



THURSDAY
01 OCTOBER 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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“Protect, Preach, Prevent”: Taking AMR Messages to the Pulpit

What role can a sermon play in protecting antibiotics? On 15 July, ReAct Africa and ZNPHI brought religious leaders together in Lusaka to explore how churches and other faith spaces can support AMR awareness and responsible use of medicines. Under the message “Protect, Preach, Prevent AMR,” participating leaders committed to begin incorporating AMR into congregational activities, demonstrating the potential of trusted faith leaders to bring complex health messages closer to communities.



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Six Priorities for Turning Africa's AMR Commitments into Action

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The ReAct Africa Annual AMR Conference 2026 (RAAC26) in Lusaka, Zambia, focused on translating Africa's antimicrobial resistance (AMR) commitments into practical actions. Nearly 200 participants discussed the need for mechanisms to implement existing solutions rather than just more commitments.

A six-point implementation agenda was established: Prioritise, Institutionalise, Finance, Implement, Include, and Measure & Scale. Key messages emphasized the importance of integrating effective AMR interventions into health systems, linking AMR financing to broader health priorities, and involving communities affected by drug-resistant infections in the implementation process.

ASPIRE in the Global Spotlight

AMR chatbot could prevent drug-resistant infections in African hospitals. Developers say the phone-based tool, which advises medics on how to prescribe antibiotics, has already helped raise the quality of care.

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When an AMR Intervention Works, How Do We Make It Last?

A promising AMR intervention is only as valuable as our ability to sustain it. This was one of the messages ReAct Africa brought to the 16th ECSA-HC Best Practices Forum and 32nd Directors Joint Consultative Committee Meeting, held from 5–7 August 2026 in Manzini, Eswatini.

During a parallel session convened with ECSA-HC and Africa CDC, ReAct Africa shared lessons from RAAC26 and the pre-conference Knowledge Exchange. The discussion focused on moving beyond successful projects and commitments towards AMR interventions that are institutionalised, adequately financed and measurable.



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Eden vs Apex: 62 Students Put Their AMR Knowledge to the Test

AMR education took a competitive turn in August as students from Eden University and Lusaka Apex Medical University went head-to-head in ReAct Africa's first AMR Trivia Session.

The competition brought together 62 students from disciplines ranging from medicine, nursing and pharmacy to environmental health, molecular biology, education and ICT. Their knowledge was tested across AMR, antimicrobial stewardship, One Health, infection prevention and control, and public health, with Eden University taking the win 16 points to 14.5.

Young People Are Raising AMR Awareness. But Are They in the Rooms Where Decisions Are Made?



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Young people are becoming more active in AMR campaigns in Africa, leading awareness initiatives and forming university clubs. However, their involvement in decision-making for AMR policies is still limited.

The youth side event "Strengthening Youth Engagement in One Health AMR Governance in Africa" at RAAC26 gathered fifty young AMR champions and partners to discuss ways to enhance youth participation from awareness to meaningful policy involvement and accountability.



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Zambia Has AMR Evidence. How Do We Get More of It into Policy?

Zambia's body of AMR research and implementation experience is growing. But producing evidence is only part of the equation. How effectively is that evidence informing policy, programmes and everyday practice?

That question brought together 30 participants from government, research institutions, academia, regulatory agencies and implementing organisations for the Partners Forum and Knowledge Exchange on AMR Research, Policy Translation and Implementation, convened by ReAct Africa and ZNPHI on 20 July in Lusaka.

What Will It Take to Make Africa's New AMR Framework Work?

A continental framework can establish priorities, but its impact ultimately depends on what happens after countries leave the meeting room.

ReAct Africa joined stakeholders in Mombasa, Kenya, for the African Union AMR Framework Implementation Meeting, focused on translating the AU Framework for AMR Control 2026–2030 into actions that Member States can implement.



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AMR National Debates

For two weeks in September, 909 students from 17 tertiary institutions put antimicrobial resistance up for debate, challenging one another on antibiotic misuse, policy enforcement, antimicrobial use in animals and who should be accountable for tackling AMR.

Bringing together students from health sciences, agriculture and veterinary science to law, ICT, business and mass communication, the competition turned AMR into a lively, evidence-driven conversation across Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt Provinces.

Beyond the podium, the debates showed how giving young people a platform to research, question and defend ideas can transform AMR education into active youth engagement and advocacy.



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