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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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- A new policy brief advocates for safer antimicrobial disposal in Zambia.



Zambia Strengthens Political Leadership on Antimicrobial Resistance Through Parliamentarians' Caucus

What does it take to sustain action on antimicrobial resistance? Beyond science and clinical expertise, it requires political leadership.

On 1 May 2026, ReAct Africa and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPPI) brought together Members of Parliament to advance the establishment of Zambia's Parliamentarians' Caucus on Antimicrobial Resistance. The engagement achieved important milestones, including agreement on the Caucus' foundational documents, governance structure, and interim leadership.

The emerging Caucus provides a dedicated platform for parliamentarians to champion legislation, strengthen oversight, and advocate for sustainable financing for AMR, helping ensure that national commitments translate into meaningful action.



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Putting Communities at the Centre of Global AMR Conversations at WHA79



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Global policy is strongest when it reflects community realities.

During the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, ReAct Africa engaged with policymakers, civil society, faith leaders and international partners to advocate for a more equitable, people-centred response to antimicrobial resistance. Together with the World Council of Churches, ReAct Africa convened the side event Bridging the AMR Divide: Equity, Access and Community-Led Solutions, highlighting the importance of community leadership, equitable access and sustainable financing in tackling AMR.

The Assembly also marked the adoption of the Global Action Plan on AMR (2026–2036), setting the direction for the next decade of global action.

Can AI Help Improve Antibiotic Stewardship?

Digital innovation is becoming an increasingly important part of antimicrobial stewardship.

At the DRIVE-AMS Kenya 2026 Follow-up Programme in Nairobi, ReAct Africa showcased the ASPIRE Project and its AI-powered decision-support tools designed to help healthcare workers make informed antibiotic prescribing decisions.

The meeting also launched a new three-year One Health capacity-building programme that will strengthen stewardship skills among health professionals across Africa through regional training hubs in Kenya and Burkina Faso.



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Nearly 300 Students. Countless Ideas.

Can schoolchildren help tackle antimicrobial resistance?

At Munali Boys Secondary School in Lusaka, nearly 300 students proved they can.

The session was about more than raising awareness. It was about giving young people the confidence to become part of the solution.



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Celebrating 163 New AMR Leaders Across Africa

Every new leader strengthens the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

ReAct Africa has successfully concluded the fourth cohort of the Antimicrobial Resistance Leadership and Education Programme (AMRLEP), with 163 graduates completing the programme.

Representing a wide range of disciplines and countries, the graduates now join a growing network of professionals equipped to champion antimicrobial stewardship, policy and advocacy across Africa.



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What Happens to Unused Antibiotics?

Most conversations about antimicrobial resistance focus on how antibiotics are used. But what happens after treatment ends?

The latest policy brief explores the often-overlooked issue of antimicrobial disposal and outlines practical recommendations to strengthen Zambia's people-centred AMR response. From medicine take-back systems to better patient counselling, the brief highlights simple policy actions that can make a lasting difference.

From the Pulpit to the Community: Faith Leaders Join the Fight Against AMR

Faith leaders have a unique ability to influence attitudes and behaviours within their communities.

To strengthen that role, ReAct Africa partnered with EPN, ACHAP and AACC to launch the Antimicrobial Resistance Sermon Guide during a continental webinar attended by church leaders and faith-based health networks from across Africa.

Participants endorsed the Guide and committed to delivering AMR-themed sermons and community health education sessions, expanding awareness of responsible antimicrobial use through trusted community voices.

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