

**World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)
2021 Campaign for Africa**

**Regional theme: “AMR Governance: Preventing AMR is Our Shared Responsibility”
Global theme: “Spread awareness, Stop resistance”**

18 - 24 November 2021

Background

Antimicrobial agents, including antibiotics, have saved millions of lives, substantially reducing the burden of diseases in people and animals, improving quality of life, contributing to better food security and safety, and aiding to increased life expectancy.

However, the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in several microorganisms is reversing these benefits and further complicating the management of many infectious diseases. AMR is a major threat to human development and the fight against infectious diseases. It also endangers animal health and welfare and food production. Moreover, AMR adversely affects the functioning of human, animal and plant health systems and economies.

AMR requires a collective and practical response. To mitigate AMR risks with a holistic approach, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and World Health Organization (WHO), the Tripartite, are working closely together at all levels to achieve this.

AMR governance is essential to promote sustainable action and it should include both proper institutional arrangements and be met with robust societal demand – from both public and private sectors alike – for the successful governance of antimicrobials to emerge and to be sustained. Several promising first steps have been taken at global, regional, and country levels.

On the goal of raising awareness on the AMR governance and taking stock of progress in the region, the Africa regional tripartite members (FAO, OIE, WHO), the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and Africa Union Task Force on AMR are organizing the **region’s third joint WAAW Africa 2021 campaign**. Due to the continued global COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be hosted virtually.

Objectives

The primary purpose of the 2021 WAAW campaign in the African region is to unite the AMR stakeholders and strengthen and renew their commitment and advocacy efforts around AMR governance.

The regional theme for the regional WAAW 2021 is “**AMR Governance- Preventing AMR Is Our Shared Responsibility**” with three main relevant topics of focus:

1. Implementation and financing National Action Plans,
2. Review and update of regulations and legislations, and
3. Adopting a One Health approach and multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for AMR.

In addition, Africa CDC will address the topic of Infection prevention and control.

By engaging a wide range of stakeholders and audience, the WAAW envisions to raise awareness on AMR issues associated with its governance, mainly around roles and responsibilities, regulations, and mechanisms for collaboration, to create a holistic understanding throughout our society; encouraging best practices among the public, youth, health workers and policy makers to prevent further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

Organizers

The following partners will be the key organizers for the WAAW Africa event:

- AMR Regional Tripartite Plus members
 - FAO Regional Office for Africa and FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
 - OIE Regional Representation for Africa and OIE Sub-Regional Representations for Eastern Africa, North Africa, and Southern Africa
 - WHO Regional Office for Africa and WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
 - UNEP
- African Union Task Force for AMR

Participants

The following partners will be invited to the different WAAW events:

- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
The focal points for AMR of AMU, CEEAC, CEMAC, CENSAD, COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS-WAHO, IGAD, SADC, UEMOA, and IGAD
- Financing institutions/Donors
 - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMG), Fleming Fund, German Federal Ministry of Health, GIZ, UKAID, USAID, US-DTRA, USCDC, and the World Bank
- Technical partners
The US Center for Disease Control (CDC), The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)-One Health Centre in Africa (OHRECA), International Vaccine Institute (IVI), ReAct Africa, SEGA One Health Network, Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance, UNICEF, World Animal Protection, Africa One Health University Network (AFROHUN), African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), The Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (CDDEP), Public health England (PHE), African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust.
- Private sector
Farmers, Agrovets, Veterinary pharmacists, Animal Feed Manufacturers, Wholesale and Retail Distributors
- Professional Associations
Agriculture, Aquaculture, Human and Veterinary Medicine.
- Regulatory bodies
Food, Medicine (human and veterinary medicine), and Professionals
- Academia/Regional-National
 - CIRMF Franceville — Gabon, CSPAC - Brazzaville, EISMV - Dakar, ERAIF – DRC, Universities, and institutions of higher learning. FETP Programs, ERAIF – DRC, LUANAR - Malawi, Ondestepoort - South Africa, UKZN – South Africa, UNZA - Zambia, ZNPH-Zambia, UZ – Zimbabwe, among others.
- Research institutions
- Journalists and media
- Civil Society Organizations

For further enquiries about this event, please do not hesitate to contact the core team of the organising committee: Chadia Wannous c.wannous@oie.int, Walter Fuller w.fuller@who.int, Irene OUOBA irenelabia.ouoba@fao.org, Alimi Yewande Alimiy@africa-union.org, and Levis Kavagi levis.kavagi@un.org.