Issue 3 - 12th October 2026

ReAct AFRICA

AMR WATCH - AFRICA-



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EDITORIAL

Note.

Welcome to another issue of AMR WATCH Magazine.

I would like to thank the AMR community for the incredible work you continue to do to address antimicrobial resistance. A special thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this issue. Your submissions were inspiring, and we hope they encourage our readers to learn, engage and take action in the fight against AMR.

This issue celebrates the many different communities taking action against AMR. We highlight work being done with youth, the elderly and faith communities, demonstrating that everyone has a role to play in addressing this challenge.

As our cover suggests, we also shine a light on Maarifa Kids, an initiative focused on empowering children to become AMR champions from an early age.

We are pleased to feature contributions from youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as a poetry submission that brings a creative perspective to the AMR conversation. We have also included a quiz to challenge our readers and test their AMR knowledge.

Thank you for reading, contributing and being part of this growing movement. We hope this issue informs, inspires and reminds us that wherever we are and whatever our age, we can all take action against AMR.

Enjoy the issue.

Prof. Mirfin Mpundu

Executive Director, ReAct Africa



IBADAN STUDENTS STEP UP

Taking One Health Action Against AMR

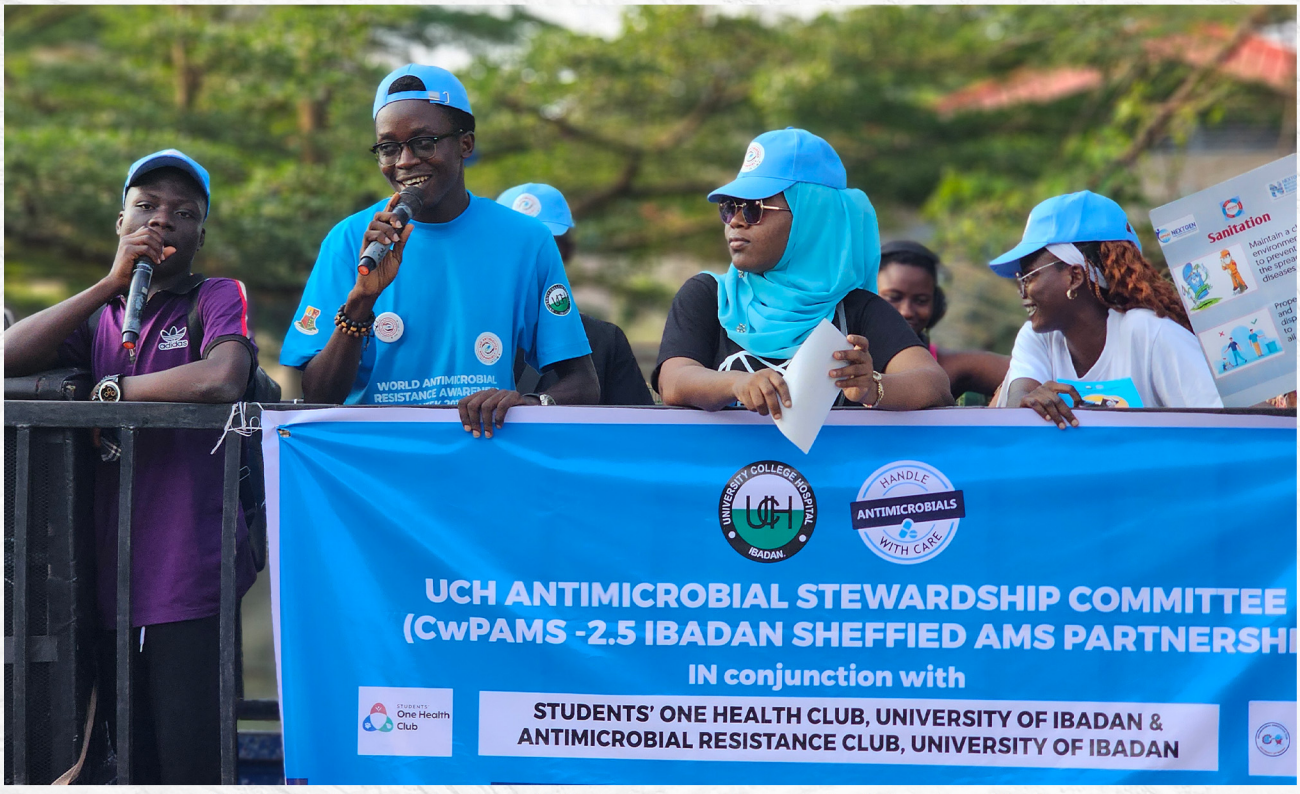
A multidisciplinary student club takes AMR awareness beyond the university

University of Ibadan students are taking antimicrobial resistance awareness beyond campus through an English- and Yoruba-language radio programme and outreach in schools, markets and an abattoir. Founded in 2023, the Students' One Health Club (SOHC) brings together students from human, animal and environmental health disciplines to address One Health challenges, including AMR.

WHO estimates that AMR was responsible for 1.27 million deaths globally in 2019 and contributed to approximately 4.95 million deaths in the same year. Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are among the factors accelerating its development and spread. SOHC was established to strengthen AMR advocacy at the University of Ibadan and across Nigeria.

Building Awareness Through Education and Advocacy

Since its inception, SOHC reports reaching more than 10,000 people through advocacy, webinars, workshops and community outreach.



Members of the club during an AMR awareness walk across the University of Ibadan

The club marked World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) in 2024 and 2025. During the 2025 campaign, from 18-24 November, members participated in awareness and community-engagement activities.

Taking AMR Awareness Beyond Campus

Activities included a symposium organised by the Commonwealth Partnership for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) with the State Government, with lectures on AMR and health professionals' roles. A radio programme in English and Yoruba extended AMR messages to wider audiences, while a webinar facilitated by CwPAMS and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) provided antimicrobial stewardship knowledge. During Global Public Health Week, a market outreach organised by the Next Generation Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative (NASI) with the World Federation of Public Health Associations reached more than 200 vendors.

Engaging Young People

An AMR awareness walk across the University of Ibadan campus drew attention to the growing threat. The campaign also reached secondary school students through a health outreach that introduced AMR fundamentals and demonstrated proper handwashing.



Members of the club engaging students of Immanuel College during a secondary school outreach programme.



Members of the club engaging students during a secondary school outreach



Students of Richgate Divine School receiving practical education on proper handwashing techniques.



Students of Richgate Divine School receiving practical education on proper handwashing techniques in line with WHO recommendations, with free hand sanitizers distributed to reinforce good hygiene practices.

One Health in Action: Engaging Livestock Communities

An abattoir outreach led by the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) engaged butchers and livestock farmers on responsible antibiotic use in animals and hygiene practices intended to reduce infection and transmission risks.

Looking Ahead: Sustaining Action Against AMR

Together, these initiatives show how students can contribute to AMR action through education, advocacy and community engagement. By connecting future human, animal and environmental health professionals, SOHC is helping to make One Health practical and accessible.

TAKING AMR TO THE PEOPLE!!!

How FUNAAB Students Are Changing the Conversation

At the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), members of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Club are proving that the fight against AMR extends far beyond lecture halls. Throughout the academic year, students have taken awareness campaigns directly into communities, demonstrating the power of youth-led action in tackling one of the world's most pressing public health threats.

Through a monthly webinar series organised in partnership with EcoHealth Africa, students engaged with leading experts on strengthening AMR advocacy and community action. Discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration between governments, civil society, health professionals, and young people in addressing antimicrobial resistance through a One Health approach.

The club also marked World Tuberculosis Day with outreach activities at local abattoirs, educating farmers and meat handlers on the links between zoonotic diseases, responsible antimicrobial use, and the growing threat of drug resistance. These engagements transformed complex scientific concepts into practical lessons relevant to everyday livelihoods.



VoiceVigil AMR Outreach



Interacting with a woman by giving her the AMR tract.



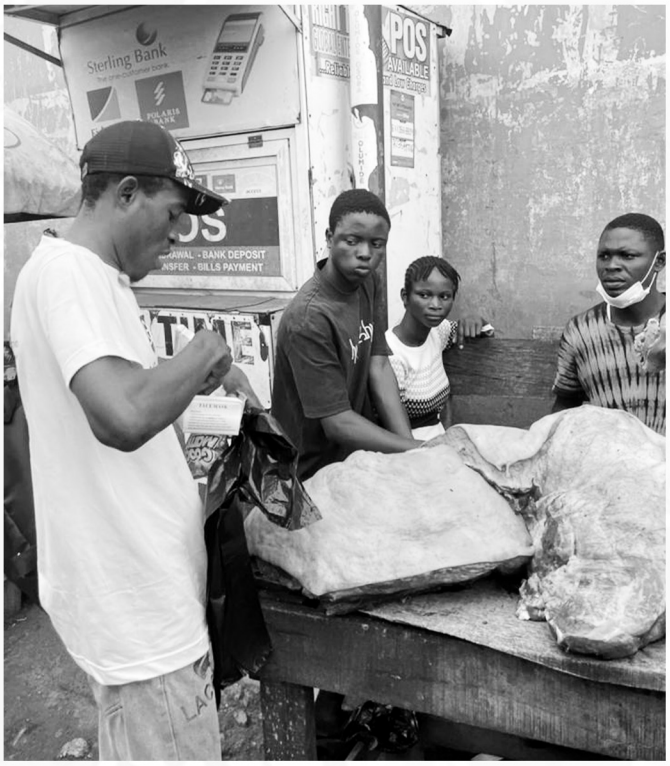
Displaying the Outreach banner.

A major milestone came when the club secured a mini-grant from the Voice Vigil team, supported by the Trinity Challenge. The funding enabled members to translate key AMR messages into Yoruba and Nigerian Pidgin and deliver them directly to traders and residents in community markets across Abeokuta. By communicating in local languages, the club made AMR information more accessible and meaningful to the people most affected.

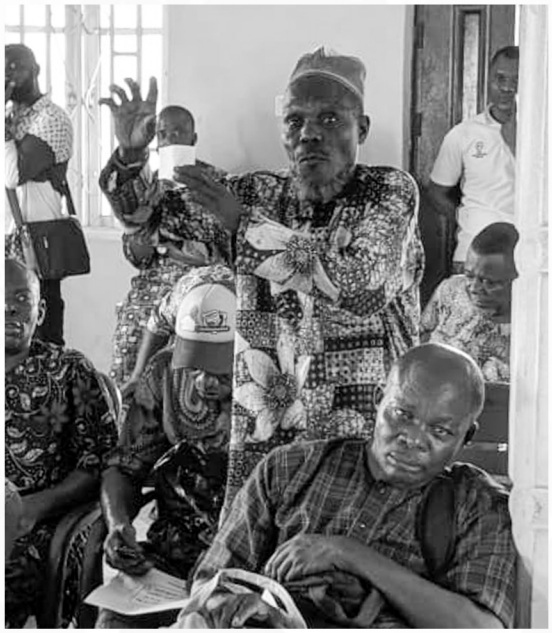
The FUNAAB AMR Club's journey demonstrates that combating antimicrobial resistance requires action at every level of society. From webinars and grant-supported initiatives to market sensitisation and community outreach, students are helping transform AMR from a global health challenge into a shared local responsibility.

CALL TO ACTION:

AMR awareness starts with each of us. Join the movement by using antimicrobials responsibly, seeking professional medical advice before taking antibiotics, and sharing accurate AMR messaging within your community. Together, we can preserve the effectiveness of life-saving medicines for future generations.



Interaction and enlightenment of the butchers.



FUNAAB Outreach at Lafenwa Abattoir



AMR Club FUNAAB Workshop



AMR Club FUNAAB member group picture



VoiceVigil AMR Outreach

Young People Mapping the Everyday Reality of AMR *On-Campus*

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) can feel like a distant public-health issue issue until young people see how everyday practices around food, water, waste, medicines and animals can create risks. During World AMR Awareness Week 2025, a youth-led project turned university campuses into living classrooms to understand these connections.

Students Led the Way

Supported and designed by Ducit Blue Foundation (DBF) and Health Quality Solutions (HQS), the project was implemented on-site by AMR Club LAUTECH at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) and AMR Club UNN (supported by South Centre) at the University of Nigeria (UNN). Students worked in five thematic teams, namely Water, Waste, Food, Medicines, and Animals.

For two days, students walked through the campus documenting locations where everyday activities intersected with potential AMR risk pathways, including open or blocked drainage, unmanaged waste near food areas, and inappropriate antimicrobial disposal. They used photography to capture physical evidence of these risk spots.

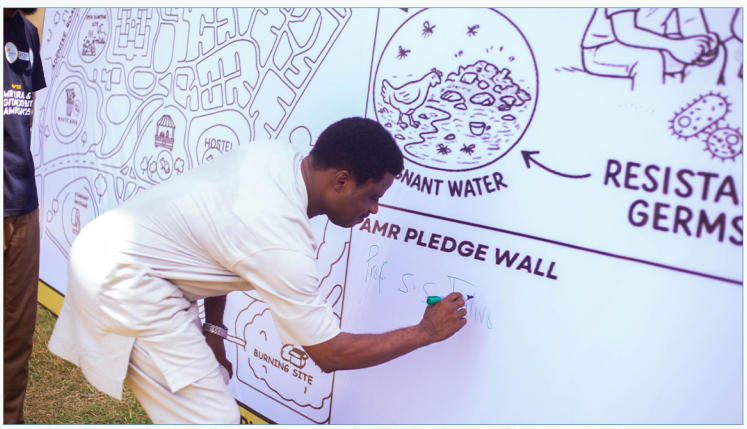


Students interact with the large AMR mural illustrating how germs can spread across their campus.

These risk pathways included potential movement of flies between waste and food zones. Crucially, the teams held on-site dialogues with community members to co-design "small fixes".

Across the two campuses, 77 students participated in the mapping process. At LAUTECH, 35 AMR-related risk points were profiled and documented, while 74 risk points were mapped at UNN. The outputs led to a public AMR Mural Unveiling Event at both sites, which attracted 107 unveiling attendees, with 94 pledges signed directly on the mural by student leaders and university management, committing to implement the exact fixes identified during the exercise.

These mapped risks were also transformed into interactive digital exhibits on Genially, featuring quizzes and a leaderboard to engage students through gamifications.



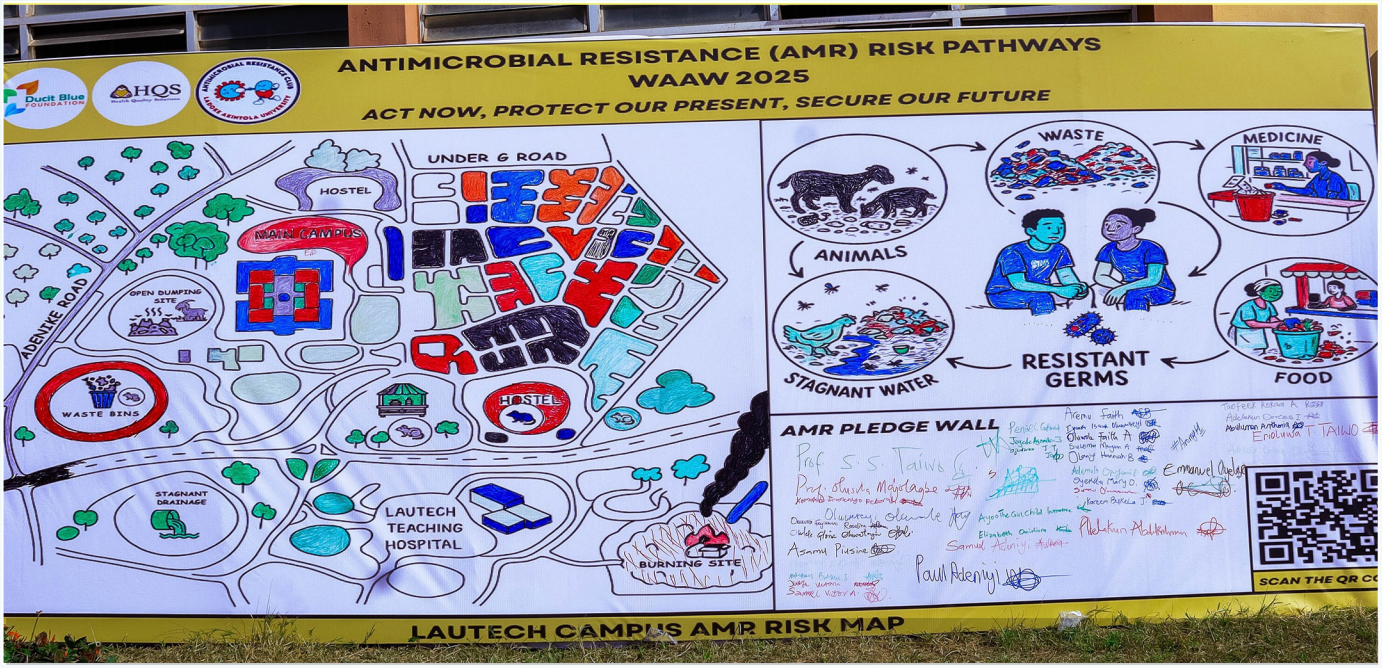
Professor S.S. Taiwo signs the AMR pledge wall, committing to advancing AMR action on campus.

Building Future Leaders beyond Awareness Creation

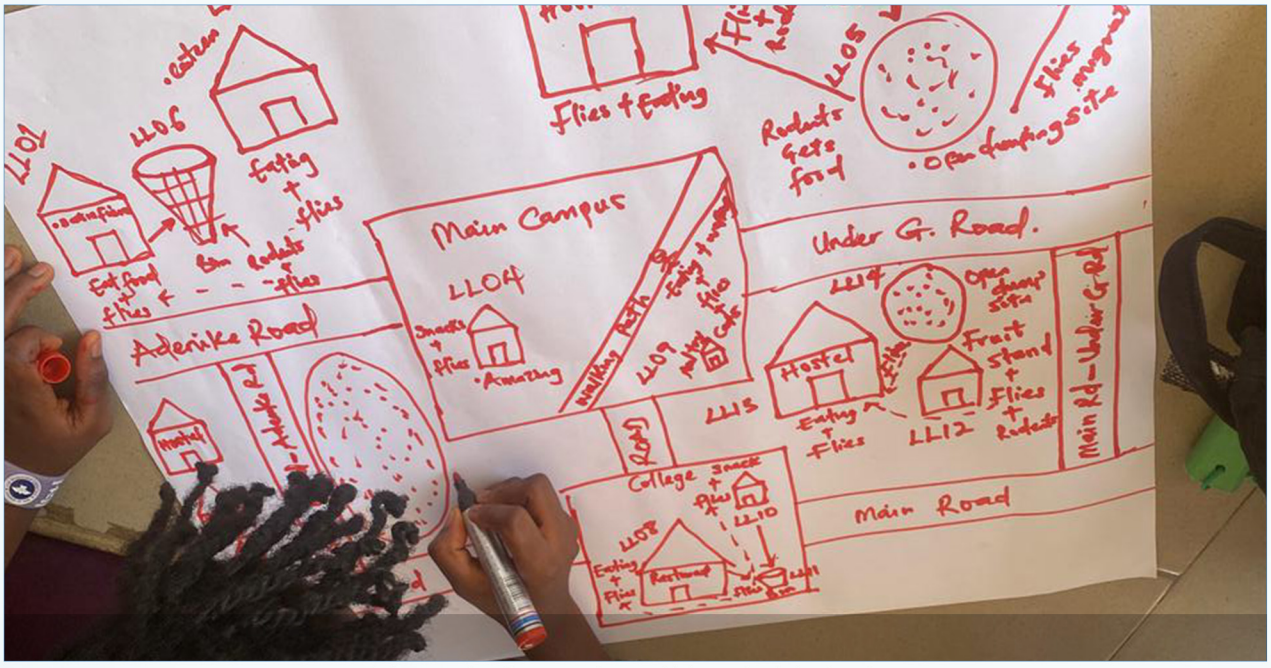
Through the process of observing sites and documenting findings, students practised data collection, stakeholder engagement, systems thinking, and public-health communication.
This approach strengthens succession planning for future One Health leaders by giving young people practical experience in how public health problems are identified and communicated through with action.

From Pilot to Scale

The model is already being scaled through the AMR-Connect Campus Initiative at AMR Club LAUTECH, where students are engaging change-enablers and developing action plans to track progress over time.



The large AMR mural featuring the AMR pledge wall and a QR code linking to the digital exhibit for further engagement.



Risk Mapping Process done collaboratively by Students.



Students gathering data from a Change-enabler to spot how food could contribute to the spread of resistant germs.

With adaptation, the approach can support implementation of Nigeria's National Action Plan 2.0 on AMR and be replicated across universities and communities in Nigeria and other African countries.

NO LONGER JUST A CAMPUS CONVERSATION

FUHSI STUDENTS TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Federal University of Health Sciences Ila-Orangun Antimicrobial Resistance (FUHSI AMR) Club used World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2025 to take the message of responsible antimicrobial use beyond the university campus and directly to the community.

Established in 2025, the FUHSI AMR Club is committed to promoting awareness and action against AMR. During WAAW 2025, observed from 18–24 November, the club organized a series of activities aimed at educating the public on the dangers of antimicrobial misuse and the importance of antimicrobial stewardship.

A key highlight was a radio discussion on Idera FM, where club members engaged listeners on the causes, consequences, and prevention of AMR. The session provided practical guidance on responsible antimicrobial use and emphasized the role that individuals can play in preserving the effectiveness of life-saving medicines.

The club also visited Camila High School and College High School in Ila-Orangun, where students participated in interactive AMR awareness sessions. Through discussions and question-and-answer sessions, students learned about the risks associated with antimicrobial misuse and pledged to become advocates for responsible medicine use within their communities.



Members of the club with students of College High School following an antimicrobial resistance education session.



Members of the club during a radio sensitization session at Idẹra FM Radio Station.



The owner of Awotunde Poultry Farm leading a session on antibiotic use.



A club member facilitating an antimicrobial resistance education session



Students and staff of Camilla High School during an antimicrobial resistance education session.

Recognizing the importance of the One Health approach, the club extended its outreach to Awotunde Poultry Farm. Farmers were sensitized on the prudent use of antimicrobials in livestock production and the need to prevent the spread of resistance across humans, animals, and the environment. To strengthen learning among members, the club organized an AMR quiz competition, creating an opportunity to test knowledge and deepen understanding of antimicrobial resistance. The week concluded with a Go-Blue campaign, with members dressed in blue to show solidarity in the global fight against AMR.



Members of the club with the owner of Awotunde Poultry Farm during an educational visit.

The FUHSI AMR Club's WAAW 2025 activities demonstrated that meaningful action against AMR starts with informed communities. By engaging students, farmers, and the general public, the club contributed to building a culture of responsible antimicrobial use and stewardship.



A member of the club engaging with a student.

Call to Action

Antimicrobial resistance is everyone's responsibility. Whether you are a student, healthcare worker, farmer, policymaker, or community member, your actions matter. Use antimicrobials only when prescribed by a qualified professional, follow treatment instructions correctly, avoid self-medication, and help spread awareness about AMR. Together, we can preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobials for future generations.

BRIDGING COMMUNICATION AND BIOSECURITY:

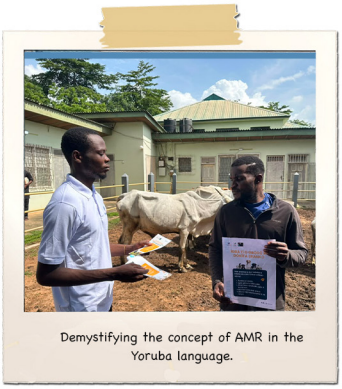
LESSONS FROM COMMUNITY AMR ACTION IN NIGERIA



The executives of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA).



CEO of Beracah Vet World Pharmacy, Ibadan, during the VoiceVigil Phase 2 project.



Demystifying the concept of AMR in the Yoruba language.



Group photo with the 2025/2026 AMR Club UI executives and the past leadership team.

The Trinity Challenge and Dual Battle Against AMR

The Trinity Challenge is a global body funding data-driven solutions to strengthen health security, with a strong focus on tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across Africa. Through competitive selection, I emerged as a champion for two of its Nigeria-focused AMR initiatives: the BioShield Squad Initiative 2025 and the VoiceVigil AMR Language Training Project 2026. Nigeria carries one of the highest burdens of AMR in Africa and globally, making it a critical ground for testing where efforts should be concentrated: strengthening biosecurity at the back end or driving communication at the front end.

Bioshield Squad: Leveling Up Biosecurity from the Grassroots

As part of the Sub-Saharan Africa champion under the theme "Level Up Biosecurity, Lock out AMR," I received funding and training from biosecurity experts across Africa. This knowledge was cascaded to over 300 Nigerian poultry farmers under the Nigeria Poultry Farmers Association in Ibadan, Oyo State, covering practical biosecurity strategies. Members received hands-on biosecurity tools and materials, extending impact to their farms and wider networks, significantly boosting AMR awareness and strengthening Nigeria's poultry industry.

VoiceVigil: Speaking AMR into Understanding

Communication remains a major barrier in AMR stewardship. As one of 70 AMR Language Champions across Africa selected for Phase 2, I communicated AMR concepts in accessible language to livestock farmers, primary healthcare workers, market and shop owners, traders, and animal health practitioners on the dangers of antimicrobial misuse. This project directly reached over 1,000 people within Ibadan communities, deepening understanding of AMR as a global health threat.

Leading Voices: AMR Club, University of Ibadan

As Head of Communications, AMR Club, University of Ibadan, I represented the club during the 2025 World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week, leading campaigns across secondary schools, markets, and abattoirs. The week opened with a symposium by the Commonwealth Partnership for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) and the State Government, featuring lectures on AMR and healthcare professionals' roles in resistance control.

Conclusion: Two Wings, One Fight

Comparing both experiences, communication and biosecurity are not competing priorities but complementary tools. Nigeria's AMR fight demands that both be strategically strengthened, nationally, globally, and locally, to combat this deadly threat effectively



Communicating AMR in the Yoruba language to pet owners and breeders.

A Union of Voices Against the Silent Shadow

In a land in the heart of the **Sahel**,
Where the winds carried the songs of
the ancestors....
A community rose up,
Not for war between humans,
But to stifle an invisible threat,
Yes, a pernicious threat:
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE.
Antimicrobial Resistance is when microbes
learn to defy the very drugs meant
to defeat them.

It transforms simple infections into deadly
battles,
It weakens families through costly healthcare,
It devastates rural economies by ruining
livestock,
It pollutes the soil, rivers, and other
waterways with antibiotic residues.
Under the talking tree,
The elders spoke,
The mothers listened,
The young swore:
Never again will our lives be broken
by the shadow that devours in silence.

Then, the shepherds learned to heal without
excess,
The healers shared the wisdom of plants,
The doctors reached out to
the veterinarians,
And the children carried the message
in their games and laughter.

Then, the shepherds learned to heal without
excess,
The healers shared the wisdom of plants,
The doctors reached out to
the veterinarians,
And the children carried the message
in their games and laughter.
From village to province,
From savannah to forest,
The word became a drum,
Knowledge became a river,
And commitment became light.

For fighting against this pernicious resistance,
Is to protect the future,
Is to defend dignity,
Is to unite the voices of humans, animals,
and the earth itself.
Africa, cradle of peoples,
You are not alone in this fight:
Every gesture counts,
Every watchful gaze,
Every outstretched hand builds
a bulwark against oblivion.

And when the stars light up above the plains,
They tell the story of a community standing tall,
Of a united continent, Of a shared hope:
By all And for all,
Against this microbial resistance,
FOR LIFE.

– Ibrahima KOUMA

TACKLING RESISTANCE AMONGST THE GHANAIAN ELDERLY GENERATION:
THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Antibiotics have transformed modern medicine, turning once-deadly infections into treatable illnesses. But their effectiveness is under growing threat. The elderly, many of whom have weakened immune systems or underlying health conditions, are particularly vulnerable to drug-resistant infections. This vulnerability makes infection prevention, disease surveillance and responsible antibiotic use essential in aged-care homes.
Research indicates that older populations are major reservoirs of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs), and this highlights the need for immediate action within the health sector.

An Overlooked Risk in Accra's Care Homes.

Across Accra and surrounding communities, aged-care homes provide retirees and older adults with shelter, support and access to medical care. Yet disease surveillance and sustained advocacy for high-quality healthcare remain limited in many of these facilities.



Elderly residents of Tabitha Ghana, Pokuase

Scientists from the Biomedical and Public Health Research Unit (BPHRU) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Water Research Institute (CSIR-WRI), set out to investigate the problem. They conducted a three-year surveillance of antimicrobial resistance amongst among 200 adults aged 50 and above living in seven care homes across Ghana's Greater Accra Region. Participating facilities included Benval Home Care in Ashongman Estates; Comfort for the Aged Care Home in Weija-Gbawe and Kasoa-Amanfro; and four branches of Tabitha Home Care located in Pokuase-Afiaman, Amamole, Deedeman and Kuntunse.

Early morning urine samples were collected from participants and were screened for urinary tract infection using microbial diagnostic tools. The researchers also used polymerase chain reaction, commonly called PCR, to identify genetic factors associated with the organisms detected.

The findings were concerning: multidrug-resistant organisms were highly prevalent among the study population. But the research team did not allow the results to remain confined to scientific reports. The evidence became the starting point for action.

Taking Knowledge Into the Community

Following the study, the researchers launched a series of health education and awareness activities in the participating care homes. Their goal was to help older residents, caregivers, managers and families understand AMR—and



2. Comfort for the Aged, Weija

show them how everyday decisions can reduce the risk.

The team began with visits to the homes and held one-on-one conversations involving residents, care-home managers and volunteers. The researchers then organized a large community durbar that brought together residents, relatives, health volunteers, care-home managers and medical professionals.

Health experts explained how antimicrobial resistance develops, why it is dangerous and what individuals and institutions can do to slow its spread.

The sessions focused on practical issues, including the improper use of antibiotics, the dangers of self-medication, good personal hygiene and the importance of proper nutrition.

Educational infographics were distributed, along with mugs carrying AMR awareness messages, helping to keep the campaign visible long after the events ended.

From care homes to policy discussions

The initiative extended beyond community education. Members of the research team also participated in stakeholder meetings with policymakers involved in Ghana's response to antimicrobial resistance. They presented their findings, raised concerns about the risks facing older adults and proposed measures to strengthen AMR prevention and control. Their advocacy highlighted the need to include aged-care facilities in national disease-surveillance programs and healthcare-quality initiatives.

A community ready to act

The response from residents and other stakeholders was overwhelmingly positive. Participants reported that they had gained a clearer understanding of AMR and expressed a willingness to adopt practices that could help prevent its spread.

That willingness offers hope—but awareness must be followed by sustained action.

Protecting older adults from antimicrobial resistance will require cooperation among residents, families, caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers and policymakers. Routine surveillance, improved infection prevention, better access to reliable medical advice and responsible antibiotic use must become standard features of aged care.

The evidence is clear, and Ghana's care-home communities are ready to respond. The next step is ensuring that they receive the support, resources and attention needed to turn awareness into lasting protection.



Team members



Comfort for the Aged, Weija



Patrons of Tabitha Ghana, Pokuase



Team members

FROM HEALTHIER CHICKENS
TO STRONGER LIVELIHOODS



Bernadette's new poultry house.

For Noreen, a poultry farmer in Seke District, Zimbabwe, raising chickens used to mean keeping birds in a room in her home. Ventilation was poor, hygiene measures were limited and disease could spread quickly.

Today, she stands proudly outside a purpose-built poultry house—a visible sign of how practical knowledge can transform a farm.

"In the beginning we used to raise chickens in the houses… no ventilation, no proper biosecurity, no hygiene… but now we have learned a lot."

That knowledge came through an ICARS-supported Farmer Field School, where poultry farmers learn, test and adapt improved farming practices using a shared school flock. Instead of relying solely on classroom instruction, participants see how different methods work under real farming conditions before applying them at home.

For Noreen and other farmers, the lessons have led to healthier birds, more productive businesses and a reduced need for antibiotics.

Learning by doing

Successful poultry farming depends on much more than feeding chickens and providing shelter. Temperature, ventilation, sanitation and early disease detection can all determine whether a flock thrives or struggles.

The Farmer Field School curriculum was designed around the everyday realities of poultry farming. Farmers helped shape the training by sharing their needs, experiences and the challenges they encounter on their farms. This practical, participatory approach allows them to experiment with improved methods, observe the results and apply what works in their own poultry houses.

Through ICARS-supported projects, 127 farmers have received training in Zimbabwe, while another 159 have been trained in Zambia. Participants learn how to control temperature and improve airflow inside poultry houses. They also gain practical skills in feeding, brooding and maintaining a clean environment.

Simple measures can make a major difference. Farmers are now using footbaths to prevent people from carrying harmful organisms into poultry houses, practicing thorough handwashing and separating sick birds from healthy ones before illness spreads through the flock.

Together, these measures strengthen biosecurity—the practices used to prevent diseases from entering or spreading on a farm.

Before the training, Noreen says her chickens experienced frequent illness and deaths. Without good biosecurity and hygiene measures in place, she often turned to antibiotics to manage disease. Her experience changed after she began applying the practices learned through the Farmer Field School. She now reports fewer bird deaths and less frequent antibiotic use

"With the knowledge that I've got from ICARS, now I know I can raise better chickens, healthy chickens, with less or no antibiotics."
The change matters far beyond Noreen's farm. When antibiotics are used unnecessarily or incorrectly, bacteria can develop resistance to them. This contributes to antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, which makes infections more difficult to treat in both animals and people.

By preventing disease before it occurs, farmers can reduce their dependence on antibiotics while improving the health and welfare of their chickens and simultaneously reducing the risk of AMR.

From healthier flocks to brighter futures

For many farmers, the changes have also created opportunities to grow their businesses and improve their families' lives.

Bernadette and her family built a new poultry house using knowledge gained through the Farmer Field School. Their previous poultry house had been affected by high and fluctuating temperatures, conditions that contributed to substantial losses among the birds.
With better housing and improved flock-management practices, the family now reports a mortality rate of approximately 2 per cent. Their profits have also increased.

The extra income has had an impact far beyond the poultry house. This year, the family was able to move their son from a local school to a boarding school.
"We are achieving a lot," Bernadette says.

Protecting medicines for the future

The experiences of Noreen and Bernadette show how practical agricultural knowledge connects animal health, public health and livelihoods.

When farmers can prevent infections, recognize signs of disease and make informed decisions about treatment, they are less likely to use antibiotics unnecessarily. Healthier flocks can mean fewer financial losses, more reliable income and stronger poultry businesses.

Responsible antibiotic use also helps reduce the spread of resistant bacteria through food systems, communities and the environment. Preserving the effectiveness of these medicines is essential because resistant infections can become harder—and more expensive—to treat.

The principle is simple: antibiotics should be used only when they are genuinely needed and with appropriate professional guidance. Every unnecessary dose avoided helps protect these vital medicines so they can continue to save the lives of people and animals for generations to come.

For farmers such as Noreen and Bernadette, the Farmer Field School has delivered more than technical instruction. It has provided the tools to raise healthier chickens, build stronger businesses and become part of the global effort to slow antimicrobial resistance.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the project.



Noreen stands at the entrance of her poultry house that she built with knowledge gained from a Farmer Field School in Seke District.



Bernadette stands in front of the new poultry house she built with her daughter after they both attended a Farmer Field School in Seke District.

"WHAT WE EAT COMES FROM HERE"

CHILDREN TAKE HEALTH LESSONS TO THE MARKETPLACE



A young participant addresses traders and other community members during the children's health sensitisation exercise at New Parts Market, Onitsha.

The marketplace was busy, noisy and largely indifferent to the children who had just arrived.

Dressed in white coats and wearing stethoscopes around their necks, a group of children and teenagers moved through New Parts Market in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. At first, they looked more like young doctors on a school excursion than health advocates.

But they were there to talk.

They had come from the classroom carrying lessons about hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention. Now, they had to share those lessons with traders, passers-by and other members of the community.

For some, excitement was mixed with fear. Speaking to strangers was unfamiliar. Would anyone listen? Would adults take them seriously?

Then one little girl noticed two young men throwing rubbish indiscriminately.

She turned to me and asked, **"Uncle Rafiki, can I go and talk to them?"**

I smiled and nodded. I watched her walk towards them, carrying nothing but the confidence of a child who believed she had something important to say. At that moment, I felt an unexplainable sense of pride.

"What we eat comes from here; we need to keep it clean," she told them.

I stood a few steps away, watching a lesson from the classroom become a conversation in the real world.

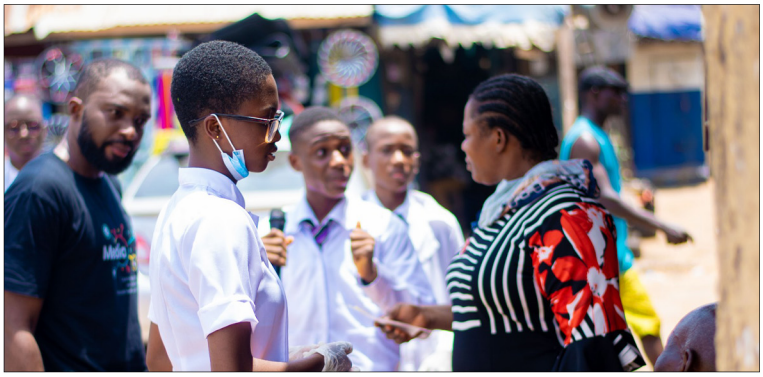
For more than an hour, the children engaged people around the market, discussing handwashing, environmental cleanliness, safe food practices and making informed health decisions.

The white coats and stethoscopes were deliberate. Through the role-play, I wanted the children to see themselves not only as learners, but as future healthcare professionals and health advocates capable of influencing their communities.

As the engagement continued, their nervousness gave way to confidence. They approached strangers, answered questions and discovered that they could communicate health messages beyond the classroom.

The experience also brought One Health to life. Human health is connected to the environment we live in, the animals around us and the practices that shape our daily lives.

It also offered a practical connection to antimicrobial resistance. Better hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention can reduce avoidable infections and, consequently, the unnecessary demand for antibiotics.



Girl speaking with a market woman.



Girl addressing the crowd.

The children arrived as nervous students. They left as health messengers with a better understanding that protecting health does not begin only in hospitals or laboratories.
Sometimes, it begins in a marketplace, with a child willing to say: **"What we eat comes from here; we need to keep it clean."**



Children moving through the market.



Girl addressing the crowd.

PHOTO COLLECTION:
STUDENTS OF ROYAL LAND SCHOOLS, ONITSHA, ADDRESSING TRADERS ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE.



Girl speaking to youths at the market.



Boy addressing traders and passers-by.

THE CHURCH AS A SPIRITUAL CLINIC:

FAITH LEADERS STEP INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST AMR



Students presenting creative illustrations on antimicrobial resistance during a school engagement.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is often described as a silent pandemic, creeping into homes and hospitals alike. But in Lusaka this July, a group of religious leaders gathered at The Urban Hotel to confront it head-on — not with microscopes or medicines, but with sermons, scripture, and community trust.

From Interview to Inspiration

The journey began with a simple yet profound conversation. In an interview with Apostle Victor Mavunga, ReAct Africa asked how the church could help protect communities from untreatable infections. His response was clear: "The church is a controlled and trusted environment where people gather weekly and look to us for guidance."

That insight inspired a short clip portraying the church as a "spiritual clinic" — a place where health and faith intersect. The clip became the spark for deeper dialogue, screened at The Urban Hotel to open a focus group discussion with nine religious leaders, representatives from ZNPHI, and ReAct Africa staff.

Ignorance Is Dangerous

The clip's message resonated strongly. Reverend Shadreck Chulu of the Anglican Church Diocese captured the urgency: "Ignorance is dangerous — we must protect our flock by teaching them about medicines."

For many leaders, it was their first structured introduction to AMR. They reflected on antibiotic misuse in their homes — from incomplete treatments to self-prescription — and began to see how everyday practices were fueling resistance.

Protect, Preach, Prevent

The meeting introduced the AMR Sermon Guide, a faith-aligned resource designed to help clergy weave health stewardship into sermons, counseling, and fellowship groups. Under the tagline "Protect, Preach, Prevent AMR," leaders pledged to integrate messages on hygiene, responsible antibiotic use, and environmental care into their ministries.

Bishop Oliver Banda of Grace Ministries summed it up: "This guide helps us preach health as stewardship, not just science."

Gender and Inclusion

The engagement was notable for its diversity. Female clergy and health professionals joined male counterparts in shaping strategies, ensuring that AMR advocacy reflected the voices of women as well as men. This balance strengthened credibility across congregations and highlighted the importance of gender equity in faith-based health action.

Lessons and Challenges

The discussions revealed both promise and hurdles. Leaders were motivated by scripture-aligned tools and metaphors, but they also voiced concerns: technical terms risked misinterpretation, and resource constraints limited their ability to sustain awareness. Still, the framing of the church as a "spiritual clinic" lowered barriers and gave leaders confidence to act.





Secondary school students participating in an interactive AMR awareness session.



Orientation and capacity-building session for youth volunteers before community outreach activities.



EcoMed Nexus volunteers conducting household sensitization on antimicrobial resistance.

A New Frontline

What emerged at The Urban Hotel was more than a meeting — it was the birth of a movement. By equipping religious leaders with relatable tools, ReAct Africa and ZNPHI opened a new frontline in the fight against AMR.

In communities where trust in religious leadership runs deep, sermons may prove as powerful as science. And as Apostle Mavunga reminded us, medicines are a gift — one that must be protected through wisdom, stewardship, and collective action.



Participants from government agencies, academia, civil society organizations, youth groups, media, community/religious leaders and environmental health institutions following the AMR stakeholder engagement.

MAARIFA KIDS

Recognising Children as Key Stakeholders in the Fight Against AMR



The following photos show some highlights from our engagements at both Munali Boys and Girls

Children are often viewed as the beneficiaries of public health interventions, with adults making decisions on their behalf. Yet, children are key stakeholders in their own right, capable of understanding health challenges, contributing solutions and influencing behaviours within their families, schools and communities.

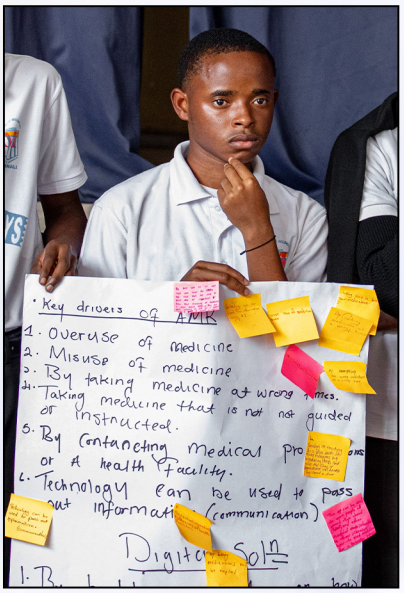
Through Maarifa Kids Zambia, ReAct Africa is working to strengthen the meaningful participation of children in addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), recognising that their voices, experiences and ideas are essential to building healthier communities.

In June 2026, ReAct Africa, in partnership with Global Shapers Lusaka Hub, engaged 542 students from Munali Boys and Munali Girls Secondary Schools in Lusaka. The interactive sessions introduced students to AMR, explored its drivers and encouraged them to develop innovative solutions to address the challenge.

Understanding what children already know

Baseline knowledge assessments conducted before the sessions provided insights into children's understanding of antibiotics, AMR and infection prevention.

Among 289 boys assessed, the average knowledge score was 79.7%. While 94.5% correctly recognised that AMR can make infections harder to treat, only 56.7% understood that antibiotics should not be shared with friends or family.





Similarly, 232 girls completed the baseline assessment, recording an average knowledge score of 78.79%. Although overall awareness was relatively high, the findings revealed specific knowledge gaps requiring targeted education.

The assessments also highlighted the importance of children's immediate social environments. Among the girls, 74.14% identified schools as a source of health information, while 64.66% identified parents or guardians. These findings demonstrate the importance of engaging children within the networks through which health information is shared.

From learners to agents of change

Beyond receiving information, students actively identified AMR drivers and proposed solutions, including medicine reminder applications, AI-powered assistants, podcasts and social media campaigns.

Their ideas demonstrate that children have the capacity to contribute meaningfully to public health discussions when given the opportunity.

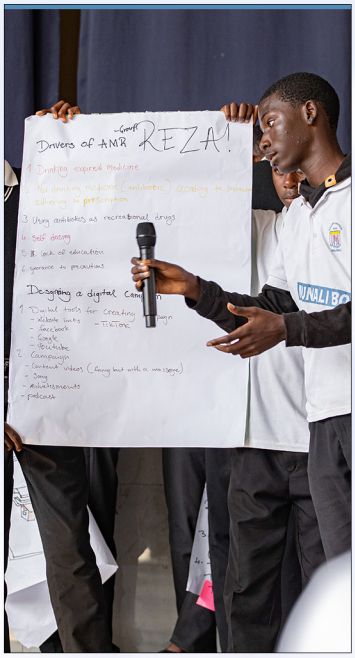
A child who understands responsible antibiotic use can share that knowledge with friends, question inappropriate practices at home and encourage healthier behaviours among peers.

Maarifa Kids Zambia seeks to nurture this potential through participatory learning, creative engagement and opportunities for children to develop solutions relevant to their communities.

By investing in children's knowledge and agency today, we are not simply preparing future AMR champions. We are recognising and empowering the young champions who can contribute to meaningful change in their communities today.











From Awareness to Influence: Why Young People Must Have a Seat at the AMR Decision–Making Table



The following photos show some highlights from the side event during the ReAct Annual Conference 2026.

Across Africa, young people are increasingly becoming a powerful force in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Through university One Health clubs, community outreach activities, digital campaigns and peer-to-peer education, they are helping to raise awareness about one of the most pressing public health challenges of our time.

Yet an important question remains: Are young people also helping shape the policies and decisions that guide the AMR response?

This question took centre stage during the youth side event, "Strengthening Youth Engagement in One Health AMR Governance in Africa," held on 21 July at the ReAct Africa Annual AMR Conference 2026. Bringing together 50 participants, including students, young professionals, AMR champions, youth-led organisations and technical partners, the discussion focused on the barriers that continue to limit meaningful youth participation in AMR and One Health governance.





The message from participants was clear: youth engagement must move beyond awareness creation. While educating communities remains important, young people also have valuable perspectives to contribute to policy development, programme implementation and accountability processes. Their involvement should not depend on occasional invitations to conferences or meetings but should be supported through formal and sustainable mechanisms for representation.

Participants highlighted the need for stronger leadership development opportunities, mentorship programmes and greater recognition of youth-generated evidence. Universities and One Health clubs were recognised as critical platforms for nurturing future leaders by equipping students with technical knowledge, advocacy skills and practical experience. Equally important is ensuring that youth engagement reflects the true One Health approach by creating opportunities for young people from human health, animal health, agriculture and environmental sectors to contribute to AMR governance.

As antimicrobial resistance continues to threaten health systems, food security and economic development, the voices of young people cannot remain on the sidelines. They are not only future leaders, they are active stakeholders whose ideas, experiences and innovations can strengthen today's response.

Call to Action

The fight against AMR requires more than youth awareness; it requires youth influence.















ReAct AFRICA

2026 HIGHLIGHT REEL



LifeArc representatives, including their CEO, visited Zambian facilities partnering with us on the ASPIRE PROJECT.



We successfully hosted the ReAct Annual Antimicrobial Resistance Conference 2026 (RAAC26) at Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia.



We successfully met with Lusaka-based leaders from different Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) to Launch the Religious Sermon Guide.



We successfully partnered with Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) through the Pandemic Fund to host the National Annual Antimicrobial Resistance Debate Competition in Zambia.

ReAct AFRICA

POP QUIZ

Test your AMR Knowlegde with this little quiz we cooked up for you!!!!

1. Which WHO list categorizes antibiotic-resistant bacteria according to the urgency of developing new antibiotics against them?
2. Name three types of microorganisms that can develop Antimicrobial Resistance.
3. What are the three areas that make up the One Health approach?
4. Name one everyday behaviour that can contribute to the spread of AMR.
5. What is the term for bacteria that are resistant to multiple classes of antibiotics?
6. Which international awareness campaign takes place every November and aims to increase understanding of antimicrobial resistance?
7. What is the term for using antibiotics in livestock not to treat an infection, but to prevent disease in healthy animals?
8. What was the name of the first antibiotic discovered, and who discovered it?
9. True or False: A person can carry antimicrobial-resistant bacteria without being sick.
10. Which class of antibiotics is considered a "last-resort" treatment for some multidrug-resistant bacterial infections?

ANSWERS ARE ON THE BACK COVER.



ReAct AFRICA

Reactgroup.org/africa
1003 Madalitso Drive, Meanwood Ibex,
Lusaka, Zambia

POP QUIZ ANSWERS

1. WHO Bacterial Priority Pathogens List; 2. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites; 3. Human health, animal health, and environmental health; 4. Using antibiotics when they are not needed, sharing antibiotics, or not following a prescription correctly; 5. Multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria; 6. World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW); 7. Antibiotic prophylaxis or preventive use of antibiotics; 8. Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928; 9. True; 10. Colistin.