

The Global Health Network AMR Knowledge Hub Collaborator Meet and Greet Events 2023

Summary Report and Recommendations

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Background

Between Sep - Oct 2023, The Global Health Network (TGHN) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Knowledge Hub hosted 3 online ‘Meet and Greet’ events for members of the Hub’s [collaborator map](#). The meetings aimed to foster networking, knowledge sharing, and collaborative discussions between collaborator map members, with a focus on identifying shared challenges and areas of research interest concerning AMR across the Global South. Dedicated events were held for collaborators in the Africa, Asia, and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) regions. Detailed meeting reports for each event can be found at the following links; [Africa](#), [Asia](#), [LAC](#).

Each 1.5 hr event began with an overview of the AMR Knowledge Hub, current Hub activities, and the meeting aims. Collaborators were then invited to give a short introduction, including their background, their current AMR research focus / interests, and their AMR research goals. Participants were encouraged to highlight barriers to achieving these goals, and further support that would enable their achievement. Open discussions to allow deeper exploration of ideas raised during the introductions were then held if time permitted. All meeting discussions were subjected to rapid qualitative analysis, begun during the meeting and consolidated using meeting recordings, by TGHN’s AMR Hub team, to identify emergent themes / areas of common interest.

Outcomes

A total of 61 collaborators from at least 19 countries attended the meetings. A breakdown of meeting attendance per region is shown in **Figure 1**. Participants represented a wide range of professional backgrounds, expertise and research experience (see individual meeting reports for further details).

Shared areas of AMR research interest identified across multiple regions are summarised in **Table 1**, and explored in further depth below. Shared strategies identified across multiple regions for addressing these research areas are identified in **Table 2**. In addition to the areas of shared AMR-research interest identified in **Table 1**, region-specific areas of AMR research interest raised by collaborators are highlighted in **Table 3**.

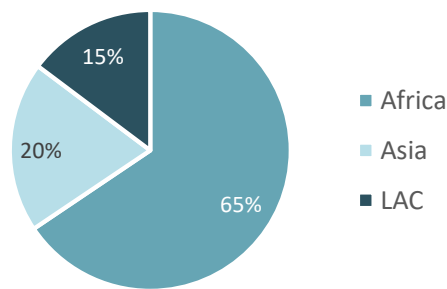


Figure 1: Meeting attendance per region, as a percentage of attendees across all meetings (n=61).

Theme	Region		
	Africa	Asia	LAC
Antimicrobial Stewardship			
Youth Engagement in AMR Research			
One Health			
Genomic Studies and Molecular Biology			
AMR Surveillance			

Table 1: Shared areas of AMR research interest identified by collaborators across multiple regions.

Theme	Region		
	Africa	Asia	LAC
Collaboration and Networking			
Education and Training			

Table 2: Shared strategies for strengthening AMR research identified across multiple regions

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Strengthening antimicrobial stewardship was identified as a common need by collaborators in each region. In particular, the development of education, training and research initiatives targeted to addressing inappropriate prescribing/use of antimicrobials was recognised as a vital step. Collaborators in the Asia meeting additionally highlighted a need to strengthen stewardship activities in community health settings, with community pharmacists identified as key stakeholders.

Youth Engagement in AMR Research

Increasing youth education regarding AMR and engaging young people in AMR research was identified as a key approach by collaborators in each region. Across all meetings, youth engagement discussions centred on targeting individuals in tertiary education, particularly healthcare students. Collaborators in the Asia and the LAC regions identified a need for increased AMR-focussed training opportunities for healthcare students, with the development of AMR-focused curricula in healthcare education proposed by participants in the Asia meeting. In Africa, several successful initiatives to involve young people in AMR activities were noted, and participants proposed the development of a framework to support further youth engagement in AMR research in the region.

One Health

Collaborators in the Africa and Asia meetings raised the importance of adopting the holistic One Health approach in the development and implementation of AMR-targeted initiatives.

Genomic Studies and Molecular Biology

A need for increased support in conducting genomic and molecular studies was identified by both African and Asian collaborators. Whilst participants in both regions highlighted technological challenges (lack of laboratory capacity/lack of access to technological resources) as barriers to conducting genomic and molecular studies, specific gaps identified in Africa centred on infrastructural challenges (lack of laboratory capacity), whereas in Asia, human resource constraints (lack of trained staff/technical skills), study recruitment challenges (lack of participant diversity), and a lack of samples were identified as key barriers. In addition, a need to harness artificial intelligence and data mining methodologies was highlighted in the Africa meeting.

AMR Surveillance

A need to intensify AMR surveillance and the conduction of prevalence studies was identified as an area of shared interest by collaborators in LAC and Asia. In the LAC region, the importance of integrating technologies such as digital health tools to strengthen AMR surveillance was noted. In addition, Africa collaborators also noted poor laboratory infrastructure as a barrier to conducting effective AMR monitoring in the region.

Region	Theme
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited laboratory capacity (infrastructural and technological) was identified as a cross-cutting barrier to the conduction of AMR research, with particular relevance to genomic and molecular studies, surveillance and diagnostic capacity noted. • In addition to limited laboratory capacity, a lack of available diagnostic test kits was considered to contribute to a gap in diagnostic capacity. • Further to strengthening youth engagement in AMR, wider community/public engagement activities were proposed, including media engagement in/sensitization to AMR research. • Limited AMR policy was identified as a barrier to robust AMR activities in the African region.
Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need for more systemic reviews focused on AMR in Asia was considered an important step for understanding and addressing the burden of AMR in the region.
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional strategies to those described above were highlighted.

Table 3: Region-specific areas of AMR research interest identified by collaborators in each region.

Recommendations

In order to address the above findings and to maintain the momentum established by the commencement of these collaborative meetings, the following actions are recommended:

- Creation of a member-led, international working group, consisting of members across all regions, to further explore the shared need for strengthening antimicrobial stewardship activities and research across the Global South, with tackling inappropriate prescribing/use of antimicrobials providing the starting point for discussions and idea generation.
- Creation of a member-led, international working group, consisting of members across all regions, to further explore the shared need for increasing youth engagement in AMR activities and research across the Global South, with a focus on targeting individuals in tertiary education, particularly healthcare students, providing the starting point for discussions and idea generation.
- Communication of the above findings to the membership of TGHN's AMR Knowledge Hub, with the invitation for members:
 - To create additional member-led international working groups focussed on intensifying the conduction of genomic and molecular studies, and surveillance and prevalence studies, if so desired.
 - To create additional member-led regional/national working groups to address the region-specific areas of AMR research identified.
- Encouragement of all working group members to adopt a One Health approach in their activities.
- TGHN's AMR Knowledge Hub Team should seek to expand awareness of, and involvement in, the AMR hub from collaborators in the Asia and LAC regions.