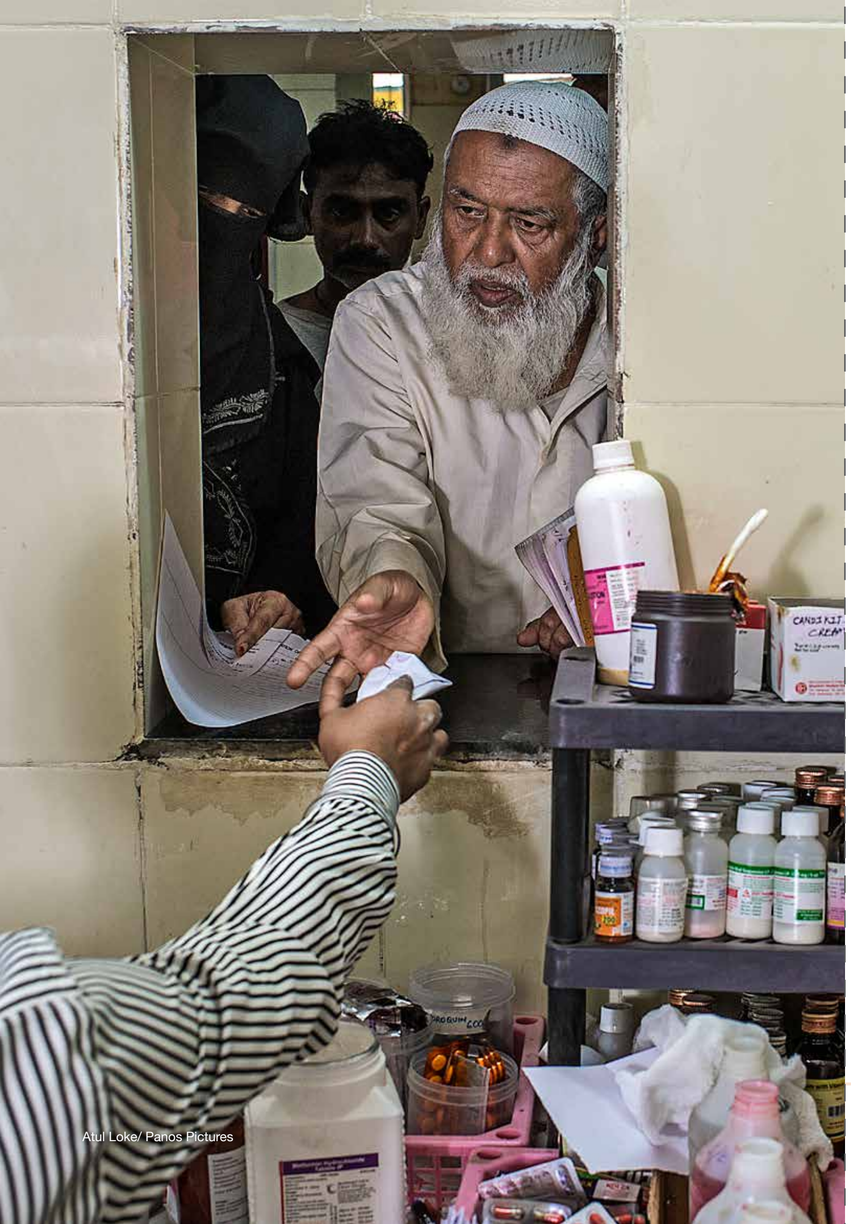


Atul Loke/ Panos Pictures

CHALLENGES

* Though multisectoral steering committees have been formed in most Member States of the Region, they are not necessarily functioning optimally. Keeping in view the cross-cutting nature of the subject, a multidisciplinary approach is required and it is important to strengthen linkages among various programmes.

* Despite the fact that all SEA Region Member States have developed national action plans, their implementation is at various stages. Implementation needs the commitment of high-level policy-makers, annual allocation of funds and, of course, technical expertise.

* Although GPW13 aims to reduce the bloodstream infections (BSIs) due to AMR organisms by 10% in countries, but baseline data for BSIs is not available. There is a need to have a proper coordination between clinicians and laboratories in reporting BSIs to obtain not only baseline data but also achieving the target of GPW13.

THE WAY FORWARD

SUSTAIN	* The commitment to control antimicrobial resistance in SEA Region. * Continue to support Member States on their NAP implementation and monitoring.
ACCELERATE	* Implementation of multisectoral actions to combat antimicrobial action. * Support Member States in sharing AMR data to GLASS and participating in a standardized approach to the collection and analysis of AMR data at a global level.
INNOVATE	* To explore comprehensive implementation of the five AMR Strategic Objectives in line with country settings in the Region.

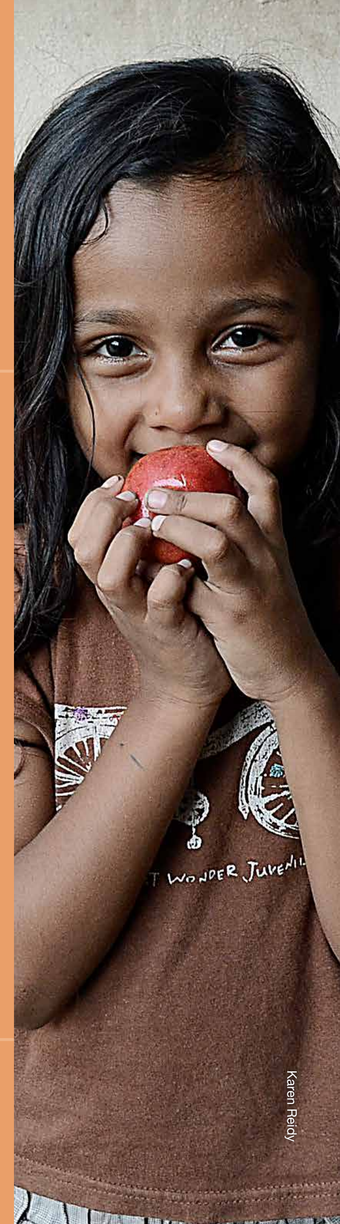
IMPACT

The AMR control programme is already implemented in all Member States as per countries NAP in line with the five Strategic Objectives of the GAP. By the end of 2023, the bloodstream infections due to selected AMR organisms would be reduced by one-tenth.

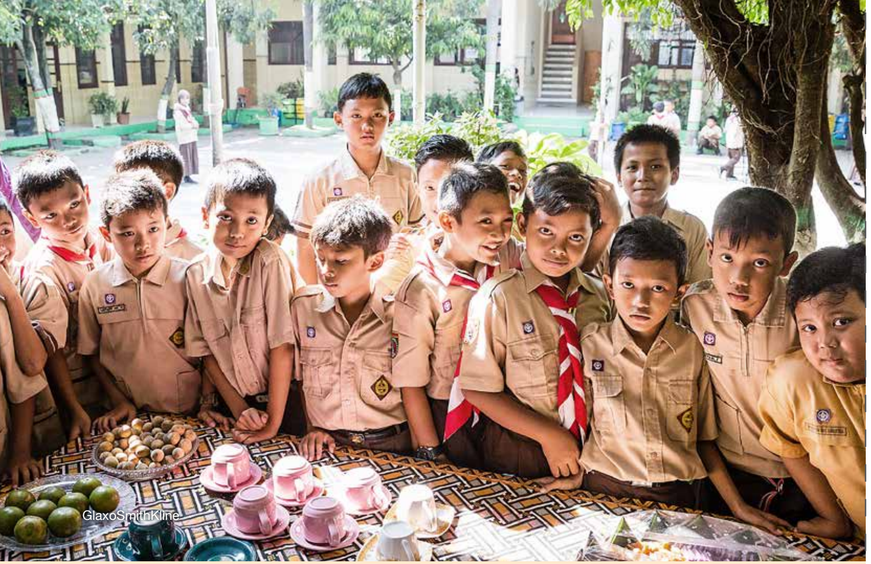
FURTHER STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR PREVENTING AND COMBATING

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR South-East Asia



Karen Reidy


GlaxoSmithKline

BACKGROUND

In early 2014, antimicrobial resistance was identified as a Regional Flagship Priority launched by Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia. Combating antimicrobial resistance is also vital to achieve various Sustainable Developmental Goals. The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work also targets tackling antimicrobial resistance to contribute to the goal of a healthier population: 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, which is one of WHO's triple billion objectives.

After the Jaipur Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2011, the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia adopted a resolution on antimicrobial resistance for reporting progress and conducting an assessment of regional achievements and challenges. In May 2015, the World Health Assembly adopted the Global Action Plan (GAP) on antimicrobial resistance. The Seventy-second World Health Assembly in May 2019 adopted the resolution on antimicrobial resistance that reiterated global agreement on combating AMR with continued high-level political commitment.

AMR is complicated to assess, as it corresponds to a range of combinations involving clinical conditions, antibiotics, etiological agents and locations. A qualitative risk assessment had shown that the South-East Asia Region is possibly at the highest risk globally for emergence and spread of AMR.[1]

It is estimated that if no proactive action is taken now to slow down the rise of AMR, then by 2050, due to the rise in drug-resistant infections,

10 Million lives a year are at risk

100 Trillion US$ (cumulative) of economic output are at risk

Source: de Kraker ME, Stewardson AJ, Harbarth S. Will 10 Million People Die a Year due to Antimicrobial Resistance by 2050? PLoS Med. 2016 Nov 29; 13(11):e1002184.

[1] Chereau F, Opatowski L, Tourdjman M, Vong S. Risk assessment for antibiotic resistance in South-East Asia. BMJ2017;358:j3393.

TARGETS

There are no specific targets defined for AMR under the Sustainable Development Goals. The WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work targets to reduce the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected AMR organisms by 10% by 2023.

PROGRESS

Status of AMR control at a glance in member states of WHO South-EAST asia region.

	Multi-sector Collaboration	National Action Plan (NAP)	Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	Participation in GLASS	Lab Integration
Bangladesh	Established	Government approved	Plan developed not fully implemented	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Bhutan	Established	Government approved	Plan developed not fully implemented	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
DPR Korea	Established	Plan Developed	Implementing	Yes	Info NA
India	Functional working group	Government approved	Plan developed not fully implemented	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Indonesia	No Formal	Government approved	Implementing	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Maldives	Functional working group	Government approved	Plan developed not fully implemented	Yes	Info NA
Myanmar	Joint working	Government approved	Implementing	Yes	AST for own purpose
Nepal	Functional working group	Plan Developed	Plan NA	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Sri Lanka	Integrated	Funding, M&E	Implementing	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Thailand	Integrated	Funding, M&E	Plan developed not fully implemented	Yes	Performing AST and Integrated
Timor Leste	Established	Government approved	Plan developed not fully implemented	Not yet	Info NA

AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; GLASS: Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System; M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation; NA- Not Available

Source: http://amrcountryprogress.org/

11/11 All 11 Member States of the Region have their AMR national action plans (NAPs) in place.

10/11 Ten of the 11 Member States have multisectoral working group(s) or coordination committee(s) on AMR established with government leadership.

9/11 Nine of the 11 Member States have national monitoring systems in place for consumption and rational use of antimicrobials in human health while some Member States need to develop such a monitoring system.

10/11 Ten of the 11 Member States have guidelines in place for infection prevention and control. The level of implementation of these guidelines varies from country to country.

11/11 Relevant policies and regulatory frameworks for antimicrobial resistance are in place in all 11 Member States.


WHO Thailand

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A high level of political commitment to combat antimicrobial resistance exists in the Region.
- As of 2019, 10 of the 11 Member States have enrolled in the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). A regional EQAS to support GLASS has been established.
- All 11 Member States participated in the WHO/OIE/FAO AMR self-assessment exercises held in 2016–2017, 2017–2018 and 2018–2019.
- Member States of the South-East Asia Region actively participated in the events commemorating World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) 2017–2018.
- The South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) annually discusses action to be taken by NRAs to improve regulation to optimize antibiotic use and ensure access to quality-assured antimicrobials.