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Tiny Hands, Big Impact: How Children are Addressing Antibiotic Resistance



Children are not just passive recipients of healthcare; they are powerful agents of change. With the right knowledge and engagement, they can influence families, schools, and communities to adopt healthier behaviors that reduce the spread of infections and the misuse of antibiotics. Recognizing this, ReAct Africa has joined hands with Belleza Talent Agency to create innovative interventions that engage children in addressing AMR through art-based learning and hands-on community activities.



ASLM AMR Communications & Policy Training

From March 17-20, ReAct Africa facilitated a four-day AMR Communication and Policy Development Workshop hosted by African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). The training brought together 10 Phase II Fleming Fund Fellows from Tanzania.

These public health professionals, working in the human, animal and aquaculture sectors human and animal health, were equipped with skills to enhance AMR surveillance, data utilization, and policy advocacy, through effective communication.



Integration of AMR in Gender driven community initiatives

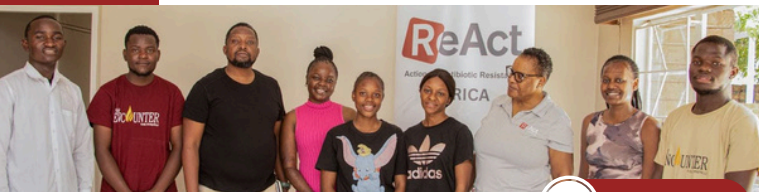
ReAct Africa, in collaboration with Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), is leading the way in bridging the gap between gender and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through a groundbreaking capacity-building program. This initiative is equipping YWCA staff with essential knowledge and skills to address AMR within their communities, aligning with global efforts to combat this silent pandemic.

The training sessions have covered key topics such as the social drivers of AMR, its economic impact, and the vital role of gender in AMR mitigation. By integrating AMR awareness into YWCA's existing work on health and advocacy, we are fostering a more informed and proactive approach to addressing this challenge.

Engaging youth through country structures and institutions

ReAct Africa has successfully launched four One Health Clubs in four universities in Zambia, supported by the Zambia Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinating Committee (AMRCC) within the Technical Working Group on Education and Awareness. Between January and March, ReAct has been conducting capacity-building sessions in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for club members. When forming these clubs, membership was thoughtfully designed to include not only students from scientific fields but also those from social sciences, encompassing areas such as Law, Accounting, Business, ICT, Education, and Social Work, among others.

To enhance student involvement, ReAct Africa inaugurated the Youth Innovation Hub on January 30th. This hub serves as a youth-oriented space for individuals engaged in the AMR field to display their skills and talents related to awareness, communication, and advocacy. It is designed to host AMR debates, quizzes, trivia sessions, and public lectures, as well as to foster talent discovery.



Scaling Up Community Engagement

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In efforts to scale up our community engagements through Faith-Based Organizations (FBO), ReAct Africa has partnered with East Mandate Global, a cross-denominational watchman ministry. This strategic partnership aims to incorporate Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) education into ministry activities, nurturing a generation of responsible antibiotic stewards. Our collaboration will equip youth with knowledge, practical engagement, and leadership opportunities, empowering them to advocate for responsible antibiotic use in their communities. We will host a series of interactive sessions and capacity-building training for ministry members, covering a wide range of public health and AMR topics. This will ensure they are well-informed AMR stewards, ready to raise awareness and promote advocacy within their communities.

NAP Support: IRAQ

The WHO Iraq Country Office and the Ministry of Health, Iraq, with technical support from ReAct Africa and WHO EMRO, organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to support the update of Iraq's NAP on AMR. The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, academia, civil society, and international partners—to discuss, prioritize, and finalize activities for implementation during 2026–2030, including the M&E framework. The workshop resulted in a structured roadmap for finalizing AMR NAP 2.0 for Iraq. ReAct Africa provided technical support to the Ministry of Health, Iraq, in drafting and preparing the first version of the updated AMR NAP 2.0, which was shared in advance and served as the basis for discussions. Held from 25–27 February 2025 in Baghdad, the workshop included interactive sessions aligned with the five strategic objectives of the Global Action Plan on AMR.

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“If we, as youths, are to take an active role in this global issue by loving it (taking interest), I am confident that our passion towards the issue will make us remain resolute to secure solutions.”
Gwen Masumba, One Health Club Member



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL ACTION: OPERATIONALISING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) COMMITMENTS IN AFRICA AND BEYOND.



ReAct Africa and South Centre will be hosting the 10th regional AMR Conference from 11th-13th June, 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Virtual Attendance Registration NOW OPEN!

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ASPIRE

The Antibiotic Stewardship Programme through Innovation, Research, and Education (ASPIRE) is a groundbreaking three-year initiative supported by LifeArc, aimed at optimizing antibiotic use in Zambia and Kenya. By integrating advanced digital technologies with targeted stewardship strategies, ASPIRE is setting a new standard in antibiotic management. A key innovation of this project is the introduction of AI-powered tools that provide real-time, data-driven, and context-specific recommendations to clinicians. Additionally, the project is piloting a dedicated patient application, the first of its kind in the region, enabling users to access essential treatment information.

Key activities in Q1

1. **Baseline Studies Across Four Sites**
2. **Focus Group Discussions and AMS/IPC Intervention Costing**
3. **Economic Evaluation Training and Data Collection**
4. **Baseline Data Dissemination**

Coming to you soon..

- **Launch of regional magazine titled AMR Watch Africa: Voices from the Community**
- **Community Engagement Guide: A guide on how to engage the community in AMR**
- **Launch of ReAct Africa Podcast!**

