReAct Africa at Nyeri County, Kenya

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As a traditional marriage counsellor, I now advise people not to uncover the food when they come to honor the groom, but to leave it covered to avoid flies sitting on the food and spreading diseases. This is to prevent infections that make people start taking medicines unnecessarily

– **Priscilla Chishimba**,
Matero County, Zambia

Before we used to get medicines from pharmacies without going to the clinic, but ReAct has taught us to first seek help from the doctors

– **Evaristo Mulenga**
Matero County, Zambia

We now advise our friends and neighbors not to stop taking antibiotics when they feel better but to complete the whole course even when they feel better

– **Ireen Chibuye**
Matero County, Zambia

Mobilizing Communities on AMR

ReAct Africa actively engages critical community stakeholder groups like faith-based organizations, civil society networks, community leaders, healthcare workers, farmers, youth and the general public, through capacity building workshops, awareness campaigns, and community-based empower stakeholders to understand AMR, its impact, health system drivers and the importance of responsible antibiotic use. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, ReAct Africa ensures that community voices are heard and integrated into AMR NAPs, leading to more effective and sustainable solutions. This is an integral part of the bottom-up approach advocated by ReAct to complement the present top-heavy philosophy in AMR interventions and plans.

Engaging faith based organisations in Zambia

ReAct Africa sees faith-based organizations (FBOs) as powerful platform to reach out to communities and stimulate sustainable changes. We successfully engaged Matero community women in Zambia through church-based platforms, identifying AMR champions and designing culturally sensitive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to address gaps in AMR knowledge and attitudes. We empowered these women to be AMR champions to drive community behaviour change through a people-centric approach. This is meant to be a model which can be used by other organizations and governments, to mobilize critical stakeholders in community settings.



ReAct Africa at Matero County, Zambia



ReAct Africa at Matero County, Zambia

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From the lessons we've had with ReAct, we know how to take medicines properly unlike previously when we self-prescribed

– **Mavis Chaswe**
Matero County, Zambia

We have learnt not to take left over medicines available at home but consult the doctor. We advise our families to see the doctor and not self-prescribe

– **Jaule Phiri**
Matero County, Zambia



My journey into the fight against antimicrobial resistance was profoundly shaped by my participation in the AMR Leaders Program offered by ReAct Africa in 2021. Although I had a passion for this cause, the training, mentorship, and exposure I received through the program became the foundation and catalyst for my work in the AMR space. Inspired by ReAct's impactful approach, I co-founded the AMR Intervarsity Training Program to empower young people, especially students, to take an active role in combating this critical global health challenge from the grassroots through educational initiatives, advocacy and research. ReAct's work continues to inspire me to create innovative solutions and foster grassroots advocacy in Nigeria and beyond.

Ibrahim Adamu,

AMR Youth Champion from Nigeria

Youth Engagement

Young people are an important and valuable stakeholder in addressing the global health threat of AMR since they are the next generation of public health professionals, the potential future antimicrobial prescribers, users, stewards, and policymakers in their professional practice. Having 70% of the population aged under 30 in the sub-Saharan region, Africa has the youngest population in the world. Recognizing this high proportion of youth in the African context as an opportunity, ReAct Africa has started engaging with them through various initiatives since 2015. In 2024, youth engagement made significant strides in fostering youth involvement in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) across the continent.

Key milestones for 2024:

- Antimicrobial Resistance Leaders Program for tertiary students in Africa ([AMRLEP](#)) through which we did capacity building of around 250 tertiary students across Africa to become AMR champions within their communities.
- Institutionalized One Health AMR Clubs through which supported youth activities in 12 universities, reaching over 460 students through interactive sessions and game-based learning.
- African Youth AMR Alliance Taskforce ([AYARA-TF](#)) was established as a collaborative platform to amplify youth-led AMR mitigation efforts and enhance engagement with policymakers and stakeholders. Through AYARA-TF, we are currently engaging with youth from diverse countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, fostering a strong regional approach.
- We published a policy brief on '[Engaging Youth in Antimicrobial Resistance at the Country and Regional Level](#)' to provide strategic direction on engaging young people and guidance on reasonable expectations from such efforts.
- We did a thorough evaluation of the youth engagement initiatives, and found that our efforts are stimulating wider engagement of young people and catalysing several youth-led networks in multiple regions of the continent. The report of the evaluation has been published as '[Mobilising Young People for Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance: The effectiveness of ReAct Africa initiatives](#)'



Alforja Kenya, to engage children on AMR

To create a model of engaging children on AMR in the African context, ReAct Africa implemented the [Alforja Kenya](#) project adapting a hugely successful Alforja Educativa initiative from Latin America. ReAct Africa-Ace Africa collaborated with the University of Dundee Dental School to sensitize primary school children in existing project schools in Siaya County and new schools in Busia County on Oral Health and AMR. Through strategic partnerships with government ministries and local organizations, the project reached nearly 5,000 primary school students and 231 community members. Following a child to child learning methodology, the project involved the development and dissemination of contextualized AMR awareness materials tailored to the needs of young learners and the local population. Teachers and community health workers received specialized training to equip them with knowledge and skills to promote responsible use of antibiotics and improved health practices. Additionally, the project emphasized hygiene promotion by providing much-needed hygiene facilities to schools and communities, ensuring a sustainable approach to behavior change. Beneficiaries included:

- 8 primary schools (6 in Siaya, 2 in Busia, 5,476 children and 65 teachers)
- 4 water stations placed in 2 of the most needy schools



Alforja Kenya activities, 2024

Policy advocacy on AMR

ReAct Africa has consistently advocated for increased political will and resource allocation for AMR mitigation efforts, promoting the development and implementation of robust NAPs, and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration through a One Health approach. ReAct Africa works closely with policymakers, government officials, and other key stakeholders to influence policy decisions, raise awareness, and mobilize support for effective AMR interventions at national and regional levels.

Engaging Zambian parliamentarians on AMR

ReAct Africa played a pivotal role in convening a landmark meeting with Zambian Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the Health and Agriculture Committees. This engagement, organized in collaboration with the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and its AMR Coordinating Committee (AMRCC), aimed to significantly strengthen Zambia's legislative response to the growing threat of AMR in the country. Building upon the outcomes of the UNGA HLM on AMR held in New York, the meeting focused on empowering Zambian legislators with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively address this critical public health challenge.

Key objectives of this engagement included enhancing the capacity of MPs to develop robust policies that effectively combat AMR, advocate for sustainable AMR mitigation initiatives, and actively promote a One Health approach that integrates human, animal, agricultural, and environmental sectors. Recognizing the crucial role of lawmakers in influencing national priorities and resource allocation, the meeting emphasized the importance of continuous awareness-raising efforts. The formation of a regional caucus of African parliamentarians was proposed to raise awareness and push for local funding to prioritize AMR mitigation across the continent.

UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR 2024

ReAct Africa played a crucial role in advocating for the inclusion of LMIC priorities within the political declaration of UNGA HLM on AMR 2024, actively engaging in consultations and negotiations. We have emphasized the unique challenges faced by LMICs in combating AMR, such as limited access to diagnostics, essential



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“By building the capacity of parliamentarians and fostering collaboration across sectors, we can ensure that AMR remains a national priority, driving policy change and resource allocation to protect the health of our people, animals, and environment.”

Dr Joseph Chizimu

Zambia National AMR
Focal Point



Engagement with Parliamentarians 2024, Zambia

medicines, and healthcare infrastructure, and advocated for stronger commitments on increased investments, access to affordable medicines, strengthening health systems, and addressing social determinants of health. By actively advocating for these priorities, ReAct Africa contributed significantly to shaping a more equitable and impactful global response to AMR, ensuring that the needs and perspectives of LMICs are adequately reflected in the final Political Declaration.

The RAN - SC conference was a platform which was leveraged to increase the understanding of the process and expected outcomes among all the relevant stakeholder groups, and mobilize opinion around a set of 'key asks'. We also contributed actively to [ReAct's briefing note on the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR](#), which laid the foundations for the [Global Campaign- From people to leaders: Act on AMR now](#). ReAct Africa also played a significant role in shaping the discussions in the civil society cluster of the AMR Multistakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP) on the key asks from the HLM. Four ReAct Africa members, including the co-founder, were at New York to voice the perspectives and priorities of LMICs at various events around the HLM. This was followed up by ReAct Africa's participation in the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on AMR which took place at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in November, 2024. The Deputy Director of ReAct Africa who participated as panelist in various sessions stressed the importance of engaging civil society, patient groups, and community leaders to create inclusive, bottom-up approaches that bridge the gap between policymakers, industries, and the public. By sharing best practices from ReAct Africa's experiences, she reinforced the value of local ownership in achieving sustainable AMR containment strategies.



ReAct Africa at side event by South Centre during UNGA 2024

Building on the success: A vision for the year ahead

This year has been a remarkable journey of progress and impact, marked by milestones that have strengthened our capacity to create meaningful change in the lives of people from the continent. As we look ahead, we are energized by the opportunities that lie before us, especially with the momentum created by the high-level convenings on AMR in 2024. With exciting projects on the horizon, ReAct Africa is poised to deepen our impact, expand our reach, and continue driving positive change in the communities we serve. Our strategic priorities will remain guided by our unwavering commitment towards ensuring equity in the AMR response, globally, regionally, nationally and in community settings. We are immensely grateful to our partners, supporters, and stakeholders whose collaboration and trust continue to drive our success. With a strong foundation, a dedicated team, and a clear vision, we are confident in our ability to navigate challenges and seize new opportunities. We invite you to join us on this journey of change, as we work together to build a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow in which everyone will have access to effective treatments for infectious diseases.



SIDA visit to Zambia, 2024



Follow us here



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