

AMR WATCH -AFRICA-

Voices From The Community



Kids Taking the Lead.

Children are not just passive recipients of healthcare; they are powerful agents of change. With the right knowledgePg29

Parliamentarians Gear Up.

At a meeting held in Lusaka in June, over 50 parliamentarians, clerks, and senior policymakers from across Africa came....P18

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE.

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *AMR Watch Africa*, a ReAct Africa initiative spotlighting the power of community-driven solutions in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) mitigation. AMR is ranked among the top 10 global public health threats by the World Health Organisation (WHO). As AMR emerges as a silent pandemic, undermining decades of medical progress, it is clear that Africa must act swiftly and collectively to safeguard lives and ensure access to effective antibiotics for all while ensuring efficient and prudent utilisation.

At ReAct Africa, we believe solutions begin within our communities, from youth educating their peers, to farmers adopting responsible antibiotic use practices, and civil society organisations (C.S.O's) shaping policy and awareness. This magazine showcases the dynamic, diverse, and determined efforts shaping Africa's AMR response.

We proudly highlight the critical and transformative role of the communities not just as stakeholders, but as leaders, whose voices and actions are shaping a future free from untreatable infections. Their stories, and those of many others not featured here, reflect the urgency and hope driving our shared mission.

Let this publication not just inform, but inspire. Let it be a call to action for all: policymakers, health workers, educators, and citizens alike. AMR concerns us all, and so must the solutions.

Thank you to all contributors and partners. Together, we are *AMR Watch Africa*. Together, we are part of the solution the Great Continent of Africa has been waiting for.

Prof. Mirfin Mpundu
Executive Director, ReAct Africa



Fighting Superbugs:

Meet the Community of Heroes Taking on Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa



Imagine a world free of resistant infections, where everyone has access to affordable and effective medicines. That is the future that this incredible group in Africa is working tirelessly to bring about. The AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP) Action Group on Mapping and Structuring Civil Society Organisations and Networks in Africa, established in November 2023, is a powerhouse of organisations and individuals dedicated to turning the tide against superbugs. Its main objectives are to coordinate and strengthen civil society organisations engaged in antimicrobial resistance initiatives, enhance policy advocacy, and foster collaborative efforts to address AMR challenges at the community level.



Dr Mario Medegan awarded AMR Champion of the year at ReAct South Centre Conference 2025

Who are these Heroes?

The Action Group is spearheaded by Dr. Mario Medegan of the Universal Movement for Humanitarian Assistance, Dr. Sharon Odeo of the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, EPN and Prof. Isidore Bonkougou of the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo. This leadership team brings together expertise from civil society, academia, and healthcare networks, ensuring a well-rounded approach to tackling AMR.

Victories so far:

Since its establishment, the body has achieved some impressive milestones. These include:

Building a network: They've created Regional and Subregional CSO Coordination Boards to improve organisation and impact within civil society networks.

Mapping Interventions: They have compiled a comprehensive list and profile of CSOs and academic field projects to facilitate collaboration and streamline efforts in AMR interventions.

Making their voices heard: Developing policy briefs and advocating for their adoption at national levels, with the support of ReAct Africa and MUSUHUM, and presenting them at the 2nd Plenary Assembly in Jeddah.



Illustration of Bacteria

What's next?

The year 2025 is shaping up to be a big year for the Action Group as the following is scheduled to be done:

Holding governments accountable: Producing a comprehensive situation report on National Action Plan (NAP) Implementation to assess progress, identify gaps, and recommend corrective measures.

Fanning the flames for Action: Fostering collaborative projects and expanding Resource mobilisation opportunities to empower CSOs in sustaining and scaling their grassroots initiatives.

Staying Connected: A semiannual updated common agenda will be published to provide a structured roadmap for ongoing and future efforts.

Taking the Stage: Organising a side event at the ReAct Conference to strengthen engagement, facilitate networking, and reinforce strategic partnerships.



Dr Mario Medegan



The Pan-African Treatment Access Movement: A Legacy of Advocacy and Action

The Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) stands as a testament to the power of collective action in addressing critical health challenges across Africa. Founded in August 2022, PATAM has become a force to reckon with in advocating for equitable access to healthcare, diagnostics and pandemic preparedness. Headquartered in Zimbabwe, the organisation boasts a wide regional presence and a robust network of partners. PATAM's origin was driven by a shared vision among key figures in global health. The founding members include Abdurazak “Zackie” Achmat, then Director of the Treatment Action Campaign, the largest HIV civil society organisation aimed at creating a movement for universal access to HIV treatment in Africa.



Mr Tapiwanashe Kujinga



Mr Tapiwanashe Kujinga with Prof. Sabiha Essack

Regional Reach and Collaboration

PATAM operates across a number of African countries, and its reach extends to Southeast Asia through specific projects.

A key aspect of PATAM's success lies in its strategic partnerships. PATAM has partnered with the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law to form the Diagnostic Equity Consortium (DEC), championing access to essential diagnostics globally. Together, they collaborate with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), working with civil society. PATAM is part of the EANNASO consortium working to integrate pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) into community-led monitoring across four African nations. Additionally, a collaboration to address the community aspect of the global AMR response and to tackle zoonotic diseases is underway. Locally, partnerships with the BioTech Institute and the African Institute of Biomedical Science & Technology (AiBST) enable evidence generation through laboratory analysis.



Significant Activities and Impact

PATAM has undertaken a range of impactful activities, including running an AMR webinar series, participating in the UNGA 2024 session on AMR in New York and ASLM symposia and conferences, developing a community guide on AMR, community outreach in Harare, implementing AMR awareness activities during World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW), carrying out research and training of healthcare workers and contributing to the UNGAAMR resolution text through ReAct and CSE.

Looking ahead, PATAM has ambitious plans for the future, which include focusing its work in the community by finalising a community tool on AMR, publishing a policy brief on communities and AMR, and continuing its awareness and community outreach activities. Additionally, they will launch a webinar series for Francophone and Anglophone regions, engage with partners on essential diagnostics, expand the PPR program and develop additional guidance on AMR diagnostics.

PATAMs journey demonstrates the power of collaborative effort in addressing critical health challenges. Through strategic partnerships, impactful projects, and unwavering advocacy, PATAM continues to advance health equity and access across Africa.



Raising Health, Preserving Legacy.

The Story of DRASA Health Trust

A Legacy of Advocacy and Action



Founded on October 20, 2015, Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust is a nonprofit organisation established to honour the legacy of Dr. Adadevoh, the heroic physician who identified and contained Nigeria's first Ebola case. DRASA's mission is to prevent disease, protect health, and preserve legacy by strengthening health systems, promoting community-led interventions, and educating future health champions.

From 32 States to 10 Countries: A Continental Movement

With operations spanning 32 Nigerian states and virtual collaborations in 10 other African countries, DRASA advances its work through strong cross-sector partnerships with governments, academic institutions, and international bodies like the World Health Organisation.





Mitigating the Silent Threat: A major area of focus is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). In 2024, DRASA played a pivotal role during the launch of Nigeria's One Health AMR National Action Plan (NAP 2.0), a multi-sector strategy involving 140+ stakeholders. DRASA remains a technical contributor to national AMR and IPC working groups.

AMR Awareness Starts from the Classroom: Youth as Frontline Advocates

DRASA empowers youth as health advocates. Its AMR School Program (2017–2022) trained 2,000 students as AMR Ambassadors, who educated over 8,300 people. In 2024, the EduAid Project in Osun State reached 280 students through lectures and peer-led sessions.

To reach broader audiences, DRASA launched “AMR on the Street (AMRotS)”, a grassroots awareness campaign across 12 states, engaging 29,358 individuals in everyday public spaces like markets, schools, farms, and hospitals.

In 2025, DRASA partnered with Nigeria Health Watch to promote private sector engagement during World Exhibition Day, reinforcing AMR as a shared responsibility.

Looking forward, DRASA is implementing the “SayAMR Language Hackathon”, co-led with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The project seeks to co-create culturally relevant AMR messaging in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, and Pidgin, making public health communication more inclusive and impactful.

Changing the Curriculum, Change the Future

DRASA is also working to integrate AMR education into Nigeria's national secondary school curriculum, ensuring young people everywhere are equipped to tackle AMR.

From schools to streets, policies to partnerships, DRASA continues to lead with purpose and innovation, building a healthier, more resilient Nigeria while preserving a legacy of courage.

One Health in Action Initiative

A Pan-African Youth Movement Rewriting the Fight Against AMR

Across Africa, a powerful youth-led movement is taking shape to confront one of the world's biggest silent threats: antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Meet the One Health in Action Initiative (OHAI), a collective of young professionals turning the One Health approach into action that starts at the grassroots and scales up to global policy.

Where Health Meets Action

Founded in 2022, OHAI operates at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. Under the leadership of Dr. Dauda Ayomide Onawola, the initiative has mobilised a growing network of volunteers and experts across Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, and beyond, combining education, research, and advocacy into one coherent force.



PAS outreach program

A Podcast with a Purpose

Through its standout project, the PAS Podcast, OHAI is demystifying AMR. Hosted by Dr. Silvia Garcia Soto, this podcast brings together scientists, clinicians, and community voices to talk real-world solutions, now with seven episodes and counting. Meanwhile, programs led by peer educators are equipping community health workers and youth with the knowledge to prevent zoonoses and misuse of antibiotics in everyday life.

Partnerships that Power Change

OHAI's reach is deepened through strong collaborations. It is the first global affiliate of the *Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics*, actively supports GARDP's #ThisIsBig campaign, and partners with One Health EPI Solutions to build technical capacity in data science using R programming. OHAI also plays a visible role in AMR conferences alongside ReAct Africa, lifting regional voices into the global health dialogue. These efforts have grown from merely handing out IEC materials in local Nigerian communities to planning bold 2025 campaigns targeting smallholder farmers and drug vendors. OHAI's results speak for themselves: rising awareness, increased youth participation, and a fresh, community-driven lens on AMR across Africa.



PAS outreach program



Scaling Up Impact

Looking forward, the One Health in Action Initiative (OHAI) is set to launch a series of targeted interventions across Nigeria in the lead-up to World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW). These activities will focus on engaging smallholder farmers and drug vendors to promote responsible antimicrobial use and drive behavioural change in both human and animal health. With a strategy rooted in community action, youth leadership, and cross-sector collaboration, OHAI aims to scale its impact by turning awareness into action and building a sustainable, continent-wide movement against antimicrobial resistance.

One Health in Action isn't waiting for change, it's creating it. By putting youth at the centre and communities at the forefront, this initiative is proving that real public health transformation starts from the ground up - one podcast, one village, one bold step at a time.



Amplifying the voices of Community Partnerships in Africa



ReAct Africa convened a high-impact stakeholder meeting on 11th June, during the Annual AMR Regional Conference, bringing together 33 participants from 11 African countries to advance youth and community engagement in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The meeting aimed to coordinate efforts, strengthen networks, and align grassroots action with global and regional AMR frameworks.

Partners Represented

- Zihi Institute - Kenya
- Generational Antimicrobial Stewards (GSA) - Zimbabwe
- Africa Youth Alliance Taskforce (AYARA-TF)
- Action des Jeunes contre la Résistance aux Antimicrobiens (AJRAM) – Burkina Faso
- WAVE - Uganda
- Alliance against Antimicrobial Antipathy (AAA) – Zambia
- Medical Student Association of Rwanda (MEDSAR) – Rwanda
- Cavendish University – Zambia
- Eden University – Zambia
- Lusaka Apex Medical University – Zambia
- Chreso University - Zambia
- Ministry of Health – Zambia
- Red Cross Society – Zimbabwe
- University of Cape Town (UCT) – South Africa
- Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) – Zimbabwe
- International Centre for Antibiotic Resistance Solutions (ICARS)
- Makerere University – Uganda
- KwaZulu-Natal University – South Africa
- One Health Initiative Action (OHIA) – Nigeria
- Université Joseph KI ZERBO – Burkina Faso
- One Health Society – Tanzania





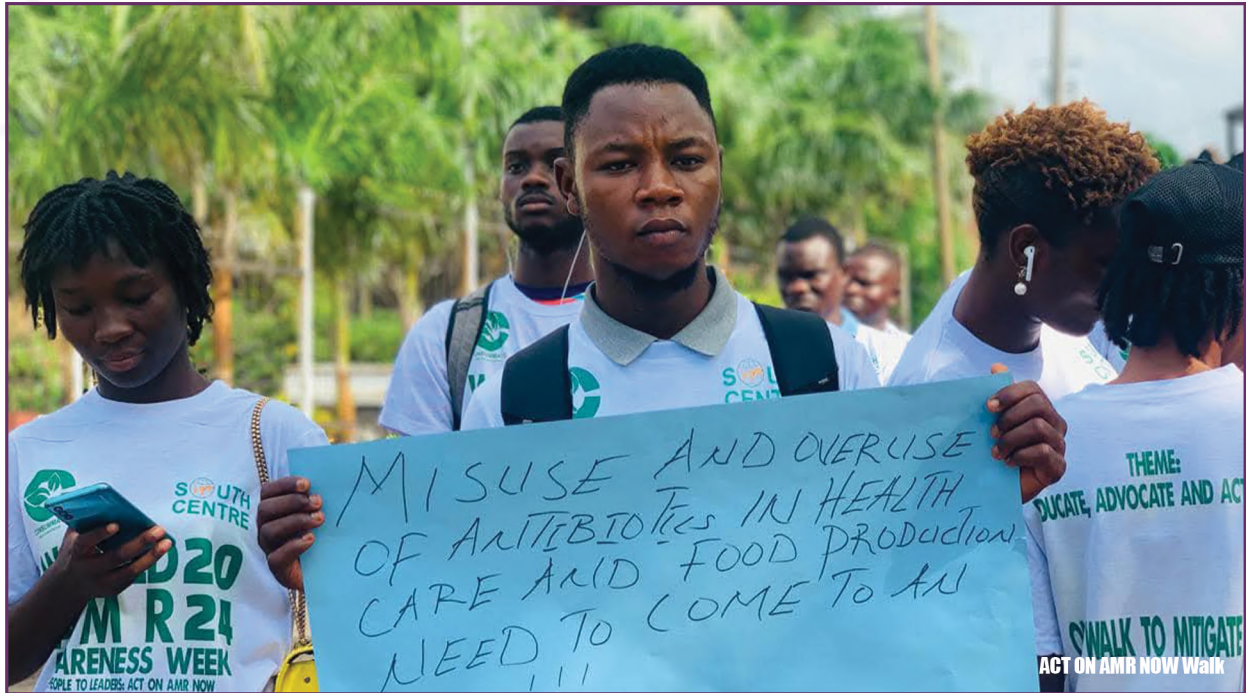
Key Objectives Included:

- Enhancing coordination of youth and community-led AMR initiatives.
- Building strong linkages across local, regional, and continental actors.
- Promoting participatory, locally owned models for AMR action.
- Participants noted critical gaps, including limited youth representation in policy spaces, fragmented community efforts, a lack of impactful initiatives, and the use of overly technical language that limits public understanding.
- The meeting reaffirmed that youth are not just beneficiaries but essential actors in the AMR response. ReAct Africa continues to champion youth-led, community-owned solutions driven by partnership, innovation, and inclusion.



Raising Health, Restoring Hope:

The Story of Consummate Health and Sanitation (CHS)



From a School Campaign to a National Force

In Liberia's evolving public health space, Consummate Health and Sanitation (CHS) is a youth-led nonprofit transforming how communities engage with health, hygiene, and empowerment. Founded in June 12, 2022, by seven passionate young professionals, CHS began as a grassroots campaign to promote hygiene awareness in schools. Today, it is a national movement aligned with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).'

Built on Four Pillars, Driven by Purpose

CHS operates through four core pillars: Equitable Health for All, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Green Environs, and Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Its work empowers underserved communities with health education, sustainable practices, and youth leadership development.

Gender Inclusion for Sustainable Impact

In 2022, CHS launched school-based awareness campaigns and youth-driven initiatives to spark public engagement. By 2023, it led Liberia's first AMR Conference and the "Act on AMR Now Walk," while also launching the Sunday Girls Initiative to mentor adolescent girls in hygiene and SRHR.

Raising an Alarm on AMR: A movement in Motion

In 2024, CHS trained poultry farmers on antibiotic stewardship, expanded community health dialogues, and established AMR Clubs in schools to foster youth advocacy.

Strategic partnerships with organisations like ReAct Africa, IAMresponsible, South Centre, and Liberia's Ministry of Health have strengthened CHS's reach and capacity.

What's Next: Bigger Conversations, Broad Reach

CHS is gearing up for more impactful activities, including AMR Conference 2.0, Be AMR Smart Webinar 3.0, and a wider World AMR Awareness Week campaign.

From remote villages to urban schools, CHS continues to spread a powerful message:

Health is dignity. Health is equity. Health is the future.



YOUTH UNITE TO ADDRESS GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT



The familiar sound of the Burkinabè drums tells a story, one of a powerful movement founded in 2021. Action des Jeunes contre la Résistance aux Antimicrobiens (AJRAM), or Youth Action Against Antimicrobial Resistance, is an African youth movement dedicated to combating the critical global health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Their mission involves raising awareness, educating, and mobilising stakeholders through dynamic and comprehensive approaches, including public campaigns, promoting rational antimicrobial use, and "One Health" research. This vibrant organisation has already engaged thousands of young people across Africa and launched numerous impactful projects. AJRAM's efficient structure includes a General Assembly for decision-making, a Scientific Council of academic experts for guidance and evaluation, and a Technical Advisors Unit for support.

On the Ground and Global Stage

AJRAM, a non-profit registered in Burkina Faso, works with prominent national organisations like the National Reference Laboratory for AMR, the Ministry of Health, and the One Health Secretary, as well as international bodies such as ReAct Africa, The South Centre, and WHO. They are a recognised force in the fight against AMR, evidenced by their membership in the Quadripartite Working Group on youth engagement on AMR, the AMR Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform, the Stop Superbugs Network, and the African Youth AMR Alliance Task Force, and their identification as an AMR champion by ReAct Africa.



Key Moments, Lasting Impact

AJRAM actively combats antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through various initiatives. Since 2021, their "7 Days of Activism Against AMR" campaign has reached over 650,000 online, educated hundreds of students, facilitated inter-university debates, leading to the establishment of One Health AMR Clubs and trained 150 young leaders. They've organised numerous conferences and panels, including a national symposium in 2024 that outlined key recommendations for combating AMR. AJRAM also launched the Youth Leadership Program on Antimicrobial Resistance (YLJRAM) in 2023, empowering 200 young leaders from 13 African countries. Additionally, they promote vaccines during African Immunisation Week and contribute to Burkina Faso's national AMR communication action plan, specifically targeting young people.

What's Next? The Future is Fearless

AJRAM is expanding its efforts in 2025 and beyond with several key initiatives. These include "AMR Champions: Health, Water, and Climate Actions for Sustainable Communities," which integrates health, water, and climate sectors to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) sustainably. They will also continue their educational work during African Immunisation Week 2025, conduct the "Second Edition of the AMR Leadership Program" to train future leaders, and highlight key figures through "AMR Champions." Additionally, "AMR Talk" will disseminate vital messages, and AJRAM will actively participate in World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2025 to promote responsible antimicrobial use. AJRAM is presented as a movement driven by youth and African spirit, dedicated to combating the threat of superbugs.



Interacting with Farmers



Burkina Faso's First National AMR Symposium 2024



Burkina Faso's First National AMR Symposium 2024

PARLIAMENTARIANS GEAR UP TO TACKLE AMR ACROSS AFRICA



Parliamentarians in AMR Engagement

At a meeting held in Lusaka in June, over 50 parliamentarians, clerks, and senior policymakers from across Africa came together with a clear agenda: turn political promises into concrete action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

With AMR already linked to more than 25% of Africa's infection-related deaths in 2019 and dire global predictions of 39 million deaths a year by 2050 if unchecked, the urgency couldn't be clearer. Parliamentarians from Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania, alongside organisations like Africa CDC, FAO, and ECSA-HC, are determined not to let AMR remain a technical issue confined to dusty reports.

Discussions centred on the need for a Regional Parliamentarian Caucus on AMR to drive accountability and ensure that AMR policies move from paper to practice. Speakers reminded participants that AMR cuts across human, animal, and environmental health and that its solutions must too.

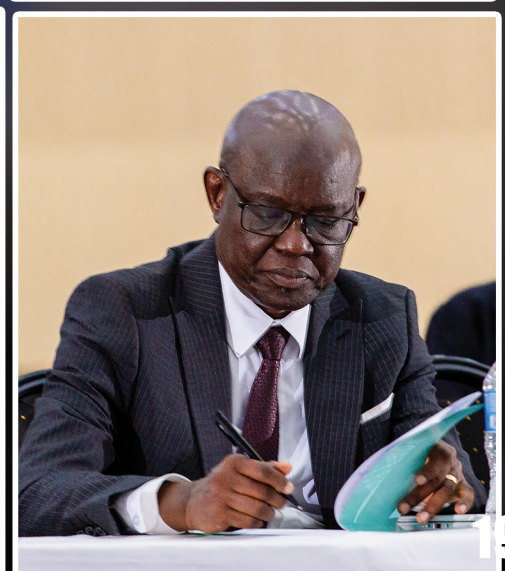
Dr. Nyambe Sinyange of Zambia's Public Health Institute, on behalf of the Director General, captured the mood: "We need a well-financed, multisectoral response. Parliamentarians are key to making this happen." Echoing this, Dr. Fusya Goma warned, "AMR is already here. We can't afford to wait."



But passion isn't enough. Speakers like Prof. Mirfin Mpundu of ReAct Africa pointed to the real-world barriers: patchy funding, fragmented efforts, and lack of oversight. Parliamentarians, they stressed, must own this fight, pushing for budgets, laws, and cross-sector coordination. Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi from the Ministry of Health added that AMR should be viewed as a developmental and security threat. A national emergency that demands strong governance, budget allocation, and inter-sectoral collaboration.

Hon. Christopher Kalila, a seasoned parliamentarian, reminded attendees that AMR must be communicated in plain, relatable terms. "AMR is often treated as an abstract concept. We must break it down into language that parliamentarians and their constituents can understand. Your leadership matters."

The meeting closed with the formation of the Parliamentarians caucus on AMR and a rallying cry: AMR isn't abstract. It's a daily threat to health systems, economies, and futures. Political will and regional cooperation are Africa's strongest tools to confront it head-on.



SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

RANDOLPH K. KEAH

Raising the Bar of Youth Leadership and Involvement AMR Mitigation

In Liberia's growing AMR movement, J. Randolph K. Keah stands out as a passionate youth leader translating science into action. As co-founder and Head of Program at Consummate Health and Sanitation (CHS), he is driving a grassroots public health response to antimicrobial resistance, empowering youth and communities to become agents of change.

"AMR is a silent disaster in waiting, especially in countries like ours where healthcare systems are still recovering. We can't afford to ignore it," Keah warns. Through his initiatives, Keah is mobilising Liberians from poultry farmers to high school students to understand and fight AMR as a shared social responsibility.

Keah has led numerous initiatives in his AMR journey, and these speak of his indelible prints and passion for this public health concern. Among many initiatives he has championed that are worth noting, include but are not limited to the following:

- Liberia's First and Second AMR Conferences
- The Sunday Girls Initiative (linking AMR, SRHR, and IPC for adolescent girls)
- Poultry Farmer AMR Training
- AMR Talk Series (in-person and digital conversations)
- WAAW community mobilisation and awareness campaigns

But it's not just about events, it's about impact. From training youth AMR ambassadors to helping communities report illegal antibiotic sales, Keah is building a public-driven movement to drug-resistant infections centered on genuine concern and deliberate actions.

Despite the major wins, Keah highlights the key challenge he has faced in his efforts, which is youth exclusion from policymaking and limited funding. Yet his optimism is unwavering. He further affirmed that "Youth can't just be invited to talk; they need to be part of the decisions". This, according to Keah, is critical if sustainability and impact are to be attained.

Keah's vision is simple yet very powerful: a future where AMR is everyone's responsibility, not just that of scientists and doctors. "When we understand the risks, we protect ourselves and others. That's how real change happens," he says with urgency.

Indeed, this is evident enough that from local street corners to National AMR discussion tables, Keah is proving that Africa's youth aren't just the future of global health, they're already shaping it.

African Youth Unite to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance



In a stunning display of collaboration and determination, a dynamic alliance of young leaders across Africa has emerged to combat one of the world's most pressing health threats: antimicrobial resistance. The African Youth Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Alliance Task Force (AYARA-TF), established in March 2024 with support from ReAct Africa, is a consortium of 13 youth-led organisations across Africa dedicated to combating antimicrobial resistance. AYARA-TF represents over 600,000 youth voices from various regions of the continent, reflecting its extensive regional presence in countries including Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and others.





AYARA-TF ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of the African Youth Position Statement on AMR: AYARA-TF coordinated the development of a youth position statement on AMR to influence the 2024 UN General Assembly, calling for urgent and fair action to tackle AMR in Africa.

Launch of the African Union Landmark Report AYARA-TF supported regional stakeholders in the launch of the African Union's landmark AMR report at the Africa CDC headquarters, ahead of the UNGA.

AYARA-TF established the following thematic working groups through which it addresses AMR agendas:

Editorial & Communication: Drives continent-wide AMR awareness campaigns.

Country Communication Support: Strengthens local and national AMR messaging.

IPC, WASH & Stewardship: Links AMR to hygiene, prevention, and responsible use.

Reproductive Health: Focuses on drug-resistant STIs and related issues.

AMR & SDGs: Connects AMR to climate action and development goals.

Food Security: Addresses antimicrobial use in agriculture.

NCDs: Explores the link between AMR and chronic illness care.

Infectious Diseases: Tackles resistance in disease control and treatment.

Youth Policy: Builds youth advocacy skills in global health.

Research: Supports evidence-based policy and AMR solutions

Collaborative Engagements and Capacity Building: AYARA-TF has strengthened youth involvement in AMR by participating in key forums like the African Public Health Summit and supporting national AMR conferences.





IPC Activities in Primary Schools

Spotlight on WAVE's AMR Efforts in Uganda

In partnership with ReAct Africa, WAVE hosted a National AMR Leaders Workshop to build the capacity of Ugandan leaders in raising awareness and tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the community and national levels.

Key initiatives included a lively AMR Awareness Run in Kabale, workshops for agriculture stakeholders and students under the RENOFARM project promoting responsible antimicrobial use, and school-based WASH-IPC activities teaching hygiene and infection prevention to young learners.

WAVE also took part in the International AMR Youth Conference, connecting young leaders worldwide to exchange ideas and strengthen youth involvement in AMR advocacy. Additional efforts included IPC training for health workers, market hygiene campaigns, a hackathon, and social media contests to foster innovation and engagement.

Looking ahead to 2026, WAVE aims to evaluate its impact, deepen community engagement, and scale its most effective initiatives across new regions globally.



Youth WAVE

RIDING THE TIDE AGAINST AMR IN UGANDA

In the heart of Uganda, a wave is building. Not a literal wave of water, but a powerful surge of youth-led action against AMR. This is the story of Youth WAVE Initiative Against AMR (WAVE), a force dedicated to turning the tide on global health challenges, right from their Ugandan base. Launched in April 2022, the movement was founded by: Tusingwire Daphine, Nabijjako Christine, Busuulwa Moses, Musiime Fosca, Masika Sharon Rosha, and Akello Catherine. A Global Reach from Ugandan Shores

WAVE is not confined by borders. Established its presence regionally, spanning the Western, Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Uganda and spreading its influence across Africa and even reaching international audiences. In a recent global AMR conference that WAVE hosted in collaboration with ReAct Africa, representatives from six continents gathered to share ideas and strategies, a testament to their growing global impact. Officially registered with the Uganda Registration Service Bureau (URSB), they are a recognised and respected entity.

Building a Network of Allies

WAVE has forged strong collaborations with a diverse range of organisations, including ReAct Africa, South Centre, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the African Youth AMR Alliance Task Force (AYARA-TF), and several universities both in Uganda and internationally, like Nottingham University in the UK. This network amplifies their efforts and brings a wealth of expertise to their initiatives.



United Against the Silent Threat: The Story of Alliance Against Antimicrobial Antipathy (AAA)

The Alliance Against Antimicrobial Antipathy (AAA) is a youth-led Zambian non-profit, founded in 2023 and launched in 2024. Registered with PACRA, this team of ten passionate young Zambians combats antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through awareness, advocacy, research, and infection prevention, with plans for regional expansion.

Strong Together: Forging Powerful Partnerships

AAA is not working alone. They have teamed up with organisations such as Ask Me About Antimicrobial Resistance Zambia (AARZ) and collaborated with ReAct Africa in AMR initiatives through the Zambia National Public Health Institute and the Antimicrobial Resistance Coordinating Committee. Their activities are diverse and impactful and include community awareness campaigns, educational workshops, and research projects.



One Health Symposium

Addressing AMR through the Streets, Screens and Mothers

Some of AAA's notable activities include:

Farmer Cooperatives AMR Awareness – Kitwe and Chongwe, Zambia. AAA has conducted campaigns targeting small-scale poultry farmers in Kitwe and awareness outreaches amongst farmers in Chongwe district on AMR and emphasising the importance of biosecurity measures to reduce antimicrobial misuse in livestock farming.

AMR Antenatal Ambassadors – Chimwemwe Urban Clinic, Kitwe. In collaboration with Ask Me About Antimicrobial Resistance Zambia, AAA educated healthcare workers and pregnant women on AMR and the prudent use of antimicrobials, ensuring a community-centered approach to tackling the issue.

World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2024 Activities - AAA organised social media campaigns, interactive quizzes, and in-person outreach activities at markets and bus stops to engage the general public. This initiative was conducted in partnership with AARZ and funded through a grant from the South Centre, Geneva.



Palabana Community Engagement



Participation in Conferences and Workshops - AAA

hosted a workshop at the 2024 Youth SDG Summit, focusing on the interconnectedness of climate change and AMR, equipping young people with knowledge and skills to address these global health challenges. AAA representatives also participated in the Zambian One Health Scientific Symposium in 2024 and the Youth Engagement Session at Ndola Biomedical College, where Dr. Pious Musonda, AAA co-founder, spoke of the critical role of youth in AMR, drawing from lived experiences.

Looking ahead: Expanding the Movement in 2025 aims to expand its reach across the Copperbelt Province and Lusaka, engaging more small-scale farmers and launching ReAct Africa One Health Clubs on the Copperbelt to promote antimicrobial stewardship among youth. Additionally, AAA plans to host online webinars to educate the general public and foster meaningful discussions around AMR.

Amidst global challenges, AAA offers hope. These young Zambians are actively creating change—one farmer, student, and community at a time. Their dedication proves that complex global issues can be met with local passion and youthful energy. With AAA leading the fight against AMR, the future looks brighter and healthier for all.



Awareness Radio Programs



Community Outreach

AWAKENING A CONTINENT:

The Youth Powering Africa's AMR Mitigation Initiatives



Across Africa, a new generation is rising to confront one of the world's most pressing public health threats: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). At the heart of this movement is ReAct Africa, whose dynamic Youth Engagement Portfolio is empowering young leaders to shape the future of AMR advocacy, policy, and practice. Through strategic coordination, capacity building, and regional partnerships, ReAct Africa is not only energising youth but also anchoring them as drivers of sustainable health solutions.

Leadership Reloaded: The AMRLEP That's Changing the Game

Since its inception, the portfolio has evolved into a strategic movement anchored in education, leadership, and collaboration. At the core is the AMR Leadership Program (AMRLEP), a six-month virtual course that has trained over 250 students from 13 African countries. Participants from diverse fields, including law, business, and public health, gain competencies in AMR science, policy, and advocacy. **Clubs with a Cause: Where Ideas Brew and Leaders Bloom**

Complementing this, ReAct Africa has supported the establishment of One Health Clubs in the region. These clubs, housed in universities, are student-led hubs that organise debates, trivia nights, and peer education sessions, all focused on AMR awareness and behaviour change.



To reinforce learning and innovation, Youth Coordinating Knowledge & Innovation Hubs offer both digital and physical spaces where students co-design AMR projects, share insights, and track progress. These hubs also house a self-paced AMR course. ReAct Africa's continental coordination has catalysed the formation of the African Youth AMR Alliance Taskforce, uniting over 13 youth-led organisations. Through this platform, young leaders are collaborating with ReAct's existing network of institutions, which include but are not limited to: WHO, Africa CDC, DRASA (Nigeria), Zihi Institute (Kenya), GSA, WAVE, MEDSAR, AJRAM and CHS (Liberia), to standardise tools, influence national AMR strategies, and drive country-level action. This helped in translating the WHO Youth Toolkit and other regional approaches into context-specific, practical areas.

Innovative and Gamified Learning: Making AMR Relatable Among the Youth

From 2022 to 2024, over 850 students were reached through youth-led campaigns, gamified learning tools, innovation challenges, and community outreach, all designed and implemented locally with ReAct's technical support. These initiatives reflect a growing belief that AMR solutions must be youth-led, locally contextualised, and systemically supported.

What's Next?

In 2025 and beyond, ReAct Africa is implementing cohort 2.0 of AMRLEP, plans to establish more One Health Clubs, scale national toolkit implementations, and strengthen the African Youth AMR Alliance's policymaking role.



Kids Taking the Lead:

Empowering Young AMR Champions

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 behaviours that reduce the spread of infections and the misuse of antibiotics. Recognising this, ReAct Africa has been pioneering innovative ways to involve children in the AMR fight through art-based learning and hands-on community activities.



World Water Day Clean-Up: Learning by Doing

To mark World Water Day 2025, 21 children aged 5–14 took part in a community clean-up in flood-affected Lusaka, Zambia. More than just picking up trash, the children learned the link between clean water, hygiene, and preventing illness. The activity turned a crisis into a classroom, teaching how unsafe water and poor sanitation fuel infection and misuse of antibiotics. Following the activity, the children were able to connect the dots between water contamination and health. Furthermore, they learnt to take ownership of their environment, encouraging others to keep their surroundings clean.

This event highlighted a powerful truth: improving water and hygiene is key to preventing infections and slowing AMR.



Paint and Sip: Art Meets Awareness

A week later, on March 29, 22 children joined a vibrant Paint and Sip session focused on AMR education. The day began with story time featuring “Dr. Doodle and the Microbes,” a fun, relatable book that explained how antibiotic resistance happens through skipping doses, sharing leftover medicine, and not finishing prescriptions.

Then came the brushes and colours. Children painted scenes of handwashing, “good” and “bad” bacteria, and even superbugs, translating science into art and cementing key messages through creativity.

By making learning interactive and age-appropriate, ReAct Africa is raising a generation of AMR-smart children equipped not just with knowledge but with the confidence to influence change in homes, schools, and beyond.



ReAct Africa's Maarifa Kids Engagement Activities

FAITH IN ACTION:

Mobilising Communities Through the Church in Africa's Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



ReAct Africa, in collaboration with Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs), is using the power of faith communities to tackle the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) across the continent. By integrating AMR education into church-led initiatives, the programme empowers communities to adopt better health practices and preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics.

Our Work In Zambia

In Lusaka's Matero community, ReAct Africa and the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) piloted an Antibiotic Resistance (ABR) Literacy Program, focusing on women through the UCZ Women's Christian Fellowship. Women were trained on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and responsible antibiotic use. Plans are underway to replicate this model across other churches, including partnerships with the Catholic Church, using a peer-to-peer approach. To broaden reach, ReAct Africa launched the AMR Awareness and Education Program, training both men and women as community AMR champions. Using drama, skits, and customised materials, the programme overcame cultural and language barriers. During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2024, skits performed in church services reached hundreds with life-saving messages on AMR.

Expanding Across Africa with a Touch of Youth

ReAct Africa is now collaborating with East Mandate Global Ministries, a Nigerian-based interdenominational Christian organisation. The partnership targets youth aged 10–35, integrating AMR awareness into skills training programmes, encouraging young people to become advocates in schools, churches, and communities.

Looking ahead, ReAct Africa looks to harness the influence of faith leaders and community structures through the building of a scalable, people-centred AMR response model. This approach is laying the foundation for a pan-African movement driven by education, empowerment, and faith.



INTEGRATING AMR INTO GENDER FRAMEWORKS

A YWCA-ReAct Collaboration



The growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) requires bold, inclusive, and cross-cutting strategies, especially in settings where gender plays a critical role in health outcomes. Recognising this, ReAct Africa partnered with YWCA Zambia to integrate AMR awareness into the organisation's long-standing gender-focused programming.

Women and girls often carry the burden of unpaid caregiving, manage household health decisions, and are disproportionately exposed to infections due to social roles. Yet, their perspectives are often absent in policy conversations about AMR. By embedding AMR into gender structures, we sought to change this narrative, building knowledge, shifting behaviour, and creating grassroots champions.

The starting point was capacity building. In early 2025, YWCA staff received a tailored orientation on AMR from a social science perspective. The session focused on understanding AMR as a development issue, highlighting its gender dimensions and links to community health. With many staff initially unfamiliar with AMR, the training helped demystify the topic and sparked interest in how it intersects with their day-to-day programming on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and youth outreach.

Rather than building a new system, AMR was intentionally woven into existing YWCA outreach structures. This included integrating AMR messages into sessions with women's groups, youth meetings, and GBV awareness campaigns. By using familiar platforms and trusted facilitators, the initiative ensured a smooth, organic uptake of AMR topics within community conversations.

Next Steps

Our next steps are to integrate AMR messages into all YWCA member communities, ensuring the issue is addressed where it matters most—at the grassroots. We will also develop simplified AMR messaging tools that resonate with diverse audiences. Ultimately, our goal is to make AMR awareness a core part of gender and health advocacy in Zambia, while advocating for equitable, people-centered health policies.



The ReAct Effect:

20 Years of Global Impact in the Fight Against Antibiotic Resistance



Inauguration of ReAct in Uppsala, Sweden

In 2005, a group of visionary health advocates launched ReAct with a bold mission: to alert the world about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. What began as a modest meeting convened by Professor Otto Cars and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation quickly blossomed into one of the first global civil society networks solely dedicated to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Over two decades, ReAct has grown into a powerful global network that connects science, policy, and communities across continents, from Latin America and Asia Pacific to Africa and Europe. What sets ReAct apart is its deep commitment to equity, sustainability, and community-driven change.

Our Mission and Vision:

ReAct's vision is a world free from untreatable infections, and its mission is to ensure sustainable and equitable access to effective antibiotics for all.

"ReAct has persistently advocated for increased action, putting health equity and public health needs at the centre of policy and financing discussions. Our efforts are helping to reshape global priorities toward a more just and effective response to antibiotic resistance. The uniqueness of ReAct is that we can draw on experiences from local interventions from many different places and together contribute to a positive change."

– Anna Sjöblom, Director, ReAct Europe



20 Years of Firsts: A Timeline of Impact

Over the past two decades, ReAct has led and supported a wave of pioneering efforts:

1. **First Global Civil Society Network:** ReAct was established in 2005 as the first global civil society network dedicated exclusively to antibiotic resistance.
2. **Promoted a Holistic 'One Health' Approach:** ReAct championed a holistic, cross-sectoral view of antibiotic resistance before the 'One Health' concept became mainstream.
3. **Founded the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC):** ReAct convened the first global civil society coalition focused on antibiotic resistance policy advocacy.
4. **Co-led First Antibiotic Pipeline Analysis:** ReAct helped create the world's first analysis of the antibiotic development pipeline in 2009.
5. **Adapted 'Delinkage' for AMR R&D:** ReAct applied the delinkage model to antibiotic R&D to ensure access while avoiding overuse.
6. **Advocated Equitable and Sustainable Access:** ReAct has consistently promoted both increased access and responsible use of antibiotics, especially in LMICs.
7. **Supported National AMR Action Plans in LMIC expansion:** ReAct provided technical support for national and state AMR action plans, particularly in Africa and India.
8. **Created the ReAct Toolbox:** ReAct launched a practical, online resource hub in 2015 to support national action plans on AMR.
9. **Held the First Regional AMR Conference in Africa:** ReAct initiated the first African regional AMR meeting, now a key annual event.
10. **Piloted 'Antibiotic SMART' Communities:** In 2018, ReAct developed and piloted a framework for antibiotic-smart communities in India.
11. **Engaged Youth in AMR Action:** ReAct has empowered youth through clubs, competitions, education, and campaigns over two decades.
12. **Led Massive Mobilization Before 2024 UNGA:** Ahead of the 2024 UN High-Level Meeting, ReAct mobilized nearly 200 groups to advocate for people-centered AMR solutions.
13. **Used Art to Raise AMR Awareness:** ReAct explored artistic expression—music, poetry, design—to communicate antibiotic resistance issues creatively.
14. **Applied Child-to-Child Methodology:** ReAct Latin America empowered children to educate peers and communities on antibiotic resistance.
15. **Connected AMR to Broader Global Challenges:** ReAct contextualized antibiotic resistance within issues like climate change, cancer, and the SDGs.

Reflections from the Field: ReAct's Real-World Impact

"On the occasion of ReAct's 20th anniversary year, I consider it a privilege to thank ReAct, its founder, the leadership and teams across each node, for their tireless work of advocacy and community engagement over the last two decades to improve antibiotic use. As former Director of ReAct Asia Pacific (RAP) for over 6 years, it was a joy to be a part of the family and contribute through various activities. Each of these activities, ably supported by an excellent team of dedicated and committed individuals at RAP, and the wider ReAct family, has gone a long way in kindling a spark and catalysing forward momentum towards AMR mitigation in the region and beyond. My sincere appreciation to ReAct and best wishes for their crucial work in the coming decade!"

- Dr. Sujith J Chandy, Executive Director, ICARS



For 20 years, ReAct has been a bold and visionary global network, uniting regions and sectors to address antimicrobial resistance through equity, access, and collaboration. As part of this movement for over a decade, ReAct Africa is proud to contribute to this collective effort grounded in shared purpose and strong regional leadership.

What continues to make ReAct unique is its identity as a network. Each node brings local expertise, grounded experience, and deep partnerships. But it is our shared vision and collective action that give us strength.

As the global health landscape evolves, ReAct is uniquely positioned to influence how countries and communities respond to AMR. ReAct will continue to serve as a trusted partner to countries, a critical voice from the Global South, and a catalyst for solutions that place people and communities at the heart of the AMR response.

**- Prof. Mirfin Mpundu
Co-founder and Executive Director, ReAct Africa**

Looking Ahead: ReAct's Next Chapter

As ReAct marks its 20th anniversary, its message is clear: antimicrobial resistance is a shared challenge and communities are key to the solution. With its continued focus on equity, innovation, and collaboration, ReAct stands ready to lead a new era of people-powered action.

TRANSFORMING ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP IN AFRICA: A NEW ERA OF HEALTHCARE INNOVATION

In a world where economic tides are shifting and healthcare budgets are under pressure, finding smarter, more affordable ways to tackle antimicrobial resistance has never been more urgent. ReAct Africa has been at the forefront of this effort, collaborating with diverse health facilities—including public, private, and faith-based organizations—and national AMR coordinating bodies to establish robust antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) initiatives aligned with National Action Plans (NAPs).

Since 2017, these initiatives have focused on contextualising stewardship tools, advising on the composition of AMS teams, and conducting prospective prescription audits. These activities aim to optimize antimicrobial use (AMU), infection prevention and control (IPC), and embed stewardship activities within Medicines and Therapeutics Committees (MTCs), despite the ongoing human resources challenges where personnel often serve multiple roles.

Building on this momentum, Zambia launched the Zambia Strategic Program for Antimicrobial Stewardship (ZASPARS) at the 2022 ReAct Africa Conference. Inspired by the successful Swedish STRAMA model which has significantly reduced inappropriate antibiotic use since 1995, ZASPARS provides a comprehensive national framework to institutionalise stewardship practices.

Following this, ReAct launched the Antibiotic Stewardship Programme through Innovation, Research, and Education (ASPIRE) which operationalises AMS at the facility level.



ZASPARS Launch at the 2022 ReAct Africa Conference



ASPIRE Launch at AAR Hospital 2024

ASPIRE focuses on empowering healthcare professionals in Zambia and Kenya with innovative digital solutions, targeted training, and research-driven interventions. These efforts aim to improve patient outcomes, reduce resistance, and set new standards for sustainable antimicrobial stewardship in low-and middle-income countries. This represents a critical step toward safeguarding the efficacy of antibiotics and ensuring healthier futures for Africa's population.



ADVANCING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE ACTION PLANS IN AFRICA

Africa is making significant strides in addressing antimicrobial resistance through the implementation of National Action Plans

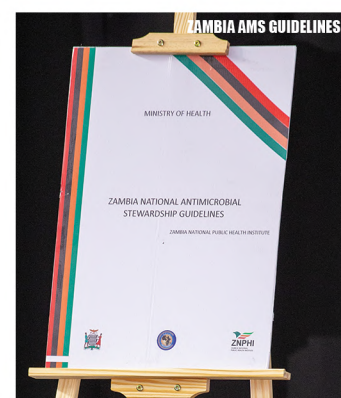
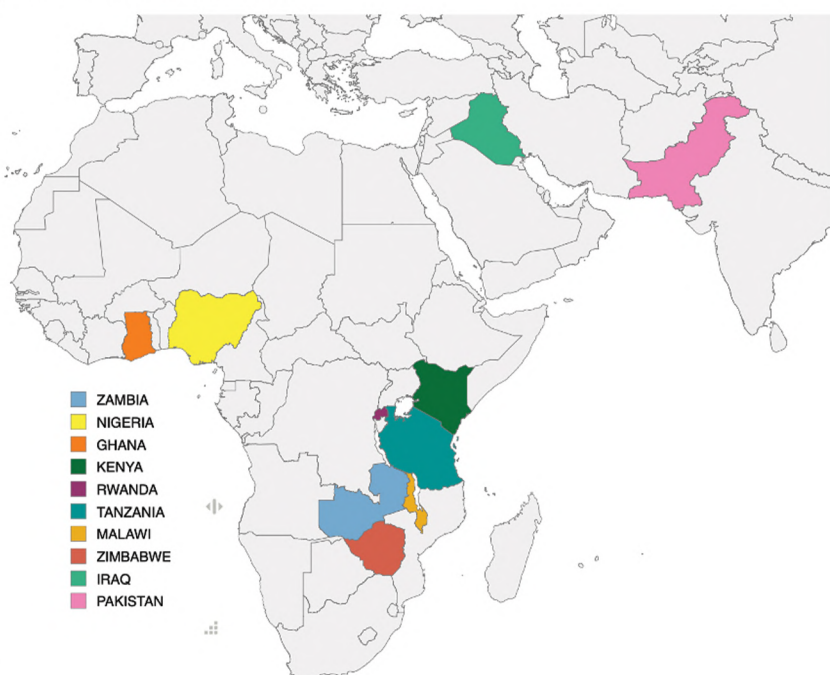
These strategic frameworks, endorsed by governments and aligned with international guidelines from organizations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and Africa CDC, serve as the backbone of the continent's efforts to address AMR.

ReAct Africa has emerged as a pivotal partner in this endeavor, leveraging its deep-rooted connections

within the region to influence policy and practice at both national and regional levels. Over the years, the network's collaborative approach has seen it work closely with countries such as Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi and Rwanda, as well as Pakistan and Iraq, to develop and effectively implement their NAPs.

Even so, the journey does not end with the launch of a NAP. Countries need continued support to revisit and refine their plans, to prioritize activities, review ongoing programs and budgets that intersect with AMR, and to embed AMR priorities within existing health and development initiatives.

Strengthening NAP implementation not only safeguards health outcomes in communities, it also advances progress towards Universal Health Coverage and contributes to the broader Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, and fostering global partnerships. As Africa continues to advance its AMR agenda, the collective effort underscores a commitment to safeguarding health outcomes and achieving sustainable development for generations to come.



AMR'S EVENT OF THE YEAR

INSIDE REACT AFRICA & SOUTH CENTRE'S LANDMARK 10th CONFERENCE



The 10th ReAct Africa and South Centre Annual Conference marked a defining moment in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Held under the theme **"From Global to Local Action: Operationalizing AMR Commitments in Africa & Beyond,"** the event brought together **over 200 delegates from 43 countries** to transform global and regional commitments into practical, country-led solutions. (AMR), creating a trusted space for countries, civil society, and experts to share not only their triumphs but also their obstacles and setbacks.

This milestone gathering united government representatives, global health leaders, researchers, civil society, youth, innovators, faith groups, and the media to align efforts and ensure Africa's leadership in tackling AMR.



Strategic Discussions and High-Level Engagement

Taking place less than a year after the 2024 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR and the Jeddah Ministerial Commitments, the conference provided a crucial platform to evaluate progress, close gaps, and harmonize action with the Africa Public Health Agenda.



The two-day program featured plenary sessions and technical discussions on antimicrobial stewardship in human and animal health, monitoring antimicrobial consumption and strengthening surveillance, expanding access to quality antimicrobials and diagnostics, addressing environmental and climate-linked drivers of AMR and Leveraging digital innovation for decision-making and data use.



Youth engagement, equity, and country experiences were central themes, with participants sharing strategies for strengthening health systems and protecting vulnerable populations.

The current global funding landscape was not overlooked, with donor funds tightening, fragile systems, and stubborn equity gaps, the message was clear: move fast toward domestic financing, value-for-money primary care, and data-driven innovation underpinned by smarter blended finance. And reset the power balance—“decolonize” global health by putting Global South leadership at the center, with genuine ally ship from the North.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The conference delivered actionable recommendations, including:

- Operationalizing AMR NAPs through nationally led, locally tailored approaches
- Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms and integrating AMR into health security frameworks
- Scaling stewardship, surveillance, and infection prevention across One Health sectors
- Ensuring equity-driven and gender-responsive AMR policies
- Harnessing innovation, including AI-powered decision-support tools
- Tackling environmental drivers and strengthening climate resilience
- Promoting regional and South-South collaboration for shared learning



Thanks for Reading.

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