



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



# Training Seminar for National Veterinary Products Focal Points

**Veterinary Products: A Vital Tool for Improving Animal Health and Welfare**

05 – 07 September 2023 Lilongwe, Malawi



The  
Fleming  
Fund



Funded by  
UK Government

# Strengthening Environmental Actions on Antimicrobial Resistance

Feedback from Sector Webinars held between participants from  
Zimbabwe Environment sector and UNEP officials

# Introduction

- ▶ AMR is a global health crisis; requires a multisectoral approach.
- ▶ Environment sector's crucial role in addressing AMR;
- ▶ 2 Webinars held aimed at strengthening capacity and actions.



# Meeting Overview

- ▶ The main objectives of the webinars were;
- ▶ **Strengthen institutional capacity:** Improve knowledge, attitude, and practices on collection and management of unused antimicrobials.
- ▶ **Facilitate safe disposal:** Develop and implement plans for safe disposal of unused antimicrobials.
- ▶ Done through :
- ▶ Expert-led discussions which were moderated and documented.
- ▶ Break-out sessions

# First Webinar

- ▶ Main focus on ;
  - waste prevention,
  - waste collection and disposal
  - end of pipe treatment
  - legislation
  - Data monitoring and surveillance
  - Research

# Waste Prevention

- ▶ Reduce the burden of antimicrobial waste
- ▶ Increase WASH activities (currently WASH activities disturbed by poor infrastructure)
- ▶ Develop WASH activities which are multisectoral
- ▶ Behavioral, cultural and religious factors

# Waste Collection and Disposal

- Irregular waste collection
- No properly designed disposal sites
- Protocol for disposal of medicines available but not implemented fully
- Private companies coming up with recycling initiatives-limited to few urban areas
- Sewer bursts
- WWTPs in African countries not designed to remove residual antibiotics
- Most not functioning

# Waste collection cont

- Illegal housing schemes that are sprouting all over the nation
  - impacts on the sewer load: increase in sewer bursts
  - Poorly constructed septic tanks



# End of pipe treatment

- ▶ Need for development of properly lined landfills throughout the country
- ▶ Innovation into the development of waste water treatment that can remove antibiotics
- ▶ Incinerators that are up to standard

# Legislation

- ▶ Need for strengthening of policies and regulations that are already in place

# Data monitoring and Surveillance

- Need for a baseline survey on antibiotics present in the environment
- EMA and local authorities to run a surveillance program on AMR in wastewater effluents, dumpsites and landfills
- Also surveillance for other diseases other than COVID, malaria and cholera should be put in place

# Research

- Government to fund AMR research focusing on national policies
- Research on AMR highly fragmented and not speaking to policy

# Education and Awareness

- Include AMR issues in school curricular
- Involve youths in science education- let them champion AMR issues
- Need for behavior change

# Webinar 2

- ▶ Focused mainly on strengthening multisectoral coordination
- ▶ Four key recommendations emerged from the meetings.



# Recommendation 1

- ▶ **Strengthen coordination mechanisms.**
  - Establish or enhance multisectoral coordination
  - Clarify roles and responsibilities for each sector

# Recommendation 2

- ▶ **Shared costs and capacity building.**
- ▶ - Encourage shared financial responsibility.
- ▶ - Promote capacity building across sectors.

# Recommendation 3

## ► Youth engagement

- Engage youths through awareness campaigns.
- Appoint AMR youth champions guided by experts

# Recommendation 4

## ► Integration in education

- Embed environmental issues in the national curriculum.
- Foster behavior change and environmental citizenship

# Conclusion

- ▶ In conclusion, these meetings offered valuable insights and recommendations
- ▶ Focused on *unused antimicrobials* and *environmental behavior*
- ▶ Recommendations highlight multisectoral coordination, shared costs, youth engagement, and education integration



▶ **THANK YOU**



# Acknowledgments



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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